

**TOWN OF POMFRET  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017 AT 7:30 PM  
PCS CAFETERIA**

In Attendance: Board of Finance members Ken Kristal, Carolyn Gerrity, Margie Huoppi, Michael Baum, Jorge Martinez, Debi Thompson. Also present – Selectmen Barry Jessurun, Donna Smith, BOE Chair Kate Cerrone, Superintendent of Schools Steve Cullinan, Tax Collector Pam Gaumond. Also present – 3 or 4 citizens and interested parties.

**I. Open Meeting – K. Kristal opened meeting at 7:45 PM**

- a. Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed FY 2017/2018 Board of Education and General Government Budgets** – C. Gerrity motioned to approve the proposed fiscal year 2017/2018 budget at \$13,109,871 with \$2,514,082 appropriated to the General Government budget and \$10,595,789 appropriated to the Board of Education budget. M. Baum seconded. Discussion followed including the consideration of making cuts to the budgets now. K. Kristal stated that before making cuts that could impact the mil rate, he would prefer to hear from the town first as such cuts will impact services. D. Thompson stated that her experience has been that if revenues are reduced budgets would be at least flat unless some increase is necessary. She distributed a number of suggestions on where the General Government budget could be cut. The overall feeling of the Board was that any cuts taken now would not be significant enough to impact the mil rate. If the Town votes these budgets down then significant cuts will have to be taken. Vote on motion: All in favor. None opposed.
- b. Discussion and Possible Action – Use of General Funds in Balancing 2017/2018 Budgets** – C. Gerrity motioned to use \$166,000 from the undesignated general fund to assist in balancing the proposed fiscal year 2017/2018 budgets. M. Huoppi seconded. There was some discussion regarding their agreement to not let the fund balance fall below 10%. This use of funds would not do that. C. Gerrity stated that she would be comfortable in using \$200,000 and possibly the same over the next few years as State funding is predicted to continue to decrease. Some discussion. Vote on the motion: 5 in favor – K. Kristal, C. Gerrity, M. Huoppi, M. Baum, J. Martinez. 1 opposed – D. Thompson. Motion passes.
- c. Discussion and Possible Action – Determination of Tax Reserve/Collection of 2017/2018 Budgets** – J. Martinez motioned to set the reserve for the fiscal year 2017/2018 budgets at 1.5%. C. Gerrity seconded. There was little discussion and vote was all in favor, none opposed.

**II. Citizen's Participation** – A woman asked what was meant by the 1.5% reserve. This amount is the percentage of total tax needed to balance the budget and is built back into the mil rate to make up for the tax bills that do not get paid. Without it revenues would fall short. B Jessurun and D. Smith thanked the Board for all the work in bringing the budgets to this point and the responsible approach being taken.

**II. Adjournment** – M. Baum moved to adjourn. M. Huoppi seconded. All in favor and meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

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