Minutes

Budget Deliberation Meeting
Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 7:00pm
Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: David Bitso, Rich Grudzias, Beverly Kennedy, Heather McDaniel, Bill Sawicki, John Stelma, Ed Wasikowski; Jim Cretella and Jake Holly (alternates)

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Beth Carson, Tom Eighne, Patty Macko, and Doug Thomas

Item #1 – Call Meeting to order
Chairman Bill Sawicki called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Item #2 – Pledge of Allegiance
Everyone saluted the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item #3 – Deliberation and Discussion of 2015/2016 Budget
The Board of Finance discussed the following department’s budget:

✧ Downtown Committee
  o With fish ladder opening, will need more benches and planters
  o Need money to replace the banners
  o For the fish ladder area