

**Board of Finance
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday April 30, 2014
7pm Clifford B. Green Memorial Center**

Present: Gene Michael Deary, Drew Dionne, Ken Dykstra, Kim Conroy and Melissa Bradley; Recording Secretary

Late Arrival: Jeff Otto 7:05pm; Sandra Brodeur 8:15pm

Also Present: Rick Ives, Bob Kelleher, Sherri Soucy, Dr. Berry, Bucky Lohbusch, Mike Gaudreau, Austin Tanner, Tom Ruksella, WINY radio and the Bulletin

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Deary called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
2. **Approve Previous Minutes:** Drew Dionne made a motion to approve the previous minutes from 4/23/14 and 4/16/14 for discussion. Kim Conroy seconded the motion. Mr. Dionne corrects the minutes from 4/23/14 item #5c should read capital to Killingly, not tuition. Motion passed with corrections 4-0.
3. **Public Comment:** None
4. **Appointment of Auditor:** Drew Dionne made a motion to appoint O'Connor Davies as the auditor for fiscal year 2013-2014. Kim Conroy seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
5. **Discussion/Action on 2014/2015 Budget**
 - Board of Education: Dr. Berry reviews the state statute separating Towns and Schools and its importance. A recent report including all 186 school districts in Connecticut proves Brooklyn fourteenth from the bottom at number 172 for funding. Dr. Berry feels the majority lacks in technology but states the entire budget is at bare bones. More funding is needed but did not feel it was appropriate to ask. After last meeting, the only item changed was tuition which was increased by \$8,000 bringing the overall budget to \$17,030,324. The board of finance requested the social security line item to be looked at because the teacher count increased, but social security benefits went down. Dr. Berry will check this. Jeff Otto made a motion to approve the board of education budget presented this evening with possible changes going forward in the amount of \$17,030,324. Drew Dionne seconded the motion. Mr. Deary states with the possible correction to social security wages and non-certified teacher negotiations. Motion passed 5-0.
 - Recreation: Mr. Lohbusch does not have any changes and they are still looking to go forward with the teen center. Mr. Deary suggests eliminating or reducing the hours of the program director and reinstating the day camp director position until the teen

center has taken off. The board agrees to make the program director part time and will be receptive to the proposal of more hours when the center grows and needs more help. Kim Conroy made a motion to accept the Recreation budget with the discussed changes. Jeff Otto seconded the motion. Changes are reducing the program director to part time and reinstating the day camp director. Motion passed 5-0.

- Capital Committee: Proposed projects total \$1,011,150 with \$192,650 being expensed in 2014-15, \$24,450 financed for 5 years, \$30,084 financed for 10 years and \$37,292 financed for 20 years. Discussion held on the board of education request to upgrade the fire alarms. \$56,000 was previously approved with \$12,000 spent for a study/specs. The study was never received, only specs to go out to bid with. The board agrees this is an important project and would like the study they originally requested. Dr. Berry will call the firm in the morning. Dr. Berry would also like to include funds for technology upgrades and will contact Mr. Voccio in the morning.
- General Government: Special Education revenue was increased to \$108,000. Mr. Ives suspects there will be approximately \$105,000 returned from the current budget. Currently the budget is at \$22,103,945 Revenues; \$5,533,077 Expenses; \$17,030,324 Board of Education for a total of \$22,563,401
- Board of Fire Commissioners: The board would still like an explanation of the 10% increase in the East Brooklyn budget and will invite the Board of Fire Commissioners and Jim Warren to the next meeting.

6. Discussion/Action on 2013/14 Budget: No discussion

7. Set Next Meeting Dates: May 7, 2014 at 7pm in the middle school library.

8. Public Comment: None

9. Adjourn: Jeff Otto made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05pm. Kim Conroy seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted;

Melissa J. Bradley
Recording Secretary