

**Town of Marlborough  
Board of Finance  
Regular Meeting  
January 13, 2016, 7:00 P.M.  
Marlborough Elementary School – Media Center**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Knowlton called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Seated were regular members Cliff Denniss, Ken Hjulstrom, Doug Knowlton, Susan Leser and Eric Young (7:09 p.m.). Alternate Midge Denno was seated for the vacancy.

**Additions to the Agenda**

**None**

**Public Comments**

**None**

**New Business**

1. The new agenda format – Mr. Denniss commented that he would like to be able to have the BOF have Public Comments at the end of their budget workshops. First Selectman Traversa said it is fine to modify as needed. The intent is to keep all the new business at the beginning of the meeting so the public can attend and then leave if they'd like to.

**Unfinished Business**

1. The BOF Budget for FY 16-17 – There was a question as to why the BOF is over budget already. It is because of the timing and invoicing of the audit and when the school re-pays the town for their part of the audit. The Board deferred this item until next month so they can get the exact amount for the audit this year. Office supplies and education and dues will remain the same.

**Updates**

**Water System and Properties**

First Selectman Traversa gave the Board an update on the town center water system and various properties. Ms. Traversa had a handout regarding funds spent to date on Phase I. The Board was surprised to see that an extra \$100,000 was paid for this project through end of year transfers. The First Selectman said that it looks like it came from legal and engineering. The town only approved \$50,000 for this project with town funds, but actually spent over \$150,000 for this Phase, in addition to the \$500,000 STEAP grant. They still have not heard definitely whether the town was approved for the 2015 STEAP grant for Phase II. If they were not approved, they have until Friday to re-submit the grant application. The First Selectman said they have 2 grants written. If the town was approved for Phase II, then she would like to submit for a façade program to help the businesses update their buildings. First Selectman Traversa said that the town is on the cusp of commercial development and she would not suggest spending any further money on the development of the water system until we see who comes to town and what the needs are. Some information was missing from the memo so Ms. Traversa said she would get the numbers from the Director of Planning and Development and forward it to the BOF Chairman in the morning to disseminate.

Mr. Elliott's properties were foreclosed on and he has until 2/9/16 to come up with \$7.2 million to regain his properties. Chelsea Groton Bank now owns the properties. There is a realty company from Glastonbury interested in developing the properties. He would like a 55,000 square foot grocery store, rather than the 40,000 s.f. that is in the zoning regulations. The extra would be used for storage and offices. This company has built very successful properties in Glastonbury and has financing behind him. The five properties include the Village Green, Tavern Green, Subway/Dunkin properties, plus two houses.

### **Colchester Emergency Communications**

KX has been dissolved. Many options have been discussed with the First Selectman and others involved. Glastonbury/East Hampton has more than what we need since they have their own police departments and would be a waste of town funds. Three responses were received from an RFP. Valley Shore, Tolland County and Quinnebaug Valley are the choices. The First Selectman reviewed the costs with the Board. EMS is holding a meeting and will give their opinion to the BOS.

There is a joint meeting with the Boards of Selectmen, Finance and Education on January 28.

### **Monthly Financial Reports**

CIRMA recommended combining insurance into one line item for timing and accounting issues.

### **Liaison Reports**

**WPCA**– Cliff Denniss reported that WPCA held a public hearing on Phase III extensions. The Marlborough Health Care Center has clogged pipes due to a blown pump in their system. They hook up to the town's system at Park & Cheney Road. They were dumping at the town pump station, but the town pays based on the amount of effluent so to be fair, MHCC is taking it directly to East Hampton.

**Local BOE** – Mr. Denniss told the Board that the Superintendent gave a presentation on Special Education and presented his proposed budget. The Superintendent's proposed budget is \$22,000 over the current budget. He said this is due to the AHM reallocation so the budget is actually a flat budget. Mr. Denniss reviewed the budget and it looks like they are actually spending an extra \$100,000. Due to low enrollment, two teacher positions have been eliminated, and \$71,000 they have in this year's budget for special education is eliminated in the proposed budget. Also in the budget are some new memberships, raises, and a 12% increase for health insurance. The BOE kept their \$110,000 surplus from the end of the fiscal year and purchased their wants since the budget met their needs.

**Selectmen Report** –Ms. Traversa said that the generator RFP is going out and an RFP for the paving of the hallway at the town hall is out. The money is already set aside for these items. If the STEAP grant is needed for the water project, there is a Small Cities grant available for the façade project. China Sea is building a 2-story building next to Mark's on North Main Street. The top floor is for offices and storage. They may have 5 tables, but the restaurant is still mostly for take-out orders. The Vineyard for the old Moose property is before the Zoning Commission. Brush has been removed from around the playscape. Hopefully this will detour vandalism. In the spring, branches will be removed from the culverts. The town is having a clean-up day to celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 23. Everyone is invited to help out with this project. The First Selectman announced that the last Tuesday of every month from 6-7 p.m. she will hold open forums. This month's forum will be on volunteer opportunities to fill the Boards and Commissions vacancies.

**Chairman's Report** – Mr. Knowlton updated the BOF on questions from last month. The Chairman said that \$13,700 is the correct number for the audit for this upcoming fiscal year. The \$3,205 for civil preparedness is grant funds. The prior First Selectman received \$18,568 in compensated absences when she lost the election. It was thought that the budget was \$20,000 under for the Resident State Trooper program. That number has changed to \$43,000+ per DESPP. There is a joint meeting of the Boards of Selectmen/Finance/Education on January 28 at 6 p.m. prior to the BOE meeting. The AHM Consortium Agreement signing is scheduled for tomorrow night at 6 p.m.

### **Review of Correspondence**

Mr. Knowlton emailed all the correspondence to the Board prior to the meeting.

1. CT River Coastal Conservation District Annual Report – sent a memo to the BOS and copied the BOF requesting flat funding of \$1,643 be put into the budget.
2. CCM sent an update of municipal cuts. Marlborough has been cut by \$33,000 for ECS, PILOT, and Public Transportation grants.
3. Blum Shapiro Invoice – **Mr. Denniss made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leser, to pay the Blum Shapiro invoice for \$5,000 which is the balance due. All voted in favor.**

### **Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION** Mr. Denniss made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leser, to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2015 regular meeting with the following correction:

- On the bottom of Page 1, Mr. Denniss was misspelled.

All voted in favor of the motion.

### **Public Comment**

Dick Shea, as an individual, 33 Bull Hill Road, urged the BOF to attend as many BOE meetings as they can during the budget season. It is difficult to judge if a line item can be adjusted if you don't know the background on it. The town runs on a very lean budget.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Young made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leser, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Debby Rihm  
Board Clerk