

**TOWN OF POMFRET - BOARD OF FINANCE  
PUBLIC FORUM ON PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR  
FISCAL YEAR 2016/2017 - MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016 AT 7:00 PM  
POMFRET COMMUNITY SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

In Attendance: Board of Finance Members Ken Kristal, Carolyn Gerrity, Jorge Martinez, Michael Baum, Margie Huoppi, Alyson, Aleman. Also Present: First Selectman Craig Baldwin, Selectman Barry Jessurun, BOE Chairman Richard Schad, BOE Members Kate Cerrone and Liz Cartier, Superintendent Stephen Cullinan, PCS Principal Susan Imschweiler, and approximately four additional staff members and twelve citizens and interested parties.

- I. Open Meeting** – Meeting opened at 7:00 PM by K. Kristal. He stated that both the General Government and Board of Education budgets would be presented. He noted that there is a 5.6% decrease in the Grand List.
  
- II. Board of Selectmen – FY 2016/2017 Budget Presentation** – C. Baldwin presented the General Government budget. Overall this budget proposal represents a decrease of \$11,185 or – 0.44%. Services to the Town remain intact. A substantial savings should be realized in roads with the introduction of a new resurfacing material. He provided an overview of those areas that show increases/decreases to the proposed budget. Discussion followed with questions concerning: Wappaquoi Bridge project – this is a State project with no Town involvement; Sewer Project – this is still moving forward with participants paying project expenses; Status of the Sidewalk project – this has been on hold waiting for some feedback from Trinity Church in terms of maintenance; Status of Grosvenor Road – this project is planned for this summer and the money has already been set aside. Representative from the Historical Society asked for consideration in increasing their budget to \$6260. The money they raise has all gone into improvements to the Old Town House and their expenses continue to rise. A number of Town groups continue to use the building.
  
- III. Board of Education – FY 2016/2017 Budget Presentation** – R. Schad presented the proposed Board of Education Budget which represents an increase of \$25,147 or 0.25%. He provided an overview of proposed increases and decreases to the budget. The Board continues to be concerned with potential State reductions in funding. Superintendent Stephen Cullinan elaborated on some of the changes proposed to staffing and security. Some questions regarding the number of staff and declining enrollment. R. Schad commented on the success of the all-day Kindergarten program approved a few years ago and the savings realized since the solar panels went live in 2011.
  
- IV. Citizens Comment and Questions** – K. Kristal asked if there were any further comments or questions. There was nothing further. A Public Hearing will be held later in April.
  
- V. Adjournment** – Motion made to adjourn and duly seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

date approved\_\_\_\_\_