



TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Board of Finance

29 North Street • P.O. Box 203 • Roxbury, CT 06783-0203

ROXBURY BOARD OF FINANCE SPECIAL MEETING APRIL 12, 2016

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Gary Lord, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Members Present: Gary Lord, Wayne Piskura, Sarah Foreman, Andy Engel and Ed Cady

Others Present: First Selectman Barbara Henry, Selectman James Conway, Cynthia Newby and Pam Southworth.

BUSINESS

Discussion with Library Representatives

Cynthia Newby and Pam Southworth came forward as representatives of the Library. They thanked the Board for the opportunity to review with them the minutes of the last meeting in which the Library budget was discussed. It was clarified that the Library is not projecting a profit. Gary Lord explained that there was a miscommunication regarding the Eversource Energy Incentive Payback listed in the Operating Budget showing profit and then under Capital Expense.

Pam Southworth explained that there is an expected payback period of nine years for the Energy Incentive investment. This also mitigates the considerable cost in ballast replacements. She confirmed that this is a good long term investment. She advised that after three more years it will be the end of the Library's request for this expense.

Ms. Southworth and Ms. Newby described the Library's fundraising hurdles including the loss of a large donor. Cynthia Newby reported that proceeds from investments are down and with the 5% draw they expect to erode the endowment.

Gary Lord reviewed the Library's request of a total increase of \$17,000. It was noted that it takes one year to be eligible for the pension plan; therefore, last year's budget did not reflect this cost for their new Library Director.

The group discussed interior maintenance. Capital requests were made for interior painting and carpeting. The 09/09/92 BoF meeting minutes were reviewed. Wayne Piskura reminded the Board that at the time the new library plan was presented to the Town it was explained that an endowment would exist; therefore, the new library would not cost the Town anything to maintain. It was confirmed that this is not noted in any document.

Cynthia Newby explained that a person of goodwill would understand the documents to read that a gift of the land and the library building was given to the Town at no cost and in return the Town accepted responsibility to maintain and staff the library.

It was confirmed that the funds towards the recent repair to the interior of the Hodge came from the endowment. Wayne Piskura encouraged the Library to communicate their upcoming expenses rather than submitting large unexpected fluctuations in their budget requests. Gary Lord agreed that in going forward a more open discussion throughout the year would be helpful.

Gary Lord recommended dismissing the notation in the discussion of the 09/09/92 minutes that the Town agreed to staff and maintain the new library. The Resolution that was formally adopted by the Town on 09/17/92 did not include any such language regarding staffing or maintenance of the new library. Wayne Piskura reminded the

group that as a generality the Town does budget to maintain the Library; however, it is inaccurate to regard this as binding.

Pam Southworth noted that an annual 2% increase would equate to what was requested this year if the Library had not held the line over past 5 years.

All those present agreed that they have a good plan going forward.

Region 12 Return of Fund Balance

Gary Lord reported that Region 12 has made a request regarding the return of the fund balance. He read aloud the letter submitted by Mr. Giesen which requests that the surplus refunded to the three towns be returned to the Region to be placed in a restricted fund for the AgScience project. Gary Lord explained that he believes they are trying to save funds to be available to be applied to debt service once the bonds come due. This year \$45,000 was returned to Roxbury.

The Board raised the questions regarding what would happen to this money if the school was not built. Sarah Foreman noted that it seems like it is premature to make a decision when it is not yet determined whether this project will go forward. Gary Lord reported that he was going to recommend that Roxbury save their own surplus so that when the school budget is raised they would not have to pass the increase onto the Roxbury taxpayers. The Board agreed that this is a preferred plan. It was agreed that the BoF would not make a decision tonight and would continue to consider this request.

Budget Discussion

The members confirmed their receipt of the budget draft dated 4/11/16. All members were in agreement with the additional \$25,000 budgeted toward the firetruck. It was noted that the school budget numbers were adjusted to the new numbers submitted by the Region. The \$20,000 budgeted for a water truck was discussed and it was requested that alternate options be examined in the future such as adding a tank to one of the existing trucks.

Barbara Henry reported that the 2 1/2% cap proposed by the Legislature may happen, but towns are trying to push out the effective date. A fine of .50 cents on the dollar would be assessed for overages. She reminded the group that any increase in the school budget is included in this cap to the towns. She testified at the Legislature that she found it ironic that the State is dictating this cap to the towns who know how to balance their budgets.

The new design for the Hurlburt Park bathroom/kitchen proposed additions are expected cost approximately \$200,000 not including equipment. A formal proposal in writing is not yet available. The group discussed fundraising towards this project and a possible match of what is raised. The Board agreed to leave this budget line item undetermined until they meet next week.

The members discussed the Library budget and noted that they already agreed at the last meeting to \$108,000 up from \$101,000 last year. The Library would like another \$6,000 to meet their \$114,000 request. The members agreed to include the total \$114,000 requested by the Library in the proposed budget.

It was confirmed that the Board has agreed to fund ASAP at \$2,500. The group noted that they expect no increase to the mill rate in FY 16/17.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM, by Sarah Foreman, seconded by Wayne Piskura and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jai Kern

Tai Kern, Secretary

These minutes are not considered official until approved at the next Regular Meeting of the Roxbury Board of Finance