

BOARD OF FINANCE

April 16, 2014

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance held at 7:00 P.M., on Wednesday, April 16, 2014.

Members Present: First Selectman Freda, Mr. Monico, Mr. Hallahan, Mr. Pieper, Ms. Vissicchio, Mr. Lianos, Ms. Brown

Also Present: Director of Finance Edward J. Swinkoski

The following materials were either mailed to the members prior to this meeting or distributed at this time:

1. Agenda – April 10, 2014
2. Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 19, 2014
3. March 31, 2014 - Report of Budget
 - Report of Revenue
 - Special Funds
 - Board of Education Accounting
4. Resolutions (3), Budget to Annual Town Meeting

MINUTES

After a brief discussion of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 19, 2014, Mr. Hallahan moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Lianos.

VOTE:	Freda- Yes	Monico - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Pieper - Yes	Vissicchio - Yes	Lianos - Yes
	Brown - Yes		

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

REPORT OF BUDGET, REVENUE, SPECIAL FUNDS AND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCOUNTING MARCH 31, 2014

Mr. Swinkoski referred to these reports stating that tax collections at the end of March were 99.8%. Mr. Swinkoski reviewed the expenditure report in detail. Further discussion followed. Mr. Lianos then made a motion to accept the reports.

Seconded by, Ms. Vissicchio.

VOTE:	Freda- Yes	Monico - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Pieper - Yes	Vissicchio - Yes	Lianos – Yes
	Brown - Yes		

FINALIZE FY 2014-15 BUDGET

Mr. Freda gave a recap of the FY 2014-15 Budget. He stated that he is very concerned about increasing the mill rate/taxes. He said that we have a June referendum for the Middle School and we also have a property revaluation this year. The proposed budget represents a zero percent increase with the Board of Education receiving a 2.3 percent increase. Mr. Hallahan suggested that we put a non-binding question on the referendum ballot regarding increasing the Board of Education budget. Mr. Freda said he checked with our Town Attorney, Jeffrey Donofrio, who is present tonight to discuss his findings.

Town Attorney Jeffrey Donofrio then explained to the Board that our Town Charter does not allow questions to be placed on the budget referendum ballot. Our charter also does not allow us to bifurcate or split our budget vote between Board of Education and Town Government. Mr. Donofrio said that the Board of Finance has no jurisdiction over this and it would be illegal to do so.

Further discussion followed with Board members asking questions.

Mr. Freda suggested that we conduct a robo-call survey which may help resolve this issue. A phone call will be placed to approximately 5,000-6,000 registered voters asking them if they want a zero percent increase or would they approve a .24 mill increase to fund education. The Board of Finance would then evaluate the results of the survey and make a decision. The results of the survey will be shared with the public.

Mr. Monico said that a Special Board of Finance meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

Further discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Discussion followed for approximately one and half hours with residents asking questions and making recommendations.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Lianos moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 PM, seconded by Ms. Vissicchio.

VOTE:	Freda- Yes	Monico - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Pieper - Yes	Vissicchio - Yes	Lianos - Yes
	Brown - Yes		