

**TOWN OF POMFRET
BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017 AT 6:30 PM
POMFRET COMMUNITY SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM**

In Attendance: Board of Finance members Ken Kristal, Carolyn Gerrity, Jorge Martinez, Michael Baum, Debi Thompson, Margie Huoppi. Also present – First Selectman Craig Baldwin, Board of Ed Chair Kate Cerrone, Selectman Donna Smith, Tax Collector Pam Gaumond

- I. Open Regular Meeting** – K. Kristal opened meeting at 6:33 PM
 - a. Approve Minutes Meetings of July 3, 2017** – M. Huoppi moved to approve minutes of July 3rd. C. Gerrity seconded. All in favor.
 - 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** – Reports thru August briefly reviewed. Collections have been good for the first installment. Delinquents are mainly attributed to motor vehicles.
 - c. Assessor's Report** - None
 - d. Board of Education Report** – K. Cerrone stated that current reports indicate a higher turn-back of unexpended funds for FY 2016/2017 than originally anticipated. She expects to have the final number by the next BOF meeting. The new school year has started out well with some current savings due to the retirement of an experienced teacher.
 - e. Board of Selectmen Report** – C. Baldwin reported that the year is off to a good start with departments holding down their spending wherever possible. The sidewalk work is underway with paving expected to start next week. One crosswalk at the Pomfret School will be eliminated and a new one added at the library to maintain continuity of the sidewalk. The schools have asked for crossing signs that will light for pedestrians to add to the safety at these crossings. The Firehouse addition is underway and the EOC Design/Build committee has met. The Sewer project is moving along with a required review by DEEP slowing things down somewhat. They have agreed to supply the Town with a letter that assures the Air Line Trail easement. This will allow us to move forward with the bid package. There has been little action with the Putnam Tech Park and the Town of Putnam has hired a commercial broker to aid in the sale of these properties. The Board of Selectmen are looking into a commercial broker for the Murdock property. The RFP is currently being reviewed by the EPDC. Any sale or lease of all or some of this property will require the usual approvals by the Board of Finance and Town Meeting.

- f. **Board of Finance – Member Reports & Discussion** – M. Baum attended the Board of Education meeting this month. The expected return of unexpended funds was a big point of financial discussion. They also reported eleven new students this school year with two coming from new construction homes. The fuel tank project has been completed and a list of many other smaller projects have been completed over the summer.

IV. Other Business

- a. **Discussion – Status of State Budget** – Discussion regarding the continuing uncertainties coming out of Hartford. The Governor has revised his Executive Order that reflects less of a cut to Pomfret. There has been some initial discussion in Hartford toward a budget but still little movement toward an agreement. Discussion regarding how this will look to Pomfret and strategies to consider for upcoming years.
- b. **Recommendations for Cost Savings from BOS and BOE** – Discussion continued regarding possible impact to mil rate in upcoming years. Reduced revenues coming out of Hartford to the Towns is expected to continue. Discussion of possible cuts to mitigate increases to the mil rate and the need to determine an acceptable threshold. One or two members of BOF, BOE, and BOS will form a committee to investigate changing scenarios and possible modified operations in coming years in order to off-set the loss of revenue from Hartford. J. Martinez will Chair committee with K. Cerrone and Superintendent Steve Cullinan participating for the BOE. J. Martinez will contact both of them and others to schedule an initial meeting.

V. Correspondence - None

- V. **Citizen's Participation** – D. Smith thanked the Board for good communication during budget season. Citizens understand that the budget difficulties are due to what is coming out of Hartford. The new families in town that she has been speaking to are drawn here for the schools. She stated that a 5 year strategic plan would be helpful for Pomfret going forward.

- VI. **Adjournment** – M. Baum moved to adjourn. D. Thompson seconded. Meeting duly adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Date approved_____