

**Board of Finance
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 7, 2014
7:00pm Brooklyn Middle School Library**

Present: Jeffery Otto, Kim Conroy, Sandra Brodeur, Kenneth Dyksrta, and April Blymiller;
Recording Secretary

Late Arrival: Andrew Dionne at 7:04pm

Also Present: Joe Voccio, Rick Ives, Sherri Soucy, Robert Kelleher, Bucky Lohbusch, Patrick Dragon, Pat Gauthier, Steve Breen, WINY, and Public

Absent with notification: Gene Michael Deary

1. **Call to Order:** Jeffery Otto called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
2. **Public Comment:** No comments
3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Kim Conroy made a motion to approve the April 30, 2014 minutes. Sandra Brodeur seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed 4-0.
4. **Discussion on 2013-2014 Budget:** No comment
5. **Discussion/Action on 2014-2015 Budget:**
 - **Recreation Commission:** There were no changes to the Park and Recreation's budget. The part-time coordinator has been removed and they moved the summer day camp director back into position. The Teen Center, if passed, will start interviews for a director in July and open in September or October. There would be two staff members present during operating hours and maybe have a coordinator present too. Also Bucky Lohbush would be involved to keep things running smoothly.
 - These changes mean a reduction in the Recreation budget of approximately \$17,000 and an approximate reduction of \$21,000 for the Town budget.
 - **Board of Fire Commissioners:** The Fire Commissioners want \$10,000 more for the East Brooklyn Fire Department operating budget. Patrick Dragon, a captain with the East Brooklyn Fire Company, explained that they are asking for an extra \$10,000 because of a 26% increase in responses in their area and that 15 new members have joined the company and required training in the emergency medical field and Fire Fighting 1. Training for the new members would be \$2,125 and training for Fire Fighting 1 would be \$5,250. Also the prices of medical items such as EpiPen, aspirin, etc, have gone up in price. Also Engine Tanker 192 needs \$3,000 worth of maintenance work to keep it working properly. Kenneth Dyksrta mentioned that fire department should put training in their actual budget. Pat Gauthier said the East Brooklyn Fire Department is not equally funded as Mortlake Fire Department. He would like to be equally funded or be funded based on calls. Kim Conroy said that the Fire Departments or Fire Commissioners should give the Board of Finance a detail budget in the future.

Steve Breen gave an update on the Fire Rescue truck for Mortlake Fire Department. A request has been submitted to the Capital Committee for \$466,000. The Fire Commissioners have been working with Rescue 1 out of New Jersey and Pierce Manufacturing on getting comparative quotes. They are currently working on

getting comparison prices and getting bids. Once the companies found out that it would be going to bid, they did not want to take a deposit. Joe Voccio stated that Capital Budget has put \$466,000 as a placer holder for the truck, but if things do not work out for the truck, they will discuss what actions to take after more information is known.

- Andrew Dionne made a motion to approve the Fire Commissioners budget as presented. Kim Conroy seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.
- **Board of Education:** Dr. Berry was not able to make the meeting, but Rick Ives had met with her to be able to discuss her positions at tonight's meeting. Dr. Berry talked about wanting to add more computers, Chrome Books, to the Capital Budget. The security study had a place holder of \$26,000 for the reader cards, which is not part of the security study. Dr. Berry wants to use the State Police for the study, which would be free and she would still have \$10,000 for a later study, if needed. Dr. Berry wants to use the reminder of the money to purchase more computers, which brings the total that the Board of Education is asking for computers from the Capital Budget to \$29,100. The operating cost has stayed the same. Discussion ensued.
- **Board of Selectmen:** Rick Ives stated that they have to negotiate health insurance plan because the plan and contract does not exist anymore. The pension is affected slightly downward because of the Recreation position that was taken away saves money. The interest rate is substantially down. The Board of Selectmen have carried an approximately amount of \$58,000 in their budget that is there to pay the interest if the Town moved to permanent financing. It was in last year's budget, so it is going to come back as a part of the money that he is returning. It is Rick Ives's recommendation that the money be taken out this fiscal year because it not being foreseen that the Town will go to permanent financing this year. Discussion ensued about interest rates.

