

BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
March 30, 2023 - 7:00 pm
Via Zoom Meeting
MINUTES

Members Present: Liz Charron (Chair), Diane Malozzi (Secretary), Gregg Lafontaine, David Scata. Philip Johnson joined at 7:06 pm

Alternates Present: Mike Ninteau, Haley Messier.

Absent: Meghan Scott, AJ Dunnack

Also present: Kevin Cwikla, First Selectman; Hayley Wagner, Finance Director; Andrew Gonzalez, Superintendent; Sarah Haynes, Chair, Board of Education.

Recording begins.

1.0 Call to Order

A quorum being present L. Charron called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. M. Ninteau to sit for M. Scott.

2.0 Correspondence

Emails from Hayley Wagner, Finance Director concerning DPW Trucks, Solid Waste, DPW Capital Balances, FD Bunker Gear and Bunker Gear trial balance sheet.

3.0 Discuss and act on:

3.1 Budget proposal for the 2023-24 Fiscal Year

L. Charron said she made adjustments to the budget summary based on information from the emails received from the Finance Director. H. Wagner said lead times to actually get vehicles in long but a commitment is needed to purchase. BOF discussed requests for plow trucks and appropriations. There is \$57,000.00 available from prior funding that can be reallocated for DPW.

P. Johnson joined the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

L. Charron adjusted the proposed budget amount by \$70,000 and adjusted the proposed revenue by \$70,000.

L. Charron said with the adjustments the bottom line is at a 2.9% with a mill rate of 29.3.

L. Charron said the increase to the BOE budget is 4.6% and no adjustments have been made.

D. Malozzi asked if the percentage included capital funding. No, the 4.6% is only

includes the operating budget.

D. Scata said an almost million dollars increase to the budget seems high in relation to student enrollment. He asked what has happened to the staff hired with ARP and ESSR funds used to higher new staff. A lot of these funds were used to hire new staff which was a concern of the BOF. D. Scata read an email that was addressed to BOF from Superintendent Gonzalez last year. D. Scata inquired as to whether staff hired with ARP and ESSR are now included in current budget request. A. Gonzelez said he does not have notes from the presentation but said the staffing equivalent is flat. ESSR funds are through the end of 2024.

L. Charron noted that BOE did not have much of a surplus last year, and this year will be about the same. L. Charron commented on the BOE capital requests and feels that there are so many needs for repair and updates that this may be necessary for the feasibility study.

A. Gonzalez remarked that prior to his leadership there are things that had fallen off the capital list and were forgotten

D. Scata said revenue is a projection that historically has been less. ECS is going to start to decrease. He said if the \$945,725.00 dollar increase in the BOE budget were to be approved it is where the budget will start next year.

D. Malozzi asked what the increase entails if not staffing with lower enrollments. A. Gonzalez responded salaries, benefits, and transportation consume the majority of the request. These items go up regardless of student population.

G. Lafontaine said that the large portion of monies for staffing also reflect new contracts for staff. S. Haynes confirmed that the new contracts did affect the increase.

P. Johnson inquired if we have a feel of potential increase in students from other towns that we are not aware of. A. Gonzalez remarked that this fall will be the first year partnering with Lisbon and do have presentations scheduled with other towns for potential students for the high school. P. Johnson inquired that BOE is working to keep special ed students in the school with their peers. A. Gonzalez remarked that yes, the BOE is working diligently to keep special ed students. Some students have more special needs and need to be out placed.

M. Ninteanu inquired as to why we are looking to attract students from other towns when he thought the costs were over what we could charge and that enrollment has been stable but still concerned the enrollments are projected to go down in the future.

A. Gonzalez said he can put together a per pupil costs for the BOF and what the town does not have to pay i.e., transportation and special ed so that the BOF can have a true feeling of anticipated revenue.

G. Lafontaine asked to review appropriations for SIP, TIP and School Athletic.

The Board had an informal discussion with members throwing in their comments concerning the bottom line to the budget to see if any further adjustments can be made.

G. Lafontaine MOVED to present at a public hearing on April 17, 2023, a proposed FY 2023-2024 budget for the Town of Lebanon in the amount of \$28,747,242.00 dollars for the general Town Government, Board of Education, Special Revenue accounts and Capital expenditures with Revenue estimates of \$7,271,481.00 dollars and the remainder to be collected by taxes of

\$21,475,761.00 dollars with an estimate mil rate of 29.1. L. Charron SECONDED.

MOTION CARRIED 4:2

D. Scata, D. Malozzi opposed

3.2 Budget calendar

NO ACTION TAKEN

3.3 Budget communication

L. Charron and M. Scott will put together the presentation for the Public Hearing.

4.0 Adjourn

As no other business may be brought forward at a special meeting L. Charron adjourned the meeting at 8:46 pm.

Recording ends.

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Malozzi
Secretary, Lebanon Board of Finance
April 03, 2023

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