

The Board of Finance held a special meeting on **February 18, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Bellingham Auditorium at Town Hall, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226**

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

1. Call to Order

Chairman Lynne Ide called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Public Comment

James Flores commented he is going to stay neutral during the budget process.

3. Board of Finance Comment

There was no Board of Finance comment.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Anita Sebestyen, seconded by Nectalis Martinez to approve the minutes from January 21, 2015.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Chair's Report

Lynne Ide commented we are getting ready to start the budget process and asked all members to check their calendars for the upcoming meetings.

The Town Attorney is not present to answer charter questions.

The tax collector is ill and will not be giving a presentation tonight.

6. Presentation and Special Reports

Presentation from the Tax Collector on collections:

The tax collector will not be giving a presentation on collections, but there is a handout on the 2014 Grand List. Christian Johnson gave a summary report on the 2014 Grand List. Personal Property and motor vehicles are the largest part of the increase in the grand list. There was a 2% increase. The top 10 tax payers stayed the same as last year. The exempt grand list had a 30 million growth due to the new arts building at Eastern Connecticut State University.

Presentation on the status of the audit for Fiscal Year 2014:

Christian Johnson reported there was a conference call with the auditor today. The final reports will be given to the auditors this week, the partner review will be done, and the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report will be filed.

Presentation from the Board of Education:

John French and Superintendent Dr. Garcia presented the Board with a summary of the workshop the Board of Education had on the 2015-2016 budget. Kids need to be reading by 3rd grade and we need to improve math skills. The following Goals and Initiatives were reviewed:

Music and Art
Improve technology
STEM initiative

There will be an increase in the proposed Board of Education budget for fiscal year 2015-2016 and they will provide the Board with a list of their one time requests and Capital Improvement Plan.

Update on the reading program. A new curriculum is being written and the books are in the classrooms.

7. Discussion and possible action on questions for the Town Attorney regarding Charter changes

There has been no response to the questions that were sent to the Town Attorney. There will be a follow up to get some answers in writing before the next meeting.

9. Controller's Report

The Controller's Report was presented by Tom Pesce.

The Town Manager will be presenting his budget to the Town Council on Tuesday February 23, 2015. A meeting schedule was handed out to the Board members.

A preliminary summary of the State revenues. College and Hospitals, and Pequot revenues are increasing.

We plan on going to self insured workers compensation for next fiscal year. We will be coming before the Board next month with more details.

The current year revenues and expenditures were reviewed. The snow removal budget has been exhausted. We can use the Town Road Aid Grant for some overtime for snow removal as well as sand and salt, and repairs to equipment.

Thomas White questioned if an invoice has gone out to dispatch. He also questioned if a parking monitor has moved from part-time to full time?

10. Discussion and possible action on the meeting schedule for 2015-2016 budget

Lynne Ide commented the School Superintendent will present on March 18, 2015.

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Tyler Griffin to accept the proposed budget meeting calendar. The budget meeting dates will be March 18, 2015, March 25, 2015, April 1, 2015, April 8, 2015, and April 15, 2015. The meetings will be at 7:00 p.m. in the Bellingham Auditorium at Town Hall.

The motion passed unanimously.

11. Old business

There was no old business

12. New business

There was no new business

13. Future agenda items

Written response from Town Attorney on charter questions
Presentation from the auditors
Questions on Charter changes for attorney
Report on tax collections

15. Public Comment

James Flores commented on the board asking tough questions to the Finance Director and Controller. He also commented on the parking monitors and reading about it in the Chronicle and not hearing about it at a Town Council meeting. He also commented on the \$1,500,000 surplus this year.

16. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Thomas White, seconded by Tyler Griffin the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Attest: _____
Thomas Pesce