

**TOWN OF POMFRET
BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2019 AT 6:30 PM
POMFRET COMMUNITY SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM**

In Attendance: Board Members Margie Huoppi, Carolyn Gerrity, Dayna Flath, Michael Baum, Jennifer York, Debra Thompson. Also present: First Selectman Maureen Nicholson, Selectman Patrick McCarthy, BOE Chairman Kate Cerrone, Superintendent of Schools Steve Cullinan, PCS Principal Susan Imschweiller, and Ray Wishart.

- I. Open Regular Meeting** – M. Huoppi opened meeting at 6:30 PM.
 - a. **Approve Minutes Meeting of February 11, 2019** – C. Gerrity moved to approve and D. Thompson seconded. All in favor.
 - b. **Items to be added to Agenda** – M. Huoppi moved to add Discussion and Possible Action regarding Land Acquisition to Other Business. D. Flath seconded. All in favor.
 - c. **Citizen's Participation** - None
- II. New Business** - None
- III. Current Business**
 - a. **Board of Selectmen Report/Budget Presentation** – M. Nicholson distributed FY 2019/2020 budget proposals. She stated that the budget primarily reflects what departments submitted and the difficulty in keeping the proposal flat due to many tight budgets in the past. She reviewed some of the high impact increases and decreased then reviewed any notable changes within each budget area. Some questions and discussion followed. M. Nicholson continued with Selectmen's Report stating that 456 Mashamoquet Road is available for purchase by the town. Grant funding to pay for the purchase is available at year-end but extenuating circumstances make it prudent for the Town to purchase the property now and reimburse the purchase funds used when the grant comes in. This strategy was recommended, and has been used by, DEEP in the past. She reviewed the balance transfers within capital funds that will be brought to Special Town Meeting. Transfers are for finished projects and will clear the books. The Library Board has requested seed money for their building expansion project. After some discussion with them the recommended amount is \$2,000 from the Community Outreach and Enrichment Fund. An RFP for a solar array on the Murdock property has gone out. Budget Survey results were distributed for review. There were 144 responses.
 - b. **Board of Education Report/Budget Presentation** – Board of Ed budgets were distributed for review. K. Cerrone noted that the \$80,000 for Woodstock Academy capital needs was included but will be removed from their total as it is covered through the General Government budget. She reviewed the budget process to date and provided an overview of the proposal and the larger impacts. Some questions and discussion followed.

- c. **Board of Finance Report/Preliminary Budget Discussion** – Revenue, Expense, and Tax Reports were distributed and briefly reviewed.

IV. Other Business

a. Possible Approval-\$500,000 Additional Loan/Grant for Sewer Project

– M. Nicholson stated that the contingency for the Sewer Project is below the recommended amount. USDA has recommended that the Town apply for this funding. It would not need to be taken but the availability would be there if needed. The Town would be responsible for overage if funding was not available or the project would need to shut down. Repayment of any additional loan money would be paid to the town by the participants. D. Flath moved to approve application for additional loan/grant funding from USDA in the amount of \$500,000 to be used for Sanitary Sewer Project to be repaid by the participants per payment schedule. D. Thompson seconded. All in favor.

- b. Land Acquisition Discussion/Possible Approval** – M. Nicholson stated that the property at 456 Mashamoquet Road is available for purchase by the Town. This is a significant open space parcel that has been considered by the town for some time. Grant funding should be available at year end but it appears prudent to purchase now and reimburse the funding lines when the grant is available. Purchase is possible through the Open Space Bond and the Pomfret Land Acquisition Fund. The property is approximately 141 acres and 10 of which would be available for possible future municipal use. The remaining acreage will stay in Open Space. D. Thompson moved to approve the purchase of 456 Mashamoquet Road comprised of approximately 141 acres for the purchase price of \$585,000 to be paid through the Bond Open Space and Pomfret Land Acquisition funds and such funds reimbursed as grant money is received by the Town. J. York seconded. There was some additional discussion and vote was called. Five in favor: M. Huoppi, D. Flath, M. Baum, J. York, D. Thompson. One opposed: C. Gerrity. Motion passes.

- VI. Correspondence** – None. The Board will meet for a Workshop meeting on Monday, March 18th at 6:30 PM.

- VII. Citizen's Participation** – Ray Wishart stated that he hoped the Board would support an increase for town hall staff and officials as they represent many years of expertise for the town and would be hard to replace. He also thanked the Board for the land purchase approval.

- VIII. Adjournment** – M. Baum moved to adjourn and D. Flath seconded. All in favor and meeting duly adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Ryan, clerk

date approved_____