

**Town of Marlborough  
Board of Finance  
Regular Meeting  
November 12, 2015, 7:00 P.M.  
Marlborough Elementary School – Media Center**

**Call to Order**

Vice Chairman Denniss called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Seated were regular members Cliff Denniss, Ken Hjulstrom, Doug Knowlton, Susan Leser and Eric Young. Alternate Midge Denno was seated for the vacancy. Mr. Denniss made sure that all newly elected members had been sworn in before he continued the meeting.

**Selection of Moderator**

Mr. Denniss made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leser, to appoint Midge Denno as Moderator for the election of officers. All voted in favor.

**Election of Officers**

Ms. Leser made a motion, seconded by Ms. Denno, to nominate Mr. Denniss as Chairman. Mr. Young made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hjulstrom, to nominate Mr. Knowlton as Chairman. DISCUSSION: Both are good candidates. Mr. Denniss did a good job as Vice Chairman working with Ms. Godbout.

**VOTE:** Those in favor of Mr. Denniss as Chairman were Mr. Denniss and Ms. Leser.

Those in favor of Mr. Knowlton as Chairman were Mr. Young, Mr. Hjulstrom, Ms. Denno and Mr. Knowlton. Doug Knowlton will be the Chairman of the Board.

Ms. Leser made a motion, seconded by Mr. Young, to nominate Mr. Denniss as Vice Chairman of the Board. There were no other nominations.

**VOTE:** All voted in favor of Mr. Denniss being Vice Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Knowlton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Young, to nominate Mr. Hjulstrom as secretary of the Board. There were no other nominations.

**VOTE:** All voted in favor of Mr. Hjulstrom as the Secretary of the Board.

Mr. Knowlton took over running the rest of the meeting as the new Chairman.

**Public Comments**

Evelyn Godbout, Selectman, told the Board she had emailed the summary of the teacher negotiations to the Board and has some RHAM information she would like to share with them.

Amy Traversa, First Selectman, told the Board she is looking forward to working with them and to never hesitate to ask for anything they need or to ask her to attend a meeting. She congratulated the members on their election.

**Additions to the Agenda**

Mr. Denniss made a motion, seconded by Mr. Knowlton, to add RHAM Update and Local BOE Teacher Negotiations to the agenda. All voted in favor.

### **Local BOE Teacher Negotiations and RHAM Update**

Ms. Godbout said that the Board did a good job with Shipman & Goodwin. They were in mediation and in the eleventh hour came to an agreement. There is a 1.8% wage increase in each of the next three school years, with steps, for a total of a 9.07% increase by 2018-2019. The doctorate step was eliminated and only 18 teachers still have steps, while the other 28 have reached the top step. The insurance changed to a \$2,000/\$4,000 deductible beginning July 1, 2016. This change in the insurance realizes a \$59,000 savings. Ms. Godbout said there was a lot of discussion on number of days for the contract, but nothing was changed. Mr. Hjulstrom interjected he is disappointed that nothing new was put in the contract. With all the snow days, some years there aren't 183 instructional days. If they did not teach all 183 days, there would be savings on salaries, electricity, buses, among other things.

Ms. Godbout said there are many items on RHAM's capital project report produced by Colliers International. The estimate is between \$10 and \$12 million. This is a wish list and they will apply for grants. Once they see which grants they receive, they will prioritize the list. Some grants are matching grants where the towns must contribute. Ms. Leser asked if the taxpayers are going to have to pay for the new traffic flow pattern at the school. Could they just change where parents drop off kids? The design and engineering were poor from the beginning on many of the construction projects. Due to the amount of time since the schools were completed, there has not been any talk of legal action against the contractors. The state did approve the plans, so is the state responsible at all for the mistakes? The entire football field has to be re-done, the schools are not ADA compliant inside or outside any longer, there are electrical, structural, and electrical upgrades needed.

Also, Ms. Godbout said Hebron is still meeting on the AHM pact. The Hebron attorney made some changes. Ms. Godbout said she will send the most current copy to the First Selectman and Doug Knowlton. Five out of six votes are still needed to pass an item.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION** Mr. Knowlton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Young, to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2015 regular meeting with the following corrections:

- Under AHM Pact, the last sentence should read "These projections show how much the **Marlborough portion of the RHAM budget will increase ....**"
- As a side note, under the local BOE, Mr. Denniss corrected himself that the grab and go breakfast will cost \$1.75, not \$1.50.

All voted in favor of the motion.

### **Review of Correspondence**

1. American Legion is asking for an increase in the Memorial Day parade budget line as expenses continue to increase.
2. CCM Training – Ethics, Accountability and Conflicts of Interest on 12/3/15 in Old Saybrook.

### **2016 BOF Schedule**

Mr. Hjulstrom made a motion, seconded by Ms. Denno, to hold the regular Board of Finance meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the school media center, except in July and August when the meetings will be held in the town hall.

VOTE: All voted in favor.

### **Liaisons to Other Boards**

Mr. Denniss said he would continue to attend the local BOE and WPCA meetings. RHAM meets the third Monday of the month. Ms. Leser said she would attend when she is able to, but could not make a formal commitment. With the proposed activity at RHAM and Marlborough's proposed impact, it will be especially important during the budget season that someone tries to attend. AHM meets on the first Tuesday of the month. Mr. Knowlton and Mr. Denniss will get on the AHM and RHAM mailing lists.

### **Monthly Financial Reports**

Mr. Hjulstrom brought up that the generator still has not yet been purchased and it has been in the CNR account for three years. He would like to see it resolved or removed from the budget. Public Works is gathering quotes. Mr. Shea said that they were waiting for a grant to apply for to cover the cost of the generator. Under the fire department, insurance and bonds is at 128%. They would like an explanation for that.

### **Reports**

**RHAM** - Ms. Godbout gave the update earlier in the meeting.

**WPCA**– Cliff Denniss reported that WPCA is meeting tonight.

**Local BOE** – Mr. Denniss told the Board that the school received a \$52,000 REAP grant and the Board of Education wants to decide how to spend the money rather than the administration deciding. It will most likely be used on technology. This \$52,000 grant should be part of their budget to show more accurately the true cost of education. A BOE/BOF/BOS joint meeting should be held to discuss maintenance, long-term and day to day repairs and who is responsible for what in regards to the school. A written policy can only be a good thing so everyone knows who is responsible for what and that items are getting taken care of and not letting maintenance slide. The BOS should schedule the meeting. The PTO donated \$25,000 toward the early childhood playscape at the school. Also, the school budgeted for one special education student and that student left the district within the first month of school. They now have a \$65,000 surplus. The BOE consensus is that they do not like the new formula for the AHM pact, where they have to contribute 25% of the line item. Possibly part of this surplus (\$18,000) could be used for that and it won't increase their budget. Ms. Godbout said that she was on the AHM Pact Committee and this formula is the most advantageous for Marlborough.

**Selectmen Report** – Ms. Godbout said she just learned of some of the pending cuts from the state budget and they include funding for school transportation and municipalities. Ms. Godbout told the Board about the holiday function being held on December 6, from 5-6 p.m. The businesses are aware of this and may choose to stay open late that evening. There will be carolers, tree lighting, Santa, and a fireworks display at the end. The fire department contributed \$2,000 towards the fireworks. There is a Go Fund Me page if people would like to donate to the cost of the fireworks. Since not too many people have fireworks in December, they were able to get a great price (\$5,000). The town is still waiting on the State to sign off on Phase 3 of the sewer project. There is only a discrepancy of fifty cents.

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Leser made a motion, seconded by Mr. Young, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Debby Rihm  
Board Clerk