



TOWN OF BROOKLYN

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

OFFICE OF SELECTMEN
860-779-3411 Option 2

TOWN CLERK
(860) 779-3411 Option 4

TAX COLLECTOR
(860) 779-3411 Option 5

ASSESSOR
(860) 779-3411 Option 6

**Board of Finance
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 15, 2016
7pm Clifford B. Green Memorial Center**

Present: Gene Michael Deary, Jeff Otto, Drew Dionne, Ken Dykstra, Sandra Brodeur and Melissa Bradley
Recording Secretary
Kim Conroy arrived at 8:00pm

Also Present: Selectmen Rick Ives and Joe Voccio; Finance Director Sherry Holmes; Bucky Lohbushen, Aimee Genna, Aaron Kerouack and Fran from the Bulletin

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Deary called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.
2. **Approve Previous Minutes:** Drew Dionne made a motion to approve previous minutes of 5/18 and 5/24 as presented. Sandra Brodeur seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
3. **Public Comment:** None
4. **Approval of Suspense List:** The board is provided with copies of the suspense list from the Tax Collector. The board questions what the procedure is to get on the list and the time limit spent on the list. Mr. Ives is unsure and will get the procedure to the board. Jeff Otto made a motion the provided pack of information be transferred to the suspense book. Sandra Brodeur seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
5. **Discussion on 2015-16 Budget:** Mr. Ives states there will be no more ECS or transportation revenues coming in. It leaves a shortfall of \$34,000 more from the previous amount. As of today, \$744,000 is needed to balance the current budget.

Ms. Holmes reports Excess Cost revenue came in at \$88,430. This was more than discussed at the last meeting. Ms. Holmes is still anticipating Mashentucket revenues to come in.
6. **Discussion on 2016-17 Budget:** Discussion will be held after the results are in from the referendum.
7. **Liaison Report:** None
8. **Other Business:** Ms. Brodeur suggests having estimates for LOCIP projects be approve at the Town meeting. Mr. Ives states an estimate now will not be good in October when the work can

be done. LOCIP funds have to be exact, you cannot give the State estimated numbers. Ms. Brodeur states other Towns do it and she will look further into it.

Drew Dionne made a motion to recess the meeting until the results from the referendum are in. Sandra Brodeur seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting recessed at 7:44pm.

Mr. Deary calls the meeting to order at 8:09pm. Discussion on item 6 will commence.

Results from the referendum are as follows:

General Government Budget

275 YES

375 NO

Board of Education Budget

265 YES

385 NO

Jeff Otto suggests reducing the Board of Education budget to the amount it was last year. That is a reduction of \$71,664. The board agrees. Jeff Otto made a motion for the Board of Finance to approve the Board of Education budget for 2016/17 \$71,664 below the current request; equaling the same as last year's budget. Drew Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Deary reports the \$337,000 in the school building fund is available for the board to use as seen fit, reminding the board it was discussed to use those funds to increase the reserve balance.

After a lengthy discussion, the board agrees to cut the following in the general government budget:

1 Resident Trooper	\$160,000
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Partial funding of Teen Center	\$40,000
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Additional cuts to be determined by Selectmen	\$28,000
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\$137,000 of the BAN money will be used to decrease the mill rate and the remaining \$200,000 will go into the reserves.

Along with the Board of Education budget, total reduction made is \$436,664. This will drop the mill rate to 2.9 and increase the reserve to 5.9%.

Mr. Ives states there are funds in the general government budget supporting the Teen Center, they will have to be divided between there and Recreation.

Discussion held on the \$337,000 in the school building fund and how to properly offset it in the budget. The board agrees it is a task for the auditor. Ms. Holmes will contact him tomorrow and it will be properly disbursed for the Town meeting.

Kim Conroy made a motion to reduce the education budget to \$17,418,021 and reduce the general government budget to \$5,007,966 with the cuts discussed categorized as State Trooper, Teen center, Selectmen's budget, and BAN reduction. Sandra Brodeur seconded the motion. Mr. Otto states it will be left to the accountant to suggest the way the numbers are entered into the budget spreadsheet to finalize the way its presented. Sherry Holmes will communicate this to members when she has the results with a new spreadsheet, prior to the next budget meeting. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Ives states tax bills will be sent with the current mill rate, minus the motor vehicle bills. Only the first installment will be sent, and the second installment will be adjusted properly for the new mill rate.

