

**Town of Marlborough
Board of Finance – Regular Meeting
June 10, 2015, 7:00 P.M.
Marlborough Elementary School Library**

Call to Order

Chairman Godbout called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Seated were regular members Chairman Evelyn Godbout, Cliff Denniss, Erik Young, Ken Hjulstrom (arrived 7:07PM), Susan Leser (arrived 7:04PM) and Doug Knowlton. Alternate Midge Denno was also in attendance and was seated for Susan Leser and then unseated when Ms Leser arrived. Ms Denno was then seated for Mr. Hjulstrom and then unseated when Mr. Hjulstrom arrived.

Additions to the Agenda

Motion by Chairman Godbout to add the Tax Collector’s Annual Suspense List to the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Denno. BOF members Godbout, Knowlton, Denniss, Denno & Young voted in Favor of the motion.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Knowlton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leser, to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2105, Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance.

Comments: On page 2 change “...under Bruce, it was him who said that...” to “...under Bruce, it was Bruce who said that...”

VOTE: BOF members Godbout, Knowlton, Denniss, Hjulstrom & Leser voted in Favor of the motion. Mr. Young abstained. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Denniss made a motion, seconded by Mr. Young to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Finance held on June 1, 2105.

VOTE: BOF members Young, Knowlton, Denniss, Hjulstrom & Leser voted in Favor of the motion. Ms. Godbout abstained. Motion passed.

Review of Correspondence

Chairman Godbout presented correspondence from First Selectman Gaudinski in response to questions from the Marlborough Board of Finance regarding use of a 2009 STEAP grant for the Library. It was noted in the documentation that the previous administration requested and implemented a change of use for the bulk of the STEAP grant funds for other purposes such as sidewalks, with other uses for the balance of the funds being authorized for various other items over the years. The detail on the 2009 Library Steap grant is attached to the record of the minutes.

Tax Collector’s Suspense List

Barbara Murray, Tax Collector, was available to answer questions in regards to her Suspense List that she submitted to the Board of Finance. Some of the debts include moneys, which belonged to companies that have gone out of business and for individuals who have filed bankruptcy. The Suspense List is provided to a collection agency to attempt to collect the outstanding debts.

**MOTION: Mr. Hjulstrom made a motion to approve the Tax Collector's Suspense List for FY 2014 -15 for a total of \$21,724.59. The motion was seconded by Mr. Knowlton.
VOTE: All voted in favor of the motion.**

Transfer Requests from the Selectman's Office

Motion made by Mr. Young, seconded by Ms. Leser to authorize \$85,000 from the Future Capital Expenditure Reserve be transferred to Capital Engineering Projects in the Reserve for Capital & Non-Recurring Fund. This will be used for STEAP 2014 and STEAP 2015 as outlined under Building Department Tracking # 16004 (\$35,000) and Tracking #16018 (\$50,000) on the March 5, 2015 Capital Request sheet provided to BOF.

Discussion: The timing regarding approval of the funds for transfer was discussed. The First Selectman noted that these funds were included in the Capital Request sheet presented to the Board of Finance during the budget preparation process.

All voted in Favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Motion made by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Ms. Leser to authorize \$49,622 from CNR Retired Capital Surplus to purchase the Public Works replacement vehicle for the 2006 F350 truck also on the March 5, 2015 Capital Request sheet as #16025.

Discussion: It was asked if the 2006 F350 truck would be kept for Town use or sold. The First Selectman indicated that it would most likely be sold with the proceeds being set aside for the purchase of other capital items in the future, as has been done in recent years.

All voted in Favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Town Financial Reports

The monthly Financial Report was discussed.

It was asked if there was any projection as to what surplus there might be from the Town Operations budget. The Board of Selectmen will not have that information until August when the Board of Finance will be asked to authorize transfers. There was a suggestion that a portion of any surplus might be used for equipping the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department's ATV. The MVFD had requested equipping the ATV for off road rescue use at a cost of approximately \$8,000, but that request was not included in the final list of capital items for the 2015-2016 budget. This issue was raised at a recent CNR Committee meeting.

Board of Finance members commended the tax collector on a job well done. Tax collections have exceeded projections this year. Civil Preparedness revenue was up due to a grant reimbursement that the town received. Building permits were up by over \$37,000. It was noted that interest on investments is higher due to utilization of a new bank. Professional engineering services costs are approximately \$36,000 higher than projected. Additional engineering has been required for culverts and roads.

Reports from Liaisons

Selectman Dick Shea noted that the RHAM budget passed and that the RHAM Board is currently negotiating with the Non-Certified personnel. Negotiations at RHAM might go to mediation. There was also discussion at the RHAM Board meeting of the numerous capital items that the Board will need to address in the future.

Mr. Dennis reported on the WPCA and indicated that the WPCA will be holding a Public Hearing on June 11, 2015 to discuss the WPCA's Operation and Maintenance budget, which might include an increase of \$11 per EDU. (It was noted that this was a preliminary number.)

Mr. Dennis also reported on the Marlborough Board of Education in regards to various issues discussed at their last meeting. The school has new outdoor lighting. "SBAC" testing was also discussed and it was noted that the testing was frustrating for some students due to confusion about the ability to skip some questions and flag them to be addressed later in the test and the length of time some students took for essay questions. The Board of ED also viewed a presentation of the proposed daily schedule for Full Day Kindergarten, which was noted as being subject to change as the program is implemented. Full Day Kindergarten programs in other school systems were reviewed to assist with the creation of Marlborough's program. The matter of homework was also discussed.

First Selectman Gaudinski reported on various culvert projects including the replacement of a culvert on Finley Hill Road, which is being increased from 30 inches to 40 inches. This culvert is 65 feet long. The project is targeted to be completed prior to the beginning of the fall school year since it may result in road closure and traffic detours. A second culvert on Finley Hill Road is planned for replacement in the summer of 2016. The costs for engineering, design and construction of the second Finley Hill Road culvert is estimated to be around \$180,000. There is also an 18 inch culvert on Kellogg Road, west of Hoadly Road, which may need an emergency repair.

A question arose regarding work being performed in the vacant lot area on Park Road next to the baseball field. There was material deposited in the vacant log from the Town Center Water System project, which contained some "metals". The material may be used under a future parking lot in that area.

The issue of future capital repairs for the school building was discussed. There is a need to plan ahead for future projects. The discussion included comments that Boards of Education often must weigh priorities between academic expenses verses capital items. All Town Boards need to limit new programs and carefully weigh wants vs. needs over the next few years. There is a need for all Town Boards and the community to work cooperatively to discuss and address these issues. The CNR Committee will be assessing the capital requirements town wide. They will be developing recommended long term plans for building maintenance and other capital items for future years.

The issue of the upcoming Board of Education negotiations with the Certified Personnel was discussed. The Board of Finance needs to contact Dr. Sklarz to discuss the having a BOF liaison attend the negotiation sessions.

Public Comments

There were no comments.

Adjournment

Mr. Knowlton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leser, to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 PM. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Hjulstrom
Secretary, Marlborough Board of Finance