

**TOWN OF POMFRET
BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017 AT 6:30 PM
POMFRET COMMUNITY SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM**

In Attendance: Board members Ken Kristal, Carolyn Gerrity, Jorge Martinez, Michael Baum, Debi Thompson. Also present: First Selectman Craig Baldwin, Selectman Donna Smith. Also present: Pam Lewerenz, John Lewerenz, Maureen Nicholson, one additional gentleman. Board Member not present: Margie Huoppi.

- I. Open Regular Meeting** – K. Kristal opened meeting at 6.31 PM.
 - a. **Approve Minutes Meetings of September 11, 2017** – C. Gerrity moved to approve minutes of September 11, 2017. J. Martinez seconded. All in favor.
 - b. **Items to be added to Agenda** – D. Thompson asked to add a discussion of the proposed Fiscal Year-End Procedures. K. Kristal stated that he would add a discussion of possible TAP Grant. There were no objections and both items were added to new business.
 - c. **Citizen's Participation** - None
- II. New Business**
 1. **Proposed Fiscal Year-End Procedures** – D. Thompson stated that she had questions regarding a number of the items and felt that many needed to be tightened up. K. Kristal stated that this was still an open item with the Board of Selectmen and therefore asked Thompson to forward her questions to the First Selectman and cc the Board of Finance.
 2. **TAP Grant for Air Line Trail** – C. Baldwin stated that the Town has been awarded this 5.3 million dollar grant for bridges, culverts, and grade crossings in 7 locations along the Air Line Trail. This is a reimbursement grant that the CT DOT states should turn-around funds within 2 to 4 weeks but there is a potential it could take up to 3 months to receive reimbursements. In the meantime the bills would be paid from the General Fund. There is not enough in the funding to cover bond anticipation notes. Discussion continued with concerns raised about the fiscal situation in the State of CT and the use of General Fund money beyond what the town could cover. It would likely be a year before this project went to bid and there were additional concerns regarding what the State would look like at that time and General Fund money that the town would need to use next year. Additional discussion followed and it was indicated that the timing seemed to be bad and if a State budget were in place it would be easier to make a determination. K. Kristal motioned to approve and accept the 5.3 million for the TAP Grant. M. Baum seconded. In favor: K. Kristal, M. Baum. Opposed: D. Thompson, C. Gerrity, J. Martinez. Motion fails. C. Baldwin asked for some follow-up direction as the acceptance of this grant was planned to be on the Call of the upcoming Special Town Meeting. The Board of Finance would ask that this item be removed from the Call in light of the failed motion but the consensus was that they would be willing to reconsider this request after the State budget is passed.
- III. Current Business**
 - a. **Treasurer's Report** – Investment report distributed and briefly reviewed.
 - b. **Tax Collector's Report** – Tax report distributed and briefly reviewed.
 - c. **Assessor's Report** - None

- d. **Board of Education Report** – C. Gerrity had attended the recent Board of Education meeting. They anticipate returning \$128,633.60 in unexpended funds for 2016/2017. They will need to request to the Board any of that amount they would like to transfer to their Non-Lapsing Fund. The school population was reported as being up a small amount.
- e. **Board of Selectmen Report** - C. Baldwin reported that the first quarter expenditures are all at or below where they should be. The work on the expanded parking lot at the library will begin soon. Capital money has been budgeted for this. The first ECS revenue installment has come in from the State but less than what has been received in the past.
- f. **Board of Finance – Member Reports & Discussion** – No further reports.

IV. Other Business

- a. **Discussion – Status of State Budget** – K. Kristal stated that there is little additional information coming out of Hartford regarding the budget at this time. The parties are attempting to form a coalition.
- b. **Strategic Planning Committee Report** – J. Martinez stated that they have had their initial meeting and outlined their Framework, Timeline, and Tasks. They plan to meet once per month and report to the Board of Finance in March. The Board of Ed would be outlining the minimum dollars needed to survive vs. their optimal budget and the Committee will look at the gaps and how best to fill them. K. Kristal stated that his intention for this Committee was not to focus on next year's budget but look at planning and cost savings 5 years out. There was some additional discussion. The initial meeting included Jorge Martinez, Kate Cerrone, Susan Imschweiller, Craig Baldwin, and Donna Smith. They determined that they would include the Chair of the Fire District for future meetings and Steve Cullinan would be attending as well. C. Gerrity stated that she could also be available as part of this Committee. The next meeting is planned for October 23rd.

V. Correspondence - None

- V. **Citizen's Participation** – D. Smith stated that she felt their decision regarding the TAP Grant was prudent at this time and further discussion is warranted at this point. She felt it was beneficial for the Strategic Planning Committee to be looking at key functions within the school and the town and how best to move forward. C. Baldwin added that State reductions bring with them the question of added mandates and undue burdens put on the smaller towns. He also stated that he understood the concerns that the Board has regarding the General Fund use.

- VI. **Adjournment** – M. Baum moved to adjourn. K. Kristal seconded. All in favor and meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Date approved _____