



## TOWN OF BROOKLYN

P.O. Box 356 - Route 6 and 169  
BROOKLYN, CONNECTICUT 06234

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**Board of Finance  
Special Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, May 12, 2016  
Immediately Following the Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Clifford B. Green Memorial Center**

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2016 MAY 17 PM 4:18  
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Sandra A. Mainville  
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**Present:** Gene Michael Deary, Jeff Otto, Ken Dykstra, Drew Dionne, Kim Conroy and Melissa Bradley; Recording Secretary  
**Absent:** Sandra Brodeur

**Also Present:** Selectmen – Rick Ives, Bob Kelleher and Joe Voccio; Finance Director – Sherry Holmes; Tom Rukstela, Aimee Genna, WINY radio and Fran from the Bulletin

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Deary called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.
2. **Public comment:** None
3. **Discuss 15/16 Reserves Question:** Mr. Deary explains the reserve is a static calculation, the calculation takes place once a budget is established and the amount in reserve on June 30 is divided by the actual revenue number from the previous budget year. Ms. Holmes gives each member a handout that shows what the reserve was for the previous 10 calendar years. The current balance in reserve is 1.7 million. The \$440,000 was already netted. Taking \$800,000 to balance this year's budget will leave approximately \$900,000 in reserve.
4. **Discuss 15/16 Budget:** There is an amount of \$355,000 in a school building fund, left over from the preschool project, that can only be used to pay down bonds. The board suggests using the funds to pay down debt in the upcoming budget and remove the projected funds from the expenditures. Mr. Ives would like to verify with the auditor and Bruce Chudwick that those funds can be used.
5. **Discuss 16/17 Budget:** Last discussion held resulted in a reduction in the board of education and general government budget of \$100,000 each. Also, \$60,000 in capital would be bonded rather than expensed and \$2,000 would be added to short term debt for the interest payments. This would require a mill movement of 4.02 to balance the budget and no changes to the reserve fund.

Discussion held on increasing the reserve fund. Historically, it has been close to the suggested amount from the auditors but would be much less this year. More cuts would have to be made to increase the reserve without raising the mill rate higher. Discussion ensued on what items could be cut and what are large funding amounts. The Resident Trooper program was discussed but Mr. Ives does not think that would be a good idea with all the drug activity and crime lately. There will be access to the calculator that is on our website at the hearing for residents to see the minimal affect a mill increase will have since residential properties decreased after reval.

Mr. Ives is not in favor of cutting more at this point until after the hearing to see what the residents want. Board discusses the budget without using the \$355,000 and if it is found it can be used, it could be used to lower to mill below 4 and increase the reserve.

Drew Dionne made a motion to present the following at the budget hearing:

Revenues: \$20,883,316

Expenses: \$20,318,230: \$100,000 removed from roads and bridges; \$100,000 removed from board of education; subtracting \$60,000 from capital; adding \$2,000 to short term debt. Presentation at the hearing will be made with a 4.02 mill increase, resulting in a 5.3% reserve, calculated on the \$21,677,351 revenue number which excludes the \$440,000. We (board of finance) will take the finance director's recommendation on where to show that on the spreadsheet and then circulate to all members. Ken Dykstra seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

6. **Set and Discuss Agenda for Hearing Presentation:** Hearing date has been moved to May 23<sup>rd</sup> and Annual Town meeting to June 7<sup>th</sup>. Both at 7pm in the middle school auditorium. Drew Dionne made a motion to set the hearing date to May 23, 2016 at the middle school auditorium beginning at 7pm. Ken Dykstra seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. Jeff Otto made a motion to hold a special meeting on May 24, 2016 following the hearing. Drew Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
7. **Public comment:** None
8. **Adjourn:** Ken Dykstra made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Drew Dionne seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.

Respectfully Submitted;



Melissa J. Bradley  
Recording Secretary

year	revenue budget	reserve from audit report	reserve %	
2005/06	\$ 17,810,273	\$ 840,702	4.72%	19.9
2006/07	\$ 18,098,534	\$ 755,524	4.17%	21.41
2007/08	\$ 19,330,465	\$ 936,090	4.84%	22.12
2008/09	\$ 20,555,281	\$ 1,422,017	6.92%	22.29
2009/10	\$ 20,608,063	\$ 1,502,999	7.29%	22.29
2010/11	\$ 20,561,301	\$ 1,536,054	7.47%	22.29
2011/12	\$ 20,942,205	\$ 1,743,865	8.33%	22.38
2012/13	\$ 21,777,104	\$ 2,320,403	10.66%	23.19
2013/14	\$ 21,875,387	\$ 2,577,795	11.78%	23.19
2014/15	21,742,072	\$ 1,701,695	7.83%	23.43
2015/16				23.43