

**BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
March 1, 2016 7:00 pm  
Town Hall  
**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Chairman David Scata, Meghan Bruce, Kevin Cwikla, Diane Malozzi, Phillip Johnson, Elizabeth Charron, and Michael Nintean (Alternate), Stephen Salisbury (Alternate), Vin Shea (Alternate)

**Members Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Recording Secretary Laurie Bergeron

**A. Call to order D. Scata called meeting to order at 7:00 pm**

**B. New Business**

1. Discuss the following FY 2016-2017 operating and capital budget areas from 7:00 pm to 7:30 pm for:

**Dept 461 Planning and Zoning Commission**

Discussed increases in budget due to staffing needs. Have to make sure we have enough monies in budget to cover any necessary legal expenses. Discussed needs for replacing Engineer position. M. Bruce asked they plan to go out to RFP for engineer services. Up to Planning and Zoning Commission?

**Dept 469 Conservation and Agriculture Commission**

Mark Lang

Would like to maintain same amount as previous years. Would like to make sure this account stays funded. This is a vehicle for townspeople to preserve the land.

Robin Chesmer - Farming is a very viable business in the town of Lebanon. As we grow agriculturally, there is more and more economic growth for the town. The interest is growing.

2. Discuss the following FY 2016-2017 Board of Education operating, capital and revenue budget areas beginning at approximately 7:30 pm:

**Bob Angeli – Superintendent of Schools**

Bob presented a PowerPoint presentation showing the Board of Education goals for the upcoming year. Base budget increase just to stay status quo would be a 2.3% increase. Health insurance cost increase, will benefit in decrease in heating oil and fuel costs. Special Ed will increase a little.

New initiatives that are being added to the budget – New math teacher at Lyman. Have 4 years of required math so will need to account for that in staffing. Board approved 3 additional math courses. Would like to add a Social Worker district wide. Have been

without one for 4 years. Reading teacher/consultant for elementary school has been an identified position for 3 years. This position has never been filled. Two teachers are currently administering reading support. Would restructure current teacher and maybe one will return to classroom. Would like to maintain girls swim team.

To accommodate all this, there would be a 3.65% increase. Budget drivers are the health insurance and special education tuition. Most of money is tied up in salaries and health benefits. Other expenses are fixed and contractual – fuel oil, transportation. L. Charron asked if our percent is similar to other towns or have we seen more of an increase. Bob doesn't feel that is the case. L. Charron asked if they have looked at bringing services in-house? They have been discussing this with Special Ed Director – if you regionalize spec education you can bring in students and charge tuition, long process – have to put program in place, show it works, etc. We are all facing the same thing. D. Scata suggests viewing East Haddam's program. They have had this in place for 8 years – very good program to look into.

Board asked if we have EASTCONN running programs in town. Not at this time There is a life skills program at high school - hired a new spec education teacher for this program. Have not outplaced a student since 2014. We are doing a good job servicing the students that are here. Families have responded favorably to the programs we do provide.

K. Cwikla discussed different avenues for shopping for health insurance.

.P. Johnson inquired as to why they anticipate magnet school tuition going down – B. Angeli reported that fewer students are taking advantage of programs.

Still a lot of unknowns in building budget for next year. Expect a decrease in magnet schools. Same thing with spec ed. Norwich went up 6% in budget for spec ed, Preston also, Columbia in same boat.

D. Scata inquired as to enrollment projections. L. Charron inquired as to enrollment for out of town freshman coming in. D. Scata – how many math teachers at high school – presently have 4 math teachers – requesting 1 more. Required now to have 4 credits in math now beginning with class of 2018. Need to add math courses. P. Johnson asked if there is a capacity that is not used in the Vo-Ag program. Can currently accept 105 students – currently have 94-95 kids in program. P. Johnson asked if there is room to increase programs while using existing teachers. B. Angeli responded no; adding these math courses to curriculum creates the need for an additional teacher.

The way the enrollment is dropping, could you eliminate a staff position to reflect that drop. B. Angeli responded that if they do have drops in enrollment that allow eliminating staff, we will. We want to keep our students here – we need to offer available programs

Would like to continue capital items same as in the past. Do anticipate a few capital requests – weight room and fitness room – feel they are inadequate spaces and not equipped to meet the needs of the athletic and spec education program at high school. Both spaces are inadequate – have asked Anchor Engineering to take a look to see if there are any changes that are feasible and what the costs would be.

M. Bruce cautioned looking for any costly improvements. Look out a few years and prioritize these needs for BOF. That is our concern as a board. There is grave anticipation that the municipal budget is going to be cut from the state. We have to be conscious as to what the town can support. With all the increases that we are seeing, the town will not support all of this

A. Vertefuile reported as to other capital requests. They have a large window replacement project coming up at the Elementary school.

**Public input**

Parents and students spoke on behalf of the town maintain their support for the swim team. Swim team could also help to attract new students.

D. Scata – please understand we don’t make line item decisions – we give bottom dollar – Board of Ed is responsible for how dollars are spread.

Board commented that it is nice to have so many staff members present to support the Board of Ed.

**C. Adjourn**

L. Charron MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM. M. Bruce SECONDED the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laurie J. Bergeron  
Recording Secretary

Please see the minutes of subsequent meetings for the approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.