

## Minutes

# Board of Finance Meeting

April 3, 2014

7:30 PM – Town Hall Room 206

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Liz Mao, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. All members of the Board of Finance were present. Also in attendance was Finance Director Kate Clarke Buch. The meeting was broadcast live over Channel 79.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION** – No open items

### **BUDGET DISCUSSION WITH BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND BOARD OF EDUCATION**

#### **Board of Education**

- Vice Chairman Jon Zagrodzky provided a summary of his thoughts on the additional costs related to Special Education. Mr. Zagrodzky indicated that he met with Dr. Lynn Pierson, the interim superintendent, who in her work to date discovered that many professionals assigned to important special education tasks (e.g., record keeping) lacked the required skills. She believes that the new facilitators, who will come with extensive experience and training, will be able to ensure that special education programs are properly managed at each school.
- Mrs. Mogenson explained that many of the higher costs are due to the fact that several schools and accompanying infrastructure are more than 60 years old. She did recommend cutting proposed funds for new turf fields, which still have remaining useful life of one to two years.

#### **Board of Selectmen**

- Chairman Liz Mao explained that the \$92,000 for civilian dispatch was brought back into the Board of Selectmen budget. Mrs. Mao also said that the Board of Finance will not commit to nine civilian additions to the Police force but felt that this is a step in the right direction.
- Jayme Stevenson, First Selectman, requested an update on the emergency radio system. Mrs. Mao stated that that the BOF would draw down the fund balance to finance the project.
- Kate Buch estimated that the overall town budget would equate to a mill rate of 15.01, resulting in a tax increase of 5.7% increase, which does not include some of the items being drawn from fund balance.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Nothing reported.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Dave Lopiano made a motion to adjourn. Bruce Orr seconded the motion. Passed 7 – 0 at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Lopiano  
Clerk