

**TOWN OF POMFRET**  
**BOARD OF FINANCE - MINUTES**  
**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2019 AT 7:00 PM**  
**POMFRET COMMUNITY SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

In Attendance: Board of Finance Members Margie Huoppi, Debi Thompson, Michael Baum, Dayna Flath, Jennifer York. Also present: First Selectman Maureen Nicholson, BOE Chair Kate Cerrone, Superintendent of Schools Stephen Cullinan, members of Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, and approximately 25 citizens and interested parties.

- I. Open Session** – M. Huoppi opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 PM. She introduced the Board of Finance and provided a brief overview of the budget process to date and the cuts the Board has asked for from both budgets.
  
- II. General Government – Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Budget Review and Public Comment and Questions** – M. Nicholson provided an overview of the General Government budget as proposed. This budget reflects approximately the same spending as 14 years ago. She stated that health insurance reflects the largest increase, and the first of two capital expenses for Woodstock Academy is reflected in this budget. She has asked the Board of Finance to off-set this expense with undesignated funds. Peter Mann asked about the large increase in the Roads and Bridges section. This was done in anticipation of an upcoming retirement. It will allow some flexibility in how that position might be filled. Ford Fay stated that such an increase would encourage someone to continue working. M. Nicholson stated that the budget increase does not indicate a salary increase and may or may not be spent. How this position may be filled is not yet certain. Carrie Wolfe, Librarian at the Abington Library spoke in favor of replacing the cut to that library. The library has historical significance and operates on a very small budget. David Howe, Abington Library president stated that anything that could be done to increase that line would be appreciated. Elaine Nelson asked about what looked to be a cut to the Public Library. This appears to be a typographical error only and will be corrected. Brief discussion and there were no further questions.
  
- III. Board of Education – Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Budget Review and Public Comments and Questions** – K. Cerrone introduced the Board of Education and thanked the public for coming out. She provided the budgeting timeline, some background information of the process to date, and an overview of the proposed budget. C. Wolfe asked about the cost of an Audubon field trip. This does pay the Center and

transportation. P. Mann asked if the capital money for Woodstock Academy will be an annual cost? This will be the first of two payments and according to the Academy that will be the end of it. P. McCarthy asked about other high school options available. The BOE has looked into both Putnam and Killingly and both will be available as options next fall.

W. Hinchman stated he had a question that went back to the General Government budget regarding NECCOG and TEEG. He did not see a place in the budget or annual report where the total dollars spent was listed. The money paid to these organizations show in different budget categories. TEEG is outlined in the annual report and NECCOG could be added. M. Nicholson outlined some of the costs and services they provide. There were no further questions.

**IV. Adjournment** – Motion was made and duly seconded to adjourn. All were in favor and the Public Hearing adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

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