

BOARD OF FINANCE
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING
40 OLD FARMS ROAD
WILLINGTON, CT 06279

MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 4, 2018

**Minutes are not official until approved at the next regular meeting*

Members Present:

Jim Bulick, Chairman
Mike Makuch, Vice-Chair
Barry Wallett
Peter Tanaka
Laurie Semprebon
Fred Schoen – Alternate
Bill Rankin – Alternate

Absent- Randy Belair

Also Present: Donna Latincsics, Business Manager; Tish Ignatowicz, Treasurer; Erika Wiececki, First Selectwoman; John Blessington, Selectman; Michelle Doucette Cunningham, Chairman BOE; Jacqueline Jacoby, Interim Superintendent; members of the BOE; members of the public.

Chairman Jim Bulick called the hearing to order at 7:27 P.M.

SEATING OF ALTERNATES –

Laurie Semprebon moved to seat Bill Rankin as a regular member in place of Randy. Belair. Vice Chairman Makuch seconded the motion.

Vote: Yes: (J. Bulick, B. Wallett, M. Makuch, L. Semprebon, P. Tanaka) 0 No.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3/22/2018 Budget Meeting Minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

PRESENT TO SPEAK –

No One was present to speak.

NEW BUSINESS

***Budget Discussion &
Budget Adjustments***

Chairman Bulick stated that everyone has heard the budget and seems to be ok with it as it stands.

Laurie Semprebon asked if we could adjust the K-8 budget with the funding that was anticipated to go towards the Region 19 budget? The Region 19 budget was decreased by \$10,792 and she would like to see it go back to the BOE. Chairman Bulick noted yes it is possible to move funding during this meeting.

Laurie Semprebon moved to put \$10,792 back into the K-8 Board of Education budget.

Barry Wallett asked why wouldn't we just put that money back towards our deficit. Ms. Semprebon said we came up with a budget that we thought we could live with and she feels the BOE struggles to try to do the things they need to do; clarifying that it is not a huge amount of money. Mr. Wallett stated that the BOE is up 2.2% and everyone else is negative; our town is in a deficit and does not have enough money.

Vice Chairman Makuch seconded the motion for discussion purposes.

Mr. Wallett then continued stating that it doesn't make sense - we have done everything we could for the BOE and they are up while everyone else has taken a hit.

Vice Chairman Makuch asked if the higher Region 19 number was included into the last BOE budget submission and if we take no action tonight that money will be in there?

The board members replied no; it is in the General Reserve. Peter Tanaka clarified that we took extra money out of the General Reserve to raise the K-8 budget would bring us back to flush. Laurie Semprebon said that she knows that the budget came in over but the BOE has a lot of things in their budget they cannot control. Peter Tanaka said he thinks we should leave it as is.

Barry Wallett clarified that our reserve is negative \$240,000; by leaving it would make it negative 230,000.

Chairman Bulick then brought to a vote:

Yes (L. Semprebon & M. Makuch)

No: (J. Bulick, B. Wallett, P. Tanaka, B. Rankin)

Motion failed.

Maureen Parsell, Director of Parks and Recreation was present. She thanked the Board for their consideration and stated that the Recreation Commission would like to move as quickly as they can on a LOCIP appropriation for the parking lot lights at River Road. The funding request is for this year and has already been approved through CIP and the LOCIP funding has also become available.

Chairman Bulick moved to add the Recreation Department Parking Lot Lights to the agenda for discussion.

Barry Wallett seconded the motion.

Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, M. Makuch, B. Wallett, P. Tanaka, L. Semprebon, B. Rankin) 0 No.

Ms. Parsell stated that the Planning & Zoning Commission had approved the application last night and she is here to ask for an appropriation for the funding to move forward. She presented the Board with the quotes for the project, which totals \$12,500. Laurie Semprebon asked why this is coming to us so urgently? Ms. Parsell stated that they want to get working on it as soon as they can. They are relying on Public Works to do the work and will need to fit it into their work schedule and the sooner we can move, it will be easier for everyone's schedule.

Vice Chairman Makuch stated that he has been in favor of this, even before he was elected to the BOF. This will give people a sense of security. He then asked if only one camera is to be installed now, could others be added in the future? Mr. Colangelo stated if they did add more cameras, the area would need to be re-trenched, however he said if you get the right kind of camera, two should be able to watch over the entire property. First Selectwoman Wiczenski stated that the some of the reason for what it seems like urgency is because Recreation received approvals from Planning and Zoning last night, but we also

could save money by adding it to the upcoming Town Meeting that the Board of Selectmen are going to be calling; and as a bonus, they could also get started sooner. It will save money to lump it into the upcoming meeting.

Peter Tanaka moved to recommend that the Board of Selectmen call a Town Meeting for the following purpose: to appropriate \$12,500 from the Capital Projects Fund - LoCIP-RRAC Parking Lot Lights & Surveillance for the purpose of installing lighting and a surveillance camera at RRAC to be reimbursed by the State of Connecticut Local Capital Improvement Program.

Laurie Semprebbon seconded the motion.

Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, M. Makuch, B. Wallett, P. Tanaka, L. Semprebbon, B. Rankin) 0 No.

MBR Discussion

The MBR was discussed and covered during the Public Hearing.

First Selectwoman Wiecewski asked the BOF if they would be willing to reconsider the \$10,000 contingency funding they were holding on to cover legal costs due to the MBR penalty. She added that she knows it is not much, but it would help. Barry Wallett said that we don't have an answer yet and is not comfortable moving it just yet. Peter Tanaka said we should leave it there, and we can erase it later; plus it is coming out of the general reserve, so it isn't raising anything.

Chairman Bulick moved to recommend that the Board of Selectmen call a Town meeting for the following purpose: to present the Board of Education K-8 and General Government budget as presented since no changes were made.

Peter Tanaka seconded the motion.

Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, M. Makuch, B. Wallett, P. Tanaka, L. Semprebbon, B. Rankin) 0 No

OLD BUSINESS -

None was discussed.

CORRESPONDENCE -

There was no correspondence discussion.

GOOD & WELFARE

Chairman Bulick thanked interim Superintendent Jacobi for her efforts on the MBR issue.

ADJOURMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Robin Campbell
Recording Clerk

TOWN OF WILLINGTON, CT
Received for record *April 2018*
At *1:12pm* *Cheryl B. GWT*