

TOWN OF POMFRET
BOARD OF FINANCE - MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017 AT 7:00 PM
POMFRET COMMUNITY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

In Attendance: Board of Finance Members Ken Kristal, Carolyn Gerrity, Margie Huoppi, Michael Baum, Jorge Martinez, Debi Thompson. Also present: First Selectman Craig Baldwin, Selectmen Barry Jessurun, Donna Smith, Superintendent of Schools Steven Cullinan, Board of Education Chair Kate Cerrone, Tax Collector Pam Gaumond, Some additional members of the Board of Ed and from the PCS Administrative staff and approximately 16 citizens and interested parties.

- I. Open Session** – K. Kristal opened Hearing at 7:00 PM. He introduced members of the Board of Finance.
- II. General Government – Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Budget Review and Public Comment and Questions** – C. Baldwin stated that the General Government was pretty much level with a \$6,080 decrease over last year. He reviewed some of the pluses and minuses within the proposed budget and opened the floor to questions. A man asked about how the Fire District is voted on. This is a completely separate budget and is voted at the Fire District Annual Town Meeting.
- III. Board of Education – Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Budget Review and Public Comments and Questions** – Kate Cerrone introduced Board Members present. She thanked the Board and the PCS Staff for their work and diligence in working on this budget. She reviewed the budget process to date including the impact of the additional students entering Woodstock Academy and the overall reductions to the operating budget to mitigate that impact. The Board of Finance has asked for additional cuts of \$100,000 which is reflected in this presented budget's bottom line. This reduction can be obtained in a number of ways without having to impact student services.
- IV. Board of Finance Overview and State Funding Concerns**– K. Kristal provided an overview of where some of the lack in State Funding can come from. The most recent funding proposal from the Governor's office negatively impacts Pomfret by over one million dollars. However, discussions at the State level are still to be had and it could be late summer or fall before

a budget is passed in Hartford. As things currently stand the town will be looking at a mil increase of somewhere between 3 and 4. The best case could be level year over year funding but it is all guesswork at this point. Charlie Tracy asked what the current fund balance is. It is currently at about 1.7 million. It was asked if the Board of Finance requested cuts from the General Government budget. K. Kristal stated that they did not at this time in light of the fact that this budget has remained level over the past few years and has a proposed decrease of just over \$6,000. If the proposed budgets are voted down then additional cuts will be looked at in both budgets. A man asked if these budgets are voted down would that include the Fire District. It would not. The Fire District is a separate taxing entity and their budget will be voted on at the Fire District Annual Meeting. A woman asked if the possible tax increase is a direct result of State reductions. It is. She also asked about the proposed money for the Longmeadow project and the understanding that this project would be completed this year. The project will likely run into next fiscal year and if it does not then the planned funds will be moved to another road project. There were no further questions.

V. Adjournment – M. Baum moved to adjourn. M. Huoppi seconded. All in favor and Public Hearing adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Date approved_____