

**Town of Marlborough
Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
October 14, 2015, 7:00 P.M.
Marlborough Elementary School – Media Center**

Call to Order

Chairman Godbout called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Seated were regular members Evelyn Godbout, Cliff Denniss, Ken Hjulstrom, Eric Young and Doug Knowlton. Alternate Midge Denno was seated for Susan Leser until she arrived at 7:04 p.m.

Public Comments

Cliff Denniss, Vice Chairman, presented Evelyn Godbout with a beautiful flower arrangement from the Board of Finance for her 11 years of service on the Board and for her leadership as Chairman. Ms. Godbout will be missed. Ms. Godbout was very surprised and thanked the Board for being so professional even during very difficult budget discussions. There is a chance that Ms. Godbout could return to the Board if she does not win the election for Selectman. The Democrats have a vacancy on the Board.

Additions to the Agenda

None

Approval of Minutes

MOTION Mr. Knowlton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leser, to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2015 regular meeting as submitted.
All voted in favor of the motion.

Review of Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

AHM Pact

Ms. Godbout forwarded an email from Jeff Watt, Hebron BOS, to the Board. Mr. Watt explained that the Hebron attorney will be reviewing the pact before it is voted on by the three towns Selectmen. If anything is changed by the attorney, it would only be language, not the formula. In Mr. Watt's email, he said that he believes that AHM should have a zero percent increase in their FY 2016-17 budget. Mr. Rosenberg, AHM Executive Director, responded that AHM is aware of that goal, but since they have not begun to look at the budget yet, no promises can be made at this time.

The pact remained 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. The pact will become an annual pact rather than a five-year pact. Towns will be able to withdraw from the pact by giving a written one year notice. The levy formula chosen was the RHAM census formula. With this formula, Hebron doesn't decrease as quickly and Marlborough doesn't increase quite so quickly. For budget year 2016-17, the Marlborough elementary school will be paying an additional \$18,000 for AHM services. Ms. Godbout will forward the RHAM budget projections to the board. These projections show how much the RHAM budget will increase, with a zero percent increase.

MOTION: Ms. Godbout made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hjulstrom, to endorse the AHM Pact and addendum that contains the formula, as presented in draft from the Hebron BOS.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Godbout had endorsed this draft as an individual at the consortium meeting. The ECS grant may be higher with AHM in the education budget. The cost is made up of 50% town and 50% school district (split between the elementary schools and RHAM). Dick Shea, Marlborough Selectman, said that he believes that our First Selectman is having CIRMA review the insurance liability clause, and relying on the Hebron attorney to review the pact.

VOTE: All in favor.

Ms. Godbout will notify Mr. Rosenberg and Mr. Watt that the Board endorsed the pact.

2014-2015 Annual Report by the Board of Finance

Ms. Godbout edited the report as recommended by the Board. Everyone liked that it was in a table format. It made it much easier to understand and read. The Board discussed when the BOF report is due so the town can print the Annual Report. According to Charter, the Annual Report should be printed 90 days after the audit.

MOTION: Ms. Leser made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denniss, to approve the BOF Annual Report as drafted.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Denniss said the Chairman did a great job fixing the draft.

VOTE: All voted in favor.

Blum Shapiro Invoice

MOTION: Mr. Knowlton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leser, to approve the Blum Shapiro invoice dated 9/4/15 for \$13,000 for auditing services rendered.

VOTE: All in favor.

Monthly Financial Reports

Weed testing in the lake is over budget. There was concern that weed testing may be done again in the spring. Catch basin cleaning is at 100%. Catch basin cleaning is outsourced and pre-paid.

Reports

Chairman – Ms. Godbout said that the teacher negotiations are still going on. They were in mediation as the BOF was meeting. They will go to arbitration if they do not come to a consensus tonight. If they need to go to arbitration, the Board discussed who would attend meetings if Ms. Godbout is no longer on the BOF. Ms. Godbout will discuss with Dr. Sklarz who would be allowed. Some of the financial concerns that the town is facing that Ms. Godbout discussed in the teacher talks included our RHAM levy, our high debt, RHAM capital, engineering costs for culverts, bridges, and roads, and the decrease in the number of students. The attorney checked her facts and provided some associated documents to present during negotiations.

RHAM - Ms. Godbout said that RHAM is prioritizing their capital items and looking into grants to help cover the costs of the capital items.

WPCA– Cliff Denniss reported that a WPCA Public Hearing was held on the Phase 2 benefit assessment charges on 9/10/15. The cost will be the same as for Phase 1, \$603 per year for 20 years for one EDU. One EDU is considered a three bedroom home. Phase 3 bids were received and Hubble Construction was chosen as the low bidder, which is the same vendor that built Phase 2. The residents and healthcare center were very happy with Hubble for the last phase. The project was separated into three

parts. The regular project is finishing the lake properties for \$2,331,300. Part A is the expansion for a total of \$2,717,614, and Part B would be for everything WPCA wants to include sewer for a total of \$3,301,696.

Local BOE – Mr. Dennis told the Board that a PowerPoint presentation on the Smarter Balance Test scores was shown at the last meeting. The scores seemed pretty high. Budget guidelines were distributed to the BOE from Dr. Sklarz. The BOE would like to hold a joint meeting with the BOS and the BOF after the election to discuss maintenance of the school. A grab and go breakfast program has been started in the school. It is free for the first month for everyone. After that, it will cost \$1.50, .30 for subsidized lunch participants, and free for the free lunch program students.

All Boards Meeting – included discussion on the town center plan and business development. High density housing behind Doug's barbershop was also discussed.

Board of Selectmen – Mr. Shea said that state trooper program assessment went up from 70% to 85%, per the state budget.

Public Comments

Dick Shea said he realized this was Ms. Godbout's last meeting and on behalf of the town and himself, he thanked her for all the time, dedication, judgment, and effort she put into being on the Board of Finance.

Adjournment

Mr. Knowlton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leser, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Debby Rihm
Board Clerk