

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

In Attendance: Board Members Carolyn Gerrity, Margie Huoppi, Michael Baum, Debi Thompson, Dayna Flath, Jorge Martinez (via phone). Also present – First Selectman Maureen Nicholson, Superintendent of Schools Stephen Cullinan, BOE Chair Kate Cerrone, Treasurer Cheryl Grist.

- I. Open Regular Meeting** – C. Gerrity opened meeting at 6:30 PM.
 - a. **Approve Minutes Meetings of November 13, 2017** – M. Huoppi moved to approve. D. Thompson seconded. All in favor.
 - b. **Items to be added to Agenda** - None
 - c. **Citizen's Participation** - None

- II. New Business**
 - a. **Election of Officers** – M. Baum stated that he would like to see a non-partisan vote and the decision of the new chairman should be based on interest and experience. M. Baum nominated Carolyn Gerrity as Chair. J. Martinez nominated C. Gerrity as Chair. There was no second and no vote was taken. D. Thompson nominated Margie Huoppi as Chair. D. Flath seconded. D. Flath stated that while new to the Board she has known Margie for a number of years going back to when her Dad was on the Board of Finance and he always had good things to say. D. Thompson stated that while she had huge respect for Carolyn she felt that Margie's personality was better suited to working with all three Boards, especially with the fiscal difficulties coming out of the State. She just felt Margie would be the better choice. Vote taken with D. Thompson, D. Flath, M. Huoppi in favor. Opposed: M. Baum, J. Martinez, C. Gerrity. C. Gerrity asked if there were any other nominations and with none, nominations were closed. J. Martinez voiced a second for C. Gerrity but as nominations had closed there was no action taken. There was ensuing discussion regarding Board of Finance responsibilities and Statutes as to how a tie vote is broken. None of the Board members felt they were likely to change their votes. M. Huoppi stated that the BOF would need to work well with the BOE and BOS, especially in light of the State financial issues. She felt it was important to work together and support each other. C. Gerrity felt the choice should be non-partisan and that she had the ability to work professionally with a variety of different personalities. It was determined that the Board of Selectmen would determine a Chair at their next meeting.
 - b. **BOE Request for 2016/2017 Unexpended Funds** – The Board of Education had submitted correspondence stating they had \$106,399.10 in unexpended funds from FY 2017. They were requesting that \$98,572.00 of those funds be transferred to the Board of Ed Non-Lapsing Surplus

Fund and the remaining balance be transferred to the General Fund. There was some discussion regarding the current balance in the non-lapsing fund and the amount of additional expense anticipated in Special Education this year. This transfer, along with the current balance, should cover most of this added cost. M. Baum expressed concern with the added reduction of \$253,000 in funding from the State. C. Gerrity moved to approve the transfer request as stated by the Board of Education. D. Thompson seconded. All in favor.

III. Current Business

- a. Treasurer's Report** – C. Grist provided a brief account of current investments. Brief discussion.
- b. Tax Collector's Report** – Report was distributed for review. Brief discussion.
- c. Assessor's Report** - None
- d. Board of Education Report** – K. Cerrone reported that where past years have shown Special Education to remain flat, this year it is trending upward. Woodstock Academy projected an increase for this year, but next year is projecting a decrease. The Superintendent's Office is currently in the budget building mode.
- e. Board of Selectmen Report** – M. Nicholson stated that the new Board has held its first meeting. CCM recently held their annual conference which she attended. It presents a good opportunity to meet other Town officials from both the local area and around the State. The Sidewalk project is wrapping up. As the Town did not contract engineering with NECCOG the engineering cost for this project is expected to be approximately \$10,000.00 with overall engineering costs currently at about \$13,000.00. CCM is holding an event in January for newly elected officials and NECCOG is holding a similar event this Friday. M. Baum asked if regionalization is ever discussed. NECCOG has been discussing it. The regional revaluation is one example of what's been done. They have also been discussing a regional Planner, Engineer, and possibly regional ambulance and fire but there are no specific plans for any of these at this time.
- f. Board of Finance – Member Reports & Discussion** – C. Gerrity stated that the revenues are up somewhat from last year and the expenses are a bit lower. Brief discussion. M. Baum stated the need to continue with lean budgets to help off-set the extra revenue reduction taken from the State. He also asked about the monies for the TAP grant that was recently voted down. The project would go a long way toward improving the Airline Trail. M. Nicholson stated that she planned to hold a public informational meeting regarding the same with DEEP, DOT, possibly Bond Council, and others in attendance to speak to project and answer questions from the public.

IV. Other Business

- a. **Strategic Planning Committee Report** – The first meeting will be held on January 2nd just prior to the Selectmen’s meeting.
- b. **2018 Meeting Schedule/Possible Approval** – M. Huoppi moved to approve. M. Baum seconded. All in favor. The Board of Ed meeting schedule was reviewed with BOF attendance assigned.

V. Correspondence - None

VI. Citizen’s Participation – K. Cerrone asked that the Strategic Planning meetings be clearly noticed. M. Nicholson stated that the EPDC meeting tomorrow morning would include a presentation by John Filchak regarding a branding study for the Town. There was also some discussion regarding the charge of the Strategic Planning Committee which includes consideration of a 5-year plan and out-of-box suggestions toward running the town with diminishing State funding.

VII. Adjournment – M. Baum moved to adjourn. D. Thompson seconded. All in favor and meeting duly adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Date approved_____