



Town of Griswold

Board of Finance
Special Meeting
July 8, 2014
7:00 PM

Griswold Senior Center
UNAPPROVED MINUTES



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

Board of Finance Members Present:

Steve Merchant, Sr. – Chairman
Gail Rooke-Norman – Vice Chairman
Brian Baker
Scott Davis
Peter Dorff
Gary Levy
Daniel Webster

Also Present:

Erik Christensen, Director of Finance
Kevin Skulczyck, First Selectman
Sue Rourke, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Griswold Public Schools
Elizabeth Dorff, Chair, Board of Education
Richard Grabowski, Tax Collector
Todd Babbitt, Public Works Director

97 others

2. New Business

a) Discussion and possible action on the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget and sending forward to Selectmen to set a Town Meeting date.

B. Baker asked the Finance Director if all of the revenue we take in for tuition and ECS Grant was kept by the Town and not returned to the education department and was not used to fund the education budget as was stated by residents at the last Town meeting. The Finance Director responded that all money collected is budgeted as a General Fund revenue and is used along with other revenues and tax collections to fund both budgets. He also stated that if more money comes in than is budgeted it does go to the General Fund fund balance but on the other hand if revenues come in lower than what was budgeted it has to come out of the General Fund fund balance. G. Rooke-Norman asked the Chairman if he was not taking statements. The Chairman stated that was correct. G. Rooke-Norman then asked about signs residents were holding up. The Chairman stated that they did not bother him and hoped they did not bother anyone else and the Chairman stated if you have signs go ahead and hold them up. P. Dorff stated without the advisory question on the last ballot it is tough to tell what the majority of taxpayers want the Board to do but after hearing the comments at the last Town Meeting his opinion is more residents think it was too low rather than too high. G. Levy stated that with the vote so close he is not sure that is an accurate statement. He also said that he has not heard from anyone that they voted no because it was too low. D. Webster asked about the advisory question and if we have an opinion on the way it

should read. The Finance Director responded that after discussing with the Town Counsel and Registrars the best way to do it is to have two advisory questions, Is the Board of Education budget too high and Is the Board of Education budget too low. G. Rooke-Norman stated that we need to make it clear that it is a non-binding advisory question.

MOTION: P. Dorff made a **motion** that was seconded by G. Rooke-Norman to add \$200,000 back to the previous amount to make the Board of Education total \$25,360,300. S. Davis stated he would be inclined to increase the budget but not go above a .30 mill rate increase. P. Dorff and G. Rooke-Norman voted in favor, B. Baker, S. Davis, G. Levy and D. Webster opposed; **motion failed**.

MOTION: D. Webster made a **motion** that was seconded by S. Davis to add back \$131,000 to the Board of Education budget for an overall mill rate increase of .30. There was no discussion. S. Davis, P. Dorff, G. Rooke-Norman and D. Webster voted in favor, B. Baker and G. Levy opposed; **motion carried**.

b) Discussion and possible action on adding advisory question to referendum ballot.

S. Merchant Sr. stated he believes it is something we need.

MOTION: G. Rooke-Norman made a **motion** that was seconded by P. Dorff to add two non-binding advisory questions the first one is the board of Education too high and the second one is the Board of Education too low. There was no discussion. All in favor; **motion carried**.

c) Discussion and possible action on setting mill rate for FY2014-2015.

S. Merchant Sr. stated that because of the situation we are in the Finance Director is running out of money. S. Merchant Sr. asked Rich Grabowski, Tax Collector if he had any suggestions. R. Grabowski responded that he did not want to send any supplemental bills and if a mill rate is set before a budget is passed the reaction from the community is rather severe. R. Grabowski suggested waiting until after the next referendum results. S. Merchant Sr. asked K. Skulczyck and S. Rourke if the Town and Board of Education can cut back on spending for the next few weeks to get us through. They both agreed that they would. After discussion, D. Webster made a **motion** that was seconded by B. Baker to table the item until after the next referendum results. There was no discussion. All in favor; **motion carried**.

d) Discussion and possible action on additional appropriation of \$16,317 for fuel management system at Town garage.

T. Babbitt discussed the situation with the fuel management system. He stated that the current system is no longer operable and there is no accountability for who is getting fuel. He stated the current system is around 15 years old. P. Dorff asked if there were other vendors that sold this because it is over the bid amount. T. Babbitt stated it was a State bid price. D. Webster stated he thought it would be wise to table this until after referendum. D. Webster made a **motion** that was seconded by B. Baker to table the item until after the next referendum results. There was discussion regarding how to manually track usage. It was agreed upon that the fuel system would only be open during highway garage hours and users had to contact T. Babbitt to use the pumps and usage would be tracked. All in favor; **motion carried**.

e) **Discussion regarding annual fraud questionnaire required by audit.**

The Finance Director handed out the annual fraud questionnaire for the Board to complete.

- 3. Adjournment: MOTION:** B. Baker made a **motion** that was seconded by D. Webster to adjourn. There was no discussion. All in favor; **motion carried.** S. Merchant Sr. adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Acting Recording Secretary
Erik Christensen