

BOARD OF FINANCE  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
March 22, 2016 7:00 pm  
Town Hall  
**MINUTES**

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

**Members Absent:**

**Also Present:** First Selectman Betsy Petrie, Selectman John Bendoraitis, Selectmen Glen Coutu, Finance Director Veronica Calvert, and Recording Secretary Laurie Bergeron

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

**B. New Business**

**1. Discuss FY 2016-2017 Board of Education, Capital & Non-Recurring, Revenue**

B. Angeli presented updated BOE budget plan for 2016-2017. \$252,342 is based on increasing 3 new positions and supporting swim team. Still working to bring the insurance premiums down as low as possible. Hoping to get it down another point. A Special Education Teacher resigned this past winter. Have not replaced this position as of yet. Replacement will be at a lower pay scale thus lowering the anticipated budget. D. Scata – enrollment projections. Significant decreases in numbers – Reading Specialist at elementary school – maybe realign staff and not increase staff. This is something that they are still looking at. Possible retirements at the elementary school therefore may be able to move current reading teacher back to classroom when hire Reading Consultant. Still looking to increase enrollment. Have spoken to Sprague BOE regarding opening up to them for their high school students. Nothing carved in stone as of yet but things in the works. P Johnson asked in the current budget how many Franklin students are you projecting attending – same as last year. 8 students projected.

2. First Selectman presented her findings that the BOF asked her to look into regarding Building Department revenue in FY 2016. The Building Department has a software program that keeps track of all fees received for the town. These reports should help the BOF make a clear decision as to budget requests for the town. L. Charron commented that the Board of Selectman built in 19 hours into the Building Department budget where they had originally asked for 15 hours per week. Why do we feel the need to increase to 19 hours? Enforcement is not being taken care of. K. Cwikla inquired where does enforcement come in; under permits or inspections? Depends on the type of permit issued. D. Scata would like to make sure that people are aware that we have a budget crisis in this state. Fully understand requests that everyone is making but we have a finite set of money that we have to deal with. Please be aware that projected cuts may be inevitable. We have to look at potential costs to the town due to legal expenses when things are not properly done and enforced.

3. Review and discuss FY 2016-2017 budget.

D. Scata presented draft of 2016-2017 budget. As it stands currently there will be a .4 increase to town. L. Charron – Library project alone is .4. If we did not have library in budget, we would be at a zero increase to town. M. Nintean feels the mil rate can go down. Feels that there can be things cut to enable a decrease in the mil rate. D. Malozzi would like to see budget go flat. D. Scata to go in at a zero budget we need to cut \$317,000 from current requests. V. Shea commented that when the library project was passed it was sold that each year it would increase .4. Would be afraid that if we do not increase this year and need to increase .8 next year, we would have tremendous trouble getting that approved by the townspeople. L. Charron feels that cutting budgets just to make a flat budget doesn't make any sense. Does not feel there is anything that is extraordinary. Need to invest in our town. K Cwikla feels the budget is very fair. Look at our community – applauds the BOE – it's all about marketing. We have to have a strong school system to attract out of town students and possibly new residents. Feels we have done our due diligence by looking at each individual department. S. Salisbury – agrees with the budget plans presented by each department. Feels the overall picture looks good. Need to let the departments run their departments and need the funds that they have requested. Supports budget as is. P. Johnson feels that we have an increase in the grand list which affords us the possibility to even discuss this budget going flat. Feels it could be fine-tuned a little more. V. Shea would make more sense to him to present to town budget as we have it. Take comments and feelings from townspeople and regroup after town meeting to make final decision on final budget. M. Bruce agrees that this may be a year that we receive major cuts from state funding. Feels we are missing an opportunity to fine tune our pencils and provide some financial relief to town people. When people look to move into town they look at the mil rate. D. Scata can live with .4 increase – does not feel comfortable with any further increase. We need to have a target. Doesn't feel zero is a target. There are places we can cut. L. Charron commented that the library was presented at a .4 increase. She feels this budget is a zero increase when it stays the same as .4. Board went thru capital requests individually and discussed as needed.

K. Cwikla MOVED to present a .4 mil increase to the town. L. Charron SECONDED the motion. 3 in favor; 3 opposed – tie. Motion does not pass.

**C. Adjourn**

K. Cwikla MOVED to adjourn at 8:58 pm. M. Bruce **SECONDED. UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laurie J. Bergeron

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