



Town of Griswold

Board of Finance
Special Meeting
October 11, 2017
7:00 PM

Griswold Senior Center
MINUTES



1. **Roll Call/Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM**

Board of Finance Members Present:

Scott Davis - Chairman
Brian Baker – Vice Chairman
Peter Dorff
Gary Levy
Gail Rooke-Norman
John Wolkowski

Board of Finance Member Absent

Daniel Webster

Also Present:

Erik Christensen, Director of Finance
Jeannette Bell, Recording Secretary
6 Other People

2. **Pledge of Allegiance.**

3. **Old Business**

a) **Discussion and possible action regarding State budget and FY 17/18 town budget.**

Scott Davis opened the meeting by stating the State still does not have a budget in place. He stated that we had crafted our budget based on the best figures at the time. Unfortunately there are still no figures from the State and we are possibly looking at a shortfall of anywhere between \$350,000 to 4.5 million. As of the last proposed budget the figure looked to be about a \$1.34 million dollar shortfall. He proposed a few suggestions on how to best handle the unknown. First, we could send out supplemental tax bills with a possible increase of 7 mils to the taxpayers. Second, take the shortfall out of surplus. Third, request all budgets implement a spending freeze and feels the best comfort zone would probably be a 5% freeze for all budgets. He also stated that any one of these if implemented could be modified or rescinded based on the final State budget figures. E. Christensen stated based on the current Executive Order from the Governor we would run out of money sometime in December by using our entire surplus and leaving us with zero dollars. There was discussion with many suggestions and questions being raised on which is the best way to approach this matter and come up with a solution at least until the State budget is passed and we have concrete numbers.

MOTION: G. Rooke-Norman made a **motion** that was seconded by John Wolkowski for the following:

1. The Tax Collector to send out a letter similar to one sent by Paul Sweet to ask all real estate tax payers to voluntarily pay their January bill in advance. The letter is to be sent out by November 1, 2017.

2. E. Christensen to put together applications with the local banks to see what rates we would get if we needed to borrow 2 million dollars. The results would need to be completed by October 25th and the Board of Finance would choose which package to go with by November 15th.
3. Institute a \$200,000 freeze on roads from the Capital budget.
4. Institute a \$900,000 freeze on the Contingency budget.
5. Institute a \$75,000 freeze on the General Government budget.
6. Institute a \$200,000 freeze on the Board of Education budget.
7. Recognize the additional \$60,000 in tuition money before 12/31/17.

All items to be re-evaluated at a minimum of a monthly basis and can be modified.

There was more discussion at which time J. Wolkowski **rescinded his second. MOTION:**

G. Rooke-Norman made a **motion** that was seconded by J. Wolkowski to leave everything the same in her first motion except the following: Item 5 - Rescind the amount of \$75,000 and change to have the General Government implement their own hard freeze and come back to the Board of Finance with a savings report indicating the amount of money they have saved. Item 6 – Rescind the amount of \$200,000 and change to have the Board of Education implement their own hard freeze and come back to the Board of Finance with a savings report indicating the amount of money they have saved. Item 3 - Change the wording from roads to roads and/or bridges. There was more discussion at which time John Wolkowski **rescinded his second. MOTION:** G. Rooke-Norman made a **motion** that was seconded by J. Wolkowski to make a change to Item 2 to change the amount from 2 million to 1-3 million dollars. **All in favor; Motion Carried.**

J. Wolkowski left the meeting at 8:11PM.

b) Discussion and possible action on recommendation for the possible change over to natural gas at the school campus.

S. Davis stated the only role of the Board of Finance in this matter is whether or not to commit to the funding for this project or not. There was much discussion regarding the amount of savings to be recognized with the change over for this project. Many questions were asked as well as other suggestions on which way to go with the proposal as was who will be overseeing the efficiency of the boilers. There were questions as well as to the length of the contract whether it being for 10 years or 25 years. **MOTION:** G. Levy made a **motion** that was seconded by G. Rooke-Norman to commit to fund the project provided it is written in the contract the length of the term is 10 years not 25 years. There was more discussion to which G. Rooke-Norman **rescinded her second. MOTION:** G. Levy made a **motion** that was seconded by G. Rooke-Norman to add the words no change in rates for the 10 years. All in favor; **motion carried**

4. Adjournment

MOTION: G. Levy made a **motion** that was seconded by P. Dorff to adjourn. All in favor; **motion carried.** S. Davis adjourned the meeting at 9:19PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeannette Bell
Recording Secretary