

**Board of Finance  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 18, 2015  
7:00pm Clifford B. Green Memorial Center**

**Present:** Gene Michael Deary, Ken Dykstra, Drew Dionne, Sandra Brodeur, Jeff Otto, Kim Conroy and Melissa Bradley; recording secretary

**Also Present:** Rick Ives, Bob Kelleher, Joe Voccio, Sherry Holmes, Sherri Soucy, WINY Radio and Fran from the Bulletin

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Deary called the meeting to order at 7:00pm
2. **Approve Previous Minutes:** Kim Conroy made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes as presented. Sandra Brodeur seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
3. **Public Comment:** None
4. **Discussion on Auditors Report:** The board did not receive the updated report after the presentation last month. Mr. Deary will circulate the report to members. No information changed from the presentation except the two issues Sherry spoke about regarding the Board of Education. One item in the management letter stated we do not have an Ethics policy, and that is incorrect. A requirement is to have each employee sign off saying they received direction to file an Ethics complaint. This was not done, but the management letter reflects the entire policy to be absent. The auditor suggested the Board of Finance make their own amendments to the management letter. Mr. Deary was uneasy with this comment and he would never be on a board that made their own amendments to an auditors findings. Though, he does not believe the report reflects truly what takes place at Town Hall. Mr. Dykstra suggests attaching a response from the board. Mr. Deary agrees this can be done. Mr. Deary states he was disappointed in the presentation from the auditor and how it represented what really goes on and it is the Board of Finances' job to take the facts from the report and take any action steps necessary. Mr. Ives states the employee contribution to the pension plan was corrected as well. If the board does not approve the audit, an extension will have to be filed. Mr. Ives suggests seeking a new auditing company and proposes we do so in conjunction with the Town of Pomfret. This would double our size and we will become attractive to the firms that would not bid last year because we were not big enough. Mr. Otto feels the poor performance of the audit presentation should be brought up to the auditing firm. Mr. Deary will retrieve the email from the auditor and put in a potential reply, and circulate to members. Mr. Deary asks the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education to have an action plan complete for April in response to the management letter. Mr. Ives will get an explanation regarding the OPED formula. The board agrees to wait for explanations before approving the audit.
5. **Discussion on RFP for Auditing Services:** Jeff Otto made a motion to allow the finance director to put together a request for proposal and go out to bid on a contract for auditing services on a

coupled basis with the Town Pomfret. Drew Dionne seconded the motion. Sherry Holmes agrees she will prepare this. Motion passed 6-0.

**6. Discussion on 2014-15 Budget:** No discussion

**7. Discussion on 2015-16 Budget:** Mr. Ives reports CCM sent the Governor's budget. Revenue looks like it will be reduced approximately \$13,000. The Resident Trooper program may be affected. If the Town chooses to keep the program, we will have to pay 100% and fringe benefits. Mr. Ives feels this is a very valuable service the Town benefits from. Negotiations will be starting with the Town hall and Highway garage in the next couple of weeks. The last few storms have affected the highway budget. Some of the equipment did not hold up well. Mr. Deary reports there is a significant amount of money coming back into the fund balance. \$387,000 was the amount anticipated to pay down on BAN's. \$404,305 was an amount borrowed that we did not use and must be used to pay down debt.

**8. Liaison Reports**

- Sandra Brodeur put the budget together for Resource Recovery and was given to the Selectmen
- Ken Dykstra states the Housing Authority did not meet.
- Drew Dionne reports the Capital Committee has not met but will be meeting next week. Mr. Voccio states we received five requests so far and future meeting will be scheduled.
- Kim Conroy notes Recreation meets next week.
- Jeff Otto reports the Board of Fire Commissioners have not met yet to finalize the budgets. Board of Education ratified the non-certified employee contract. They submitted capital requests for the Rose Wing roof, fire alarm system, telephone system, and cabling, key card access and field maintenance. Mr. Otto brought up the brief discussion from the auditors of the possibility of budgeting as a net cost rather than the current process. With the current law that dictates you cannot reduce the education cost budget, netting the cost seems to be more favorable. Jeff Otto made a motion that the Board of Finance makes a request to the Board of Education to consider the concept of netting with the idea of giving a decision for this upcoming budget through the Finance Director. Sandra Brodeur seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. There were a significant amount of students who selected Woodstock Academy over Killingly High School and a big increase at Ellis Tech.

**9. Old Business**

- Mrs. Brodeur states she has not seen capital reports in a while and requests they be sent. Mr. Deary agrees and will include it on the March agenda and requests Drew Dionne to coordinate with the Selectman and Finance Director to retrieve the reports.

**10. New Business**

- Field Services values personal property. They get their values through acquisition cost which is provided by the Town and School.

**11. Public Comment:** None

**12. Adjourn:** Kim Conroy made a motion adjourn the meeting. Drew Dionne seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted;

Melissa J. Bradley  
Recording Secretary