Mr. Otto stresses publicity regarding the budget and home assessments. Many residents do not understand that an increase in the mill rate is not increasing their taxes. Mr. Ives states there is a calculator on the website for residents to use and they may also call or stop into the Town Hall.

9. **Public Comment:** Bucky Lohbusch questions if another hearing will be held before the Town Meeting. Mr. Ives states there will not be. Mr. Lohbusch suggests having a public forum to discuss the changes. The board will discuss the changes at the Town Meeting.

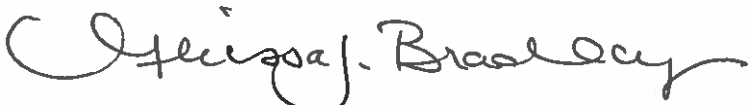
Amiee Genna would like suggestions from the board on what to cut from the Board of Education budget. Mr. Otto reiterates they cannot tell the school board what to cut but it is his understanding there are two retirements this year and savings can be found in their salaries and benefits.

Aaron Kerouack agrees with setting the Board of Education budget back to last year's budget amount.

Mr. Kerouack reiterates a prior comment stating the Town needs an assessment study done. If this had been done, the Town would have known if a Teen Center was feasible prior to opening it.

10. **Adjourn:** Sandra Brodeur made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Drew Dionne seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted;



Melissa J. Bradley
Recording Secretary

Town of Brooklyn Tax Collectors Office
Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016
DECEASED SUSPENSE LIST

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2012	\$76.30
2013	\$226.73
TOTAL	\$303.03

I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief each tax in the above statements has not been paid, is uncollectible and should be transferred to the Suspense tax book.

Dated at Brooklyn, CT., this 15th day of June 2016.

Respectfully submitted


Jocelyne Ruffo CCMC
Brooklyn Revenue Collector

ACTION TAKEN BY BOARD OF FINANCE

Jocelyne Ruffo, CCMC a detailed examination has been made of the above statement, dated this 15th day of June 2016.

The Board of Finance recommends the transfer of certain uncollected taxes to the Suspense Tax Book. The taxes listed in such statement and numbered are believed to be uncollectible and pursuant to section 12-165 of the General Statutes authority is hereby given you to transfer such taxes, in accord with law, to the Suspense Book.



Board of Finance Chairperson

Town of Brooklyn Tax Collectors Office
Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016
PERSONAL PROPERTY SUSPENSE

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2011	\$1,584.82
TOTAL	\$1,584.82

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Board of Finance Chairperson

Town of Brooklyn Tax Collectors Office
Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016
MOTOR VEHICLE SUSPENSE LIST

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2011	\$18,990.51
TOTAL	\$18,990.51

I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief each tax in the above statements has not been paid, is uncollectible and should be transferred to the Suspense tax book.

Dated at Brooklyn, CT., this 15th day of June 2016.

Respectfully submitted

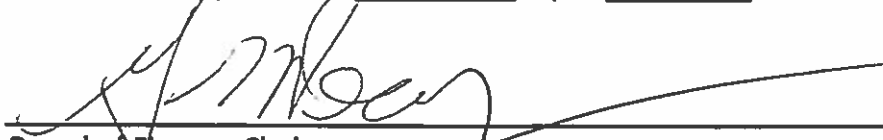

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Dated at Brooklyn, CT this 7 day of _____ 2016.



Board of Finance Chairperson

Town of Brooklyn Tax Collectors Office
Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016
MOTOR VEHICLE SUPPLEMENT SUSPENSE LIST

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2011	\$2,651.81
TOTAL	\$2,651.81

I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief each tax in the above statements has not been paid, is uncollectible and should be transferred to the Suspense tax book.

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Dated at Brooklyn, CT this _____ day of _____ 2016.



Board of Finance Chairperson