The Board of Selectmen added \$387,000 for an interest payment that the Board of Finance intends to use to pay down the oldest bonds, which has been offset by reserves. The Killingly Capital amount of \$250,700, plus this year's short term debt on the 2014-2015 budget. Revenues: The adopted budget by the legislator actually gained some more money than expected. The Town received a little more than \$3,000 in pilot money and \$32,000 for municipal sharing. The total is \$42,351, which is supposed to make the Town whole for anything they took away.

- **Capital Budget:** Joe Voccio went through the Capital Budget:
 - Board of Education:
 - Fire Alarms - Board of Education - removal of the \$175,000 fire alarm upgrade; there are no safety issues with this being held off until next year; still waiting for the study about the condition and the plans to move forward
 - Rose Wing Roof - \$65,500 is an estimated cost for the project; Capital Committee will pay the bill in full, but there will be some reimbursement which will be given back to the committee to be used in a future bond. The project should be done this summer.
 - Security Needs Analysis and Plan – has been reduced to \$10,000
 - Computers - \$29,100 for about 55 Chrome Books, cart warranties, etc.

- Highway Department – nothing has changed in their budget.
 - Backhoe, scheduled at \$112,000, is going to be finance the net value after the trade in of \$94,500.
 - Pickup truck - scheduled purchase of \$35,000; the financed amount after trade in will be \$27,000.
 - Highway Garage Openers - \$8,000.
- Parks and Recreation:
 - Replacement Vehicle - \$31,000.
 - Mower – \$16,650 (removed)
- Town:
 - Sidewalk Match Funds - \$15,000
 - Town Hall Phone System - \$21,000, an increase due to bids
 - Town Hall Steps - \$12,000
 - Community/Teen Center - \$10,000 allowance
 - Planning and Zoning Consultant - \$27,000
- Board of Fire Commissioners:
 - Replacement Fire Rescue Truck - \$466,000

The expensed amounts are \$206,750, which is everything except the backhoe, Rose Wing Roof, and Replacement Fire Rescue Truck. Rick Ives made a change to Parks and Recreation to remove the mower from the budget, which reduces the expensed amounts to \$190,100. The amount under a 5 year financing is \$94,500 (net amount of the backhoe) and the approximate payment would be \$20,650. The amount under a 10 year financing is \$531,500 and the annual payment would approximately be \$66,500. The total expenses for this year's Capital are \$277,250.

Jeffrey Otto mentioned that there will be more expensive items coming in future years that will need to be purchased or replaced, so the Board of Finance needs to watch spending habits now. Joe Voccio said that the Capital Committee will be working on the next 5 year budget plan, once this budget is passed.

The Town trucks are in good condition compared to 10 years ago, which is due to a schedule of maintaining and replacing. Sandra Brodeur wonders if there is a schedule to replace roofs when needed or any big expenses for buildings. Rick Ives commented that he would like to create a building committee to keep track of repairs and maintenance for the Town's buildings.

- **Budget:** The budget is based on investments/accounts being paid back, 9% reserved level amount, puts together an operating budget that the school, the Selectmen, and other departments are comfortable with. The increase in mill rate that is required for the 2014-2015 budget is 0.244. Jeffery Otto wants to bring this budget to bring to the public hearing in two weeks, unless there are unforeseen changes.
 - Andrew Dionne motions to adopt the 2014-2015 budget as has been described and given to the commission. Sandra Brodeur seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.
- 6. **Set Next Meeting:** The committee decided that they do not need another special meeting. They will have a meeting after the hearing. Next meeting will be the public hearing, Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at 7:00pm.

Andrew Dionne asked the committee how the budget will be shown to the public and voted on. The committee feels that they should keep the items separate: Town, School, and Capital.

7. Public Comment: No comments

8. Adjourn: Andrew Dionne made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22pm. Sandra Brodeur seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted;

April N. Blymiller
Recording Secretary