

**TOWN OF POMFRET  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
PUBLIC FORUM ON PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR  
FISCAL YEAR 2015/2016  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2015 AT 7:00 PM  
POMFRET COMMUNITY SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

In Attendance: Board of Finance members Ken Kristal, Carolyn Gerrity, Margie Huoppi, Michael Baum, Alyson Aleman, Jorge Martinez. First Selectman Maureen Nicholson, Selectman Peter Mann, BOE Chairman Richard Schad, BOE Members, PCS Staff, and approximately 20 citizens and interested parties.

- I. Open Session** – K. Kristal opened meeting at 7:00 PM.
- II. General Government – Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Budget Review and Public Comment and Questions** – M. Nicholson stated that the two areas of the budget most impacted were in Senior Services and the Public Library. Representatives from TEEG were present to discuss the services they could offer at the Senior Center. Donna Grant, Executive Director at TEEG spoke about their ability to leverage a variety of funding and expertise, ability to regionalize and support services as part of expansion of services at the Senior Center. She introduced Emma Pietrantonio, Community Program Manager, who spoke about expanded hours at the Center, meals offered each day it is open – in conjunction with TVCCA, added outreach and programming. They have applied for grants to bridge the gap between town monies and the estimated total cost to achieve expanded services. There was a question about the planning if the grants did not come through. They are very optimistic at this point but should they not receive added funding they would seek other avenues or modify planning. M. Nicholson stated that the budget includes an additional day at the Public Library. Laurie Bell, Librarian, spoke about program expansion and the interest in teen and adult programs. Space is limited at the library and an added day will allow for spreading out the many offerings at the library. She outlined the many activities and growth at the library. M. Nicholson stated that there are revenues put aside to off-set some of the bonding and capital projects in this proposed budget which results in a net increase of \$28,043 or 1.15%. J. Folsom asked about the increase in the insurance category. Some

of this is due to a rise in premiums as well as one part-time library position moving to full-time and qualifying for benefits.

**III. Board of Education – Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Budget Review**

**and Public Comments and Questions** – R. Schad stated that the Board of Education budget represents a 0.85% increase over last year. He provided a review of where the increases have generated from and where they will see a savings. He also provided a brief overview of their budget in terms of cost per student and the declining student population. C. Tracy asked about the approved vs. adjusted budget. Transfers are sometimes done between line items, with Board of Ed approval, in the course of the year.

**IV. General Discussion/Comments/Questions regarding Proposed**

**Budgets** – K. Kristal then opened the floor to any public comments and questions regarding either budget. C. Tracy stated that he felt both budgets were reasonable and this, coupled with declining enrollments and a healthy fund balance, seemed to indicate a good year to allow a zero mil increase. He stated that as a realtor in the community he finds that many people looking at Pomfret ultimately decide to go elsewhere. There were no other comments or questions.

**V. Adjournment** – Meeting duly adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Date approved\_\_\_\_\_