

**TOWN OF POMFRET
BOARD OF FINANCE - MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2018/2019
MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2018 AT 7:00 PM
POMFRET COMMUNITY SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

In Attendance: Board of Finance Members Margie Huoppi, Carolyn Gerrity, Debra Thompson, Michael Baum, Dayna Flath, Jennifer York. Also present – Board of Selectmen, Board of Education members, Superintendent of Schools and PCS Staff members, and approximately 30 citizens and interested parties.

- I. **Open Session** – M. Huoppi opened meeting at 7:05 PM. She introduced Board members and stated that they had requested flat budgets this year. These budgets have come in very lean and responsible. The Board of Finance is currently arriving at their best estimate in terms of projected State revenues in balancing these budgets.

- II. **General Government – Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Budget Review and Public Comment and Questions** – M. Huoppi introduced First Selectman Maureen Nicholson to present the General Government budget. M. Nicholson first introduced Ellsworth Chase, newly appointed to Board of Selectmen to fill vacated seat. She highlighted areas within the budget where savings were realized and those areas that increased. The Open Space Bond will continue to fluctuate over the next few years and while last year saw a decrease there was an increase this year. The Capital budget shows \$62,000 for a tractor at PCS which the Board is anticipating will be off-set by Board of Finance approval of undesignated fund revenues. The bottom line of \$60,328 includes the tractor which will be a wash with the off-setting revenue. M. Gerrity asked if the snow removal has gone out to bid. That has been looked into with the Director of Public Works and discussed at PCS with the Superintendent and Facilities Manager. There is a greater cost savings to do in-house. Town needs are better met when PCS staff clear snow from their parking lot, allowing the road crew to focus on the roadways. J. Martinez asked about equipment aging over the years and if adequate funds have been budgeted to address these needs. It has been cut close over the years but has been reviewed with the Director of Public Works and accruing monies should still be adequate. C. Gerrity asked about a potential finance cost regarding the Sewer Project. This is not in the proposed budget and options in reflecting it are being reviewed with the auditor. He has suggested a separate Enterprise Fund. M. Gerrity asked about the \$30,000 in Park Maintenance and the types

of things this covered. It includes part-time labor during the summer, field and lawn spring fertilizing and maintenance, as well as a number of other smaller items. He also asked about the cost of a dog-catcher and the number of times the current dog catcher has come into Pomfret. This is administered through NECCOG. Pomfret had their own Canine Control a number of years ago at a much higher cost than what NECCOG is currently paid. A facility had to be maintained and staff were needed.

- III. Board of Education – Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Budget Review and Public Comments and Questions** – Kate Cerrone, Board of Education Chairman was introduced. She reviewed the budget process and provided an overview of the proposed budget. This budget is presented an increase of .21% over the current year. She spoke about enrollment, decreasing State grants, building repair and maintenance and staffing. The Board is presenting a lean budget while not having to compromise any student programming. There is no staff reductions, no pay to play. There was some explanation regarding Excess Cost and how that works within their budget. S. Grist asked about the projected over-spending within Special Education this year. It is currently running at about \$170,000 and could be covered from the non-lapsing fund should that be necessary. M. Gerrity asked about varying numbers for repair maintenance. The higher number duplicates the lower and also includes service contracts. A woman asked about tuition at Woodstock Academy, Putnam High School, and the students listed as attending NFA. Pomfret is not paying tuition or transportation to this non-designated school. M. Huoppi asked if there were any further questions. She stated that the Board of Finance will adjourn to a Special Meeting to discuss these budgets and the meeting is open to the public. M. Nicholson commented that in the 2010/2011 budget year the State funded the budget at 34%, last year it was at 25%. There were no further questions.

- IV. Adjournment** – The Public Hearing was duly adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Date approved _____