**Board of Finance**

**Special Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday April 4, 2012**

**7pm Clifford B. Green Memorial Center**

**Present:** Rick Ives, David Fuss, Kim Conroy, Maura Bowen and Melissa Bradley; Secretary

**Absent Members:** Gene Michael Deary and Carla Demers

**Also Present:** Austin Tanner, Bob Kelleher, Drew Dionne, Dr. Berry, Joan Trivella, Mae Lyons, JoAnn Gerardi-Voccio, Bob Rossi, Jim Kelley, David Lee, Linda Congdon-Mars and Sheila Frost and citizens

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Ives called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.
2. **Approve Meeting Minutes:** David Fuss made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 21, 2012 as presented. Maura Bowen seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.
3. **Budget Discussion 2012-13 – Board of Fire Commissioners:** Mr. Lee gives an overview of the fire departments and call volume. He states the budget has decreased over four years by $50,000. The board has approved the following amounts for budget: East Brooklyn operating budget, $74,507; Mortlake operating budget, $114.150; East Brooklyn safety budget, $16,270; Mortlake safety budget, $30,775; and Mortlake ambulance, $70,295. David Fuss made a motion to accept the board of fire commissioner’s budget as presented with the stipulation it is subject to change. Kim Conroy seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.
4. **Budget Discussion 2011-2012 – Board of Education:** The Board of Education is facing a deficit of approximately $144,074. Dr. Berry explains there will be a savings in the health savings account of $37,000 and in the heating oil account of $40,235. There is also a small surplus in the supply account of $3,500. Applying these to the deficit will leave a deficit if $63,339. The board agrees to apply the surplus to the deficit.
5. **Budget Discussion 2012-13 – Board of Education:** Dr. Berry begins the budget presentation by stating the proposed budget is a 4% increase from last year, and 5 paraprofessionals and 1.4 janitors were cut. Ms. Berry explains a large increase in the budget is capital costs to Killingly for the construction of the new school. This increased to over 200,000 this year. Discussion held by the board and Selectmen and it is decided this cost should be absorbed in the General Government budget. The proposed budget for 2012-2013 is $16,393,186. This is a 4% increase from last year. Mr. Tanner states there is savings in health insurance if the school and town combined plans. The board has presented the HAS to employees and it is an option to them, but was not well received. Mr. Tanner states it would not hurt to educate them on the plan. Kim Conroy made a motion to accept the board of education budget with the stipulation it may change. Maura Bowen seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.
6. **Update on Accounting/Audit Services – RFP:** The appointment of the auditor has to be completed by May 31st. The RFP has not gone out yet, and may be rushed at this point in the year. Marien has offered the same fee as this current fiscal year. The board feels it may be best to keep her one more year. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
7. **Public Comment:**

* Linda Congdon-Mars asks the Board of Finance for their reaction to the Board of Education budget and implores them to ahead without cuts.
* Sheila Frost states she is proud of the system and would hate to see paraprofessionals cut. She asks the board to rethink these cuts and decide against them.
* Catherine Menounos feels even if a paraprofessional is not essential in the classroom at all times, when cut, you will begin to see behavioral problems and special education will increase.
* Valerie Downs is concerned with the Board of Education cuts and feels this will cripple the system.

1. **Adjourn:** David Fuss made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53pm. Maura Bowen seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted;

Melissa J. Bradley

Recording Secretary