

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN – Special Meeting - February 16, 2017**

### **MINUTES:**

Meeting called to order at 4:05 PM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein, Selectmen Ray Pech and Mark Hemenway, Erica Dyndiuk and Francine Beland.

**DELEGATIONS:** No delegations were present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No representatives from the public were present.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Mark Hemenway, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2017 meeting minutes with one correction. The correction is in regard to the Executive Session, as the Minutes did not note that no votes were taken during the Executive Session.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Mark Hemenway, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed unanimously to approve the following tax refunds:

\$ 7,841.84	Corelogic	refund
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### **DISCUSSION:**

The Selectmen reviewed the budget expenditures through January 31, 2017, which are on track for the first 7 months of the fiscal year. The tax collections to-date appear to also be on track to meet the collection goals, and hopefully to exceed the budgeted amount. The accounts which have exceeded the expenditure rate are the Highway Foreman overtime (due to the type of winter weather we have been experiencing); Unemployment Compensation, which should be complete now that the former employee has found work; Town Counsel due to one on-going litigation in which the Town is named; Computer Expense due to a couple of one-time fees; and the Town Garage due to the premature failure of the salt shed canvas roof and the need to replace the fuel pump, which was about 30 years old. Sand and salt and other road expenses will be covered by Town Aid Road, and the second payment for this fiscal year has been received from the State.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Selectmen reviewed summary information regarding the State Budget presented by the Governor on February 8. This budget shifts ½ of the cost burden for the teacher pensions to the Towns, changes the allocation formulas for Educational Cost Sharing and Special Education grants, and also would require the Towns to pay 100% of the costs for a Resident State Trooper and puts a \$750 fee for constables supervised by an RST. These budget changes could reduce the Town municipal aid in excess of \$500,000. However, the Legislature will take the Governor's input and present an approved budget which could be substantially different than this scenario. Don Stein is working with CCM and COST to lobby the legislature to come up with fairer funding formulas, but the end result won't be known until sometime this Spring, probably after the

Town has to approve its '17/'18 budget.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Selectmen reviewed the latest draft of the FY '17/'18 budget, which is still preliminary due to late inputs from various agencies and on-going negotiations with the employees union. The values in the draft budget for salaries and benefits are still placeholders until the negotiations are concluded. The goal at this point in time is to draft a recommended budget with an increase of less than 2%, which would include the need to hire a new contractor to create a new website, since the current website consultant is getting out of the web business. Additional funds are also being requested for tree work, which is becoming a bigger expense, and for additional IT support and scheduled replacement of computers, as these systems are getting more complex, and several of the Town Hall computers are nearing the typical end-of-life.

Other issues discussed included the use of the pavement management system developed a couple of years ago to help pick projects for the coming year's road improvement program and the capital plan which is preliminary due to the on-going efforts by the BOE and the highway supervisor.

Looking at various scenarios, if the Governor's budget were to pass, the tax increase to the residents could be between 7 and 10%. The scenarios include a budget with and without the Resident Trooper (if the Resident Trooper is not renewed, the School Resource Officer position would also be eliminated) and other approaches to lowering the budget increase. These various scenarios will be discussed with the Board of Finance at their meeting on February 21.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Selectmen tabled discussion of the request by Peter Ferraresso to purchase .06 acres adjacent to his property line and the school playground (see below)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM on a motion by Ray Pech and seconded by Mark Hemenway.

It was noted that the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting will be canceled and a Special Meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on March 7<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting, it was requested that the following be on the next agenda: the map and any other information regarding the request by Peter Ferraresso to purchase .06 acres adjacent to his property line and the school playground; the potential revenue from the upcoming tax sale; and ordinances from other towns regarding the distribution of advertising material like the Foothills Trader.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein  
First Selectman