

**Lebanon Board of Finance
Minutes of August 18, 2015
Regular Meeting**

Members Present: David Scata (Chairman), Liz Charron (Vice Chairman), Meghan Bruce, Phil Johnson, Gregg Lafontaine, Betsy Petrie

Alternates Present: Diane Malozzi

Members Absent: Kevin Cwikla, Ed Tylor

Others Present:

- Phil Chester, Town Planner
- Jason Nowosad, Board of Education Finance Committee
- Joyce Okonuk, BOS

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by David Scata. Diane Malozzi to sit for Phil Johnson. (Phil Johnson arrived at 7:10 PM.)

B. Minutes

July 21, 2015, Regular Meeting –Meghan Bruce moved and Betsy Petrie seconded a motion to accept the minutes. Motion passes with Gregg Lafontaine abstaining.

C. Correspondence

- None

D. Public Comments

- None

E. New Business

1. *Information for BOF – Board of Education’s FY 2015 expenditures (surplus and deficit) as of June 30, 2015. (BOE).*

Jason Nowosad presented the Board with a statement and the current budget status report from the BOE which shows an expected surplus of about \$19,000 as there are a few minor grant items that remain outstanding in order to close out 2014/2015. The Board of Finance needs to have exact figures so it can finalize all accounts for 2014/2015 and has requested this information to be provided for a Board of Finance Special Meeting to be held on Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at 7:00 pm. Jason will communicate this request to the Business Manager and the Superintendent.

2. *Discuss and act on defining how the State Town Aid Road money is to be divided between Improved Roads and Unimproved Roads.*

Traditionally the State Town Aid Road (TAR) money for Improved Roads has always been put into the Town's General Fund and the portion of the money for Unimproved Roads was placed in the Unimproved Road Fund. It was decided a couple of years ago to place all of the TAR money into the General Fund and have Public Works spend down the amount that had accumulated in the Unimproved Roads Fund. Public Works would like to return to the previous practice of dividing the TAR money into Improve Roads and Unimproved Roads portions and put the amounts in their respective funds. This cannot be done for FY 2016, but will be done for FY 2017. Public Works is concerned there may not be enough money in the Unimproved Roads Fund to cover all of the gravel road work required in Town during FY 2016. If the Unimproved Roads Fund is depleted this year, then Public Works can pay invoices come in from the regular roads line item and approach the Board to request additional money to cover the remaining costs for the year if that funds runs out. No action taken.

3. *Discuss and act on Town FY 2015 expenditures (surplus and deficit).*

According to the Town Monthly Expenditure Report left for the Board by Veronica Calvert there is surplus of \$51,272 in the Town Account and a \$55,811 surplus on the Contingency and Fund Balance Report. After reviewing both reports, the Board had several questions that couldn't be answered as Veronica is away on vacation. Veronica is due back on Tuesday. David Scata will request information from her on the open questions so answers could be ready for the Board of Finance Special Meeting planned for Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

4. *Discuss and act on FY 2016 over expenditure of \$10,000 for audit report (change in auditor).*

Liz Charron moved to increase Account 411 Auditor by \$10,000 for increased auditor costs for FY 2016 by transferring the amount from Contingency Funds. Gregg Lafontaine seconded. Passed unanimously.

5. *Discuss and act on FY 2016 increase for the Resident State Trooper salary and benefits (705 vs. 85%).*

The State FY 2016 budget changed the funding structure of the Resident State Trooper Program effective July 1, 2015. Participating towns must now pay 85% of the costs for the first two troopers assigned to the Town and 100% of the costs for any additional troopers, as well as 100% of any overtime costs and fringe benefits directly associated with those overtime costs. Previously, the Town paid 70% of the cost for the Resident State Trooper prior to FY 2016. The anticipated shortfall for FY 2016 is \$20,500. Betsy Petrie moved to increase Account 420 Police Services in the

amount of \$20,500 by transferring the amount from Contingency funds. Dave Scata seconded. Motion passes with Phil Johnson abstaining.

F. Other

1. Phil Chester, Town Planner, reported that the Town has been approached by the Leone family. Since the parents passed away, the family requested help from the Town to make the 64.5 acre parcel on Barker Road currently farmed by Sean McGillicuddy part of Conservation Saving Farm Land. The total cost is \$168,750 which will be covered by \$108,750 from a USDA grant, \$25,000 from Connecticut Farm Land Trust and \$35,000 from the Town's Open Space Account. Betsy Petrie moved to hold a Special Town Meeting to approve the \$35,000 expenditure from the Open Space Account funds in the FY 2016 allocation. Phil Johnson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Joyce Okonuk reported that the BOS authorized the Paradise Agency's 55 and older senior housing contract for \$100,000 to be deposited into the Town's General Revenue Account for the 6.5 acres of land which abuts Dr Manning Drive and is adjacent to the Senior Center. The proposal's first phase is for a minimum of 8 two bedroom units. Each of the private individual residences will measure 1000 square feet with a garage and washer and dryer hook-ups. The units will all be ground level with no stairs. If the first phase does well, a second phase will be considered that will have both one and two bedroom units. The property will be maintained by the owners, Paradise Agency of Colchester. The Town will not have any exposure for public water and sewer based on the number of units in each phase and the property will be accessible by emergency vehicles. Ground breaking could be as early as November 2015 once all of the proper permits are in place.
3. The solar farm proposal may have infrastructure issues with Eversource. Local engineers have been hired to work on these issues with Eversource.

G. Adjourn

Betsy Petrie moved and Meghan Bruce seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:06 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Labonne
Recording Secretary