



TOWN OF FRANKLIN

BOARD OF FINANCE (BOF)
FRANKLIN TOWN HALL
7 Meetinghouse Hill Rd.
Franklin, Connecticut

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 10, 2017
7:30 p.m.

[UNAPPROVED]

1. Call to Order: Chairman Richard Handfield called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Veronica Calvert, Thomas Craney, Sue Dombrowski, Richard Handfield, Patricia Osten, Richard Weingart. **Alternate Member Present:** Roland Mihok. **Alternate Members Absent:** Niels Jeppesen, Wesley Crawford.

Also Present: Board of Education Chairman Peter Calvert

2. Recognition of Visitors: No public visitors
3. Additions to the Agenda:

MOTION #1 (10-10-17): made by Susan Dombrowski **SECONDED BY** Tom Craney that the Board of Finance add the following items to the Agenda: 1) Approval September 26, 2017 Meeting Minutes, and 2) Payment for New Town Truck

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIES

4. Approval of Minutes:

- a. July 11, 2017:

MOTION #2 (10-10-17): made by Susan Dombrowski **SECONDED BY** Tom Craney that the Board of Finance approve Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2017 as presented

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIES

- b. August 31, 2017

MOTION #3 (10-10-17): made by Tom Craney **SECONDED BY** Pat Osten that the Board of Finance approve Meeting Minutes of August 31, 2017 as presented

VOICE VOTE: Susan - Abstained

MOTION CARRIES

- c. September 26, 2017

MOTION #4 (10-10-17): made by Tom Craney **SECONDED BY** Susan Dombrowski that the Board of Finance approve Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2017 as presented

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIES

5. Review of Reports:

- a) **Monthly Tax Collection Report:** No report
- b) **Monthly Board of Selectmen Income Report:** Rich Matters presented the Income Report. The Board reviewed the report for the period July through September 2017 as submitted.
- c) **Monthly Board of Selectmen Expense Report:** Rich Matters presented the Expense Report. The Board reviewed the report for the period July through September 2017 as submitted.
- d) **Monthly Board of Education Expense Report:** Peter Calvert reported as of mid September the Board of Education is operating under budget.
- e) **Monthly Selectman's Report:** No report.

6. Correspondence: None

7. Unfinished Business:

- a. **Discuss and Act on FY 2017-18 Budget Proposal:** The BOF is continuing to work with the latest budget information from the Governor's Office. The CT State Budget continues to stall between the approved House & Senate proposed budget and the Governors approval.

Rich Matters discussed the current financial situation of the Town of Franklin. In response, the BOF reviewed financial scenarios that could be considered in finalizing the 2017-2018 operating budgets for the Town and Board of Education. There was discussion on how to effectively manage town expenses and income while taking into account the use of the general fund as well as a potential increase in the mil rate.

- b. Discuss and act on requesting the Board of Selectmen to bring to a Special Town Meeting a proposed 2017-2018 budget.

MOTION #5 (10-10-17): made by Richard Handfield **SECONDED BY** Pat Osten that the Board of Finance schedule a Special Meeting for Thursday, October 19, 2017, 7:30 p.m. to discuss items 7a. and 7b. as listed above

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIES

8. New Business:

- a. **Payment New Town Truck:** Rich Matters indicated bonding for the new town truck will not be in place until a month from now. USDA reimbursement funds will be coming to the town within a one month period. Mr. Matters is going to ask the Board of Selectmen to allow a full payment of the truck now using the CIP account; and when USDA reimbursement funds are received the CIP account will be fully reimbursed in the amount of \$165,000.

MOTION #6 (10-10-17): made by Richard Weingart **SECONDED BY** Tom Craney that the Board of Finance approve payment to the new town truck using CIP funds and when USDA reimbursement funds come to the town the CIP fund will be credited in the amount of \$165,000

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIES

- b. **BOE Budget:**

MOTION #7 (10-10-17): made by Tom Craney **SECONDED BY** Richard Weingart that the Board of Finance authorize correspondence be drafted and addressed to the Board of Education recommending teachers accept a zero percentage increase in their pay raises for a three year period due to the current and future financial hardships being faced by Town of Franklin

Discussion ensued: correspondence is to be drafted by Richard Handfield and presented at the BOF October 19, 2017 meeting for review and approval

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIES

9. **Public Comments:** Mr. Calvert invited those in attendance to the Board of Education meeting scheduled for October 11, 2017. Topics of consideration include, but are not limited to, discussion on long term solutions to reduce financial hardships the Town of Franklin is facing currently and in the future.

Tom Curran commented on how the lack of a State of CT budget creates difficult operating conditions for the Town Works Department and in effect town residents. For example, winter maintenance preparation is not happening and this will cause an adverse affect. Town equipment and vehicles are getting old and becoming increasingly difficult to operate. We are not replacing needed items because the Town budget is currently frozen.

John McGuire, III, recognized the BOF is doing their best to compromise and work with the challenging budget. It is disappointing that the Town of Franklin and Board of Education are somewhat being penalized by a State formula resulting in a significant reduction in ECS because we effectively education our children well and because the Town maintains a healthy savings within the general fund.

Susan Dombrowski noted she would like to see State representatives attend our BOF meeting on October 19 to hear just how hard it is to work with a town budget anticipating a significant reduction in state aid and the overall absence of a State budget at this point.

10. Adjournment

MOTION #8 (10-10-17): made by Susan Dombrowski SECONDED BY Tom Craney that the Board of Finance adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;

MOTION CARRIES

Richard Handfield, Chairman

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