

**Town of Marlborough
Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
September 9, 2015, 7:00 P.M.
Marlborough Town Hall- Selectmen's Conference Room**

Call to Order

Chairman Godbout called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Seated were regular members Evelyn Godbout, Cliff Denniss, Ken Hjulstrom, Susan Leser and Doug Knowlton.

Public Comments

Mr. Hjulstrom spoke as an individual about the 180+ days of instructional students are scheduled for during the school year. Mr. Hjulstrom had concerns as to how many days the students actually attend instructional days versus how many days the teachers are paid to instruct the students.

Additions to the Agenda

None

Approval of Minutes

MOTION Mr. Hjulstrom made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denniss, to approve the August 12, 2015 meeting minutes with the following changes:

- On page 2, under Monthly Financial Reports, the 4th sentence should read “ ... diesel and gasoline **usage** is three times higher ...”
- Also under Monthly Financial Reports, the 6th sentence should have “starting in FY 15-16” added to the end of the sentence.
- On page 3, under AHM, the first sentence should read AHM is drafting new language
- Also under AHM, the last sentence should read “Once the grants go away, they **may** keep the new programs and that is costing taxpayers money.”

All voted in favor of the motion.

Review of Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

AHM Pact

Ms. Godbout talked about the new pact language that has been drafted. Ms. Godbout is happy with what they have changed so far. They have kept in that the votes must be passed with at least five out of the six in the affirmative. The six votes are made up of two representatives from each town, one each from the Boards of Finance and Selectmen. They have added voting by proxy. The pact could become an annual pact rather than a five-year pact. Towns will be able to withdraw from the pact by giving a one year notice. They are still discussing the levy formulas and which formula would be the most equitable formula for the three towns. The AHM special services budget would still need to be adjusted for each town. Each town will be responsible for services provided above and beyond that which they have contracted for. Ms. Godbout will email the financial formulas to the Board. The members should reply with their comments and feedback. The BOS along with the Board of Finance will be the responsible parties to vote on the new pact.

2014-2015 Annual Report by the Board of Finance

Ms. Godbout emailed the Board a draft report for them to review. The Board worked together and gave much feedback. One item Ms. Godbout would like to add is the RHAM capital. Mr. Denniss suggested that with so many figures, the residents would better understand the figures if they were in a bulleted format. Ms. Godbout will make the edits and send out the new draft to the Board. The Board will review this again next month and vote on approval of the report.

Monthly Financial Reports

There was a question as to whether the cost of maintenance on the town vehicles includes parts and labor. Ms. Gaudinski said it is just parts if our mechanic is the one fixing the vehicle because he is already being paid for his labor. The cemetery maintenance includes the lawn, fence, trees, etc. and is done in house. Mr. Denniss asked why our town has to go to Manchester for household hazardous waste drop off. Ms. Gaudinski said that it is a regional collaboration with other towns.

Reports

Chairman – Ms. Godbout said that the teacher negotiations have begun. Some of the financial concerns that the town is facing that Ms. Godbout may bring up include our RHAM levy, our high debt, RHAM capital, engineering costs for culverts, bridges, and roads, and the decrease in the number of students. There is information available from the OPM website that compares statistics regarding each of the CT towns.

WPCA– Cliff Denniss reported WPCA is holding a Public Hearing on the Phase 2 benefit assessment charge on 9/10/15.

Local BOE – Mr. Denniss told the Board that he spoke at the BOE meeting and let them know that he was disappointed that Dr. Sklarz said the reason the BOE had a surplus was due to frugal spending the second half of the year. Mr. Denniss would hope that all departments would be frugal with taxpayer money all the time. They ended last school year with 602 students and began this school year with only 561 students. At the BOE meeting, there was a discussion that two of the three 1st grade classes are over the class size guidelines. Mr. Denniss told about a paper survey that staff, students and parents filled out regarding the school in March.

Board of Selectmen – Ms. Gaudinski said there is an All Boards meeting scheduled for September 28 to discuss the town center plan and economic development. The auditors have been working on gathering information for the audit. The surplus that the town receives back from the schools is put into the undesignated fund and used to reduce tax increases, to increase our bond rating, and to put towards capital items. Now that the Boards of Education are no longer returning their surpluses to the town, it may have a negative impact on the budget. The revaluation company is almost finished going out to the homes. If a homeowner was not available to let them in, they will receive a letter shortly.

Public Comments

Dick Shea spoke about teacher compensation. During the RHAM negotiations, the issue regarding the compensation being provided to the Marlborough teachers was brought up. The issue was that the Marlborough teachers were earning more money than the RHAM teachers who teach higher grades of education.

Adjournment

Ms. Leser made a motion, seconded by Mr. Knowlton, to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Debby Rihm
Board Clerk