

**TOWN OF POMFRET - BOARD OF FINANCE
MINUTES - PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL FORUM ON PROPOSED
BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018
THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2017 AT 7:00 PM
POMFRET COMMUNITY SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

In Attendance: Board of Finance members Ken Kristal, Carolyn Gerrity, Michael Baum, Jorge Martinez, Debi Thompson. Also present – First Selectman Craig Baldwin, Board of Education Chair Kate Cerrone, Superintendent of Schools Stephen Cullinan, State Representative Patrick Boyd, members of PCS Staff, members of Board of Education, and approximately 8 citizens. BOF member not present – Margie Huoppi

- I. Open Meeting** – K. Kristal opened meeting at 7:00 PM. He stated that this was the initial opportunity for the public to comment and ask questions regarding the budgets. There will be additional workshops and a public hearing to follow. The Board of Finance has not taken any action yet on these budgets.

- II. Board of Selectmen – FY 2017/2018 Budget Presentation** – C. Baldwin presented the proposed General Government budget. He stated that it was basically a maintenance budget that keeps town services level. The bottom line is \$6,080 less than current budget. He then reviewed some of the areas where the budget reflects modest increases and the areas where savings have been realized. There were no questions from the public.

- III. Board of Education – FY 2017/2018 Budget Presentation** – K. Cerrone presented the proposed Board of Education budget. She stated that year over year the budget reflects a reduction in spending of over \$82,000. The bottom line increase is due to a large bump in the number of students entering Woodstock Academy this year. She provided an overview of how this works and the variations in predictability when considering numbers of students. The operational budget has been reduced. She provided an overview of the budget as proposed and areas of increases and savings. The floor was opened for questions and Bill Hull asked about the decreases in enrollment vs the increase in students entering the Academy. K. Kristal summarized that overall there is a proposed increase of approximately \$290,000. His understanding at this point that the grand list

should generate about \$150,000 in additional revenue. However, total revenues from the State are still unknown and the predictions are significant reductions over this year. He then introduced Representative Boyd to discuss possibilities regarding State revenues.

IV. Discussion: Governor's State Budget Impact – Representative Boyd discussed the State budget as originally proposed by the Governor. There are indications that some of the proposed reductions to towns are starting to shift. The Spending Budget should come out at the end of April with the final proposals ready by June 7th. He discussed some of the proposals being discussed in Hartford and groups trying to mitigate negative impacts to the rural towns. The State budget will likely not be determined until well after towns need to take their budgets to a vote.

V. Citizens Comment and Questions – There were no further comments or questions from the public.

VI. Adjournment – Duly moved and seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Date approved_____