

The Board of Finance held a regular meeting on **May 21, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Meeting Room of Windham Town Hall, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226**

Members Attending: Lynne Ide, Anita Sebestyen, Kenneth Folan, Tyler Griffin, Nectalis Martinez, Thomas White, and Paula Haney

1. Call to Order

Chairman Lynne Ide called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment

Henry Crane commented on the budgets being voted down. He had suggestions as to how much the budgets should be reduced.

Kevin Hoxie commented on the Board of Education budget not passing. He does not want the police and ambulance budget reduced. He suggested reducing the Board of Education budget.

Thomas DeVivo commented on the Willimantic Service District budget and their budgets are very tight. We cannot predict emergencies so he does not recommend a reduction in the overtime. You get what you pay for with the Board of Education so think about cuts to their budget. The Town should delay hiring new employees in the General Government budget to save money.

3. Board of Finance Comment

Lynne Ide commented on the all three budgets failing. The next town meeting will be June 10th and the next referendum will be June 17th. The board will be discussing all three budgets this evening.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Paula Haney to approve the meeting minutes from March 19, 2014.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Kenneth Folan, seconded by Thomas White to approve the meeting minutes from March 26, 2014.

Paula Haney had a correction on the spelling of Benie Dauteuil to Bernie Dauteuil.

The motion passed with Paula Haney abstaining.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Anita Sebestyen to approve the meeting minutes from April 2, 2014.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Anita Sebestyen, seconded by Paula Haney to approve the meeting minutes from April 9, 2014.

Lynne Ide had a correction on the spelling of Nectalis Martines to Nectalis Martinez.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Presentations and Special Reports

There were no presentations

6. Discussion and possible action on the Board of Education proposed 2014-2015 budget

The Board of Education has to contain the 3% contract wage increase.

Thomas White commented on the Board of Education budget and does not want any reductions to hurt the kids.

Kenneth Folan commented on the reductions to the Board of Education budget and what is the direct impact on students. He recommends another \$150,000 reduction and would like to see a central office reduction so there is no impact on students.

Paula Haney commented on the Board of Education budget and would also like to see any reductions be done in the central office.

Tyler Griffin commented he would support the reduction of an additional \$100,000 - \$150,000.

Thomas White commented we can only make a bottom line reduction and has made it clear to not hurt the kids.

Ken Folan commented the reduction can be made in the central office. Director of communications could be eliminated and positions will be eliminated when the special master leaves. Restructuring of the high school has already begun. The positions in the central office do not have a direct impact on students.

The Board of Education is not in attendance because they are interviewing for a new superintendent.

Lynne Ide commented the Board of Education has come back with a reduction of \$205,000.

Upon a motion by Thomas White seconded by Tyler Griffin to reduce the Board of Education budget by \$250,000.

Thomas White commented he is asking for part of the reduction to be \$50,000 for the salary of a central office position.

The motion passed.

Lynne Ide commented she was satisfied with a \$205,000 reduction.

Kenneth Folan and Anita Sebestyen both commented they would have liked a \$275,000 – \$300,000 reduction.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Tyler Griffin to the send the Board of Education budget in the amount of 43,755,007 to referendum.

The motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and possible action on the Willimantic Service District proposed 2014-2015 budget

Lynne Ide commented on the Willimantic Service District budget and there are \$174,000 additional revenues.

Police chief Lisa Maruzo-Bolduc commented on the overtime in the police department budget and they do the best they can.

Kenneth Folan commented on not reducing the Willimantic Service District by \$50,000 and to use fund balance.

Paula Haney commented on not cutting the overtime in the Willimantic Service District and to use fund balance if necessary.

Tyler Griffin commented on using fund balance to reduce the budget.

Nectalis Martinez commented on the \$50,000 and overtime has to be paid if expensed.

Thomas White commented on waiting until the end of the year to use fund balance if it is needed.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Tyler Griffin to keep the Willimantic Service District budget as it is and adjust the revenues to lower the mill rate.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Tyler Griffin, seconded by Thomas White to send the Willimantic Service District budget in the amount of \$9,488,000 to referendum.

The motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and possible action on the General Government Proposed 2014-2015 budget

Lynne commented on delaying the hiring of new employees until January and also using some of the health insurance savings, and debt service to make reductions in the General Government budget. There are also the latest revenues from the Governor's budget to lower the mill rate.

Christian Johnson commented on using the health benefits, delaying on the positions, and debt service. There are \$145,000 in additional revenues.

Town Manager, Neal Beets, commented on the reductions in the General Government budgets. We have been working on this budget since December. There will be an impact on any reductions. He is pleased with the revenues enhancements. If the cuts are made, concerns of the public have been addressed.

Anita Sebestyen commented on the Economic Development Director position and we also need to increase the grand list. We should not reduce the economic development director position.

Thomas White commented since the budgets did not pass, we should delay hiring so we are not hitting the departments directly. Holding off six months will also help to look for the right person. People don't understand the reval and mill rate. People are trying to stay afloat. Cutting more than 50K is to much.

Kenneth Folan commented on reduction decisions being made by management. How secure is the person looking at coming to work for the town.

Paula Haney commented on the economic development position and delaying the hiring will give more time to find the right person.

Tyler Griffin commented that maybe waiting would get us a better candidate.

Nectalis Martinez commented the voters may accept and half mill reduction.

Upon a motion by Kenneth Folan, seconded by Paula Haney to reduce the General Government by \$202,000 with \$40,000 coming from the economic development position , \$15,400 from the Senior Center position, \$9,300 from the Town Clerk position, \$47,300 from health care, \$90,000 from debt service.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Tyler Griffin to send the General Government budget in the amount of \$15,224,945 to referendum.

The motion passed unanimously.

9. Controller's Report

The controller's report was presented by Tom Pesce.

The current year revenues were reviewed for both the Town and Willimantic Service District. Overall revenues are good. The expenditures will be watched for the overtime in the police department and fire department.

We are making progress with the conversion to the new financial software system, Munis.

10. Discussion and possible action on appointment of Town Auditor for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014.

Upon a motion by Thomas White seconded by Anita Sebestyen to appoint McGladry as the Town auditor for fiscal year ending June 30, 2014.

The motion passed unanimously.

11. Discussion and possible action on General Government 2013-2014 transfer requests

Upon a motion by Paula Haney seconded by Kenneth Folan to approve the transfer requests in the amount of \$36,506.

Thomas White commented on the building official transfer request. The Town Manager should have come to the Board before making the person full time.

The motion passed unanimously.

12. Discussion and possible action on Willimantic Service District 2013-2014 transfer requests

Upon a motion by Thomas White seconded by Kenneth Folan to approve the transfer requests in the amount of \$23,422.44.

The motion passed unanimously.

13. Discussion and possible action on the meeting schedule for the next referendum

No discussion or action was needed.

14. Discussion and possible action on the time, date, and place of the Budget Meeting

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Kenneth Folan to set the Town Meeting on the budget for June 10, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room

The motion passed unanimously.

15. Discussion and possible action on the time, date, and place of the referendum vote

Upon a motion by Thomas White seconded by Kenneth Folan to set the referendum vote for June 17, 2014 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. with the polling locations being at the VFW, Willimantic Elks, and Windham Center Fire Department.

The motion passed unanimously.

16. Old business

None

17. New business

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Kenneth Folan to have a special meeting on June 17, 2014 at 8:30 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

18. Future agenda items

None

19. Public Comment

Henry Crane commented he is happy with the budget reductions the Board made. He thanked the board for not making any reduction to the Willimantic Service District.

Mayor Ernie Eldridge thanked the board for their work on the budgets. He would like to see fund balance used since the percentage of fund balance is higher than what the auditors recommend.

20. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Tyler Griffin, seconded by Kenneth Folan the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Attest: _____
Thomas Pesce