

**TOWN OF POMFRET
BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING AND WORKSHOP MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2014 AT 6:30 PM
PCS CONFERENCE ROOM**

In Attendance: Board Members Ken Kristal, Michael Baum, Jorge Martinez, Carolyn Gerrity, Alyson Aleman, Margie Huoppi. Also present: First Selectman Maureen Nicholson, Selectman Barry Jessurun, BOE Chair Richard Schad, BOE Finance John Bergendahl.

- I. Open Regular Meeting** – K. Kristal opened meeting at 6:30 PM.
 - a. Approve Minutes Meetings of March 10 and March 20, 2014** – C. Gerrity moved to approve. J. Martinez seconded. All in favor. M. Huoppi abstained as not present.
 - b. Items to be added to Agenda** - None
 - c. Citizen's Participation** - None

- II. New Business** - None

- III. Current Business**
 - a. Treasurer's Report** - None
 - b. Tax Collector's Report** - None
 - c. Assessor's Report** - None
 - d. Board of Education Report** – J. Bergendahl reported that the projected surplus for the current year is approximately \$131,000 at this point. R. Schad stated that the search for a new Superintendent and Principal is in the process. He commented on the outstanding Administrative record of Dr. Bisceglia. Discussion. C. Gerrity had attended a recent meeting of the BOE where Woodstock Academy did a presentation and she had some information available.
 - e. Board of Selectmen Report** – M. Nicholson distributed some information regarding the Tech Park that is planned in Putnam. They are looking for partner towns and Putnam's BOF Chair, Scott Penpak and Mayor Falzarrano will be doing a presentation for the Economic Planning & Development Commission on Tuesday morning. Board members can attend if interested. Some discussion about the Budget Newsletter and the success this year of getting information out to the public.
 - f. Board of Finance – Member Reports & Discussion** – C. Gerrity provided a brief report of revenues and expenses to date. M. Nicholson commented on a Capitol Non-Recurring item from some years back for the Senior Center that was not cleared when recent clearing transfers took place. She would still like to clear that line and would like bring a specific request at a later date.

- IV. Other Business**

- V. **a. Land Acquisition-Platt property: Consideration and possible action** – M. Nicholson presented a map of the proposed property – which consists of 26 acres for \$80,000. Some discussion. K. Kristal moved to approve the expenditure of \$80,000 for approximately 26 acres of the Platt property located at 614 Mashamoquet Road, adjacent to the Pomfret Highway Garage, to be paid for from the ‘Fee in Lieu of Open Space’ Land Acquisition Fund. C. Gerrity seconded. All in favor.
- b. Discussion: General Government and Board of Education Proposed Budgets for FY 2014/2015** – Some discussion regarding the comments received at the recent forum – most of which concerned the Senior Center and reduced hours, support of a PCS Gifted program, and the First Selectman’s salary. K. Kristal stated that his estimate for the budgets as presented, without raiding the surplus fund, would equate to approximately a .64 mill increase. He polled the Board with regard to where they would want to see the surplus use/mill rate and responses varied from 0 mill with no surplus money to .50 increase with limited surplus use. Discussion. K. Kristal will present these scenarios to the public at the Public Hearing on April 22nd.

V. **Correspondence** – Letter was received from Bonnie Duncan, Assessor, regarding the grand list growth and mill increases over time. Her office has been seeing many people struggling and she advocated for a zero increase. M. Nicholson commented that the citizens coming through the Town Hall are often different than the citizens at the Public Meetings and often make comments similar to what Bonnie has indicated in her letter. Some discussion. J. Martinez suggested that the Assessor attend one of their meetings to discuss possible Tax Relief programs that might be available to those on a fixed income.

VI. **Citizen’s Participation** B. Jessurun commented on the educational program’s impact on property values.

VI. **Adjournment** – M. Baum moved to adjourn. A. Aleman seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Board of Finance Meeting of April 14th Rescheduled to April 22nd – to follow Public Hearing
Public Hearing on Proposed Budgets: April 22, 2014 at 7:00 PM – PCS Cafeteria

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Date approved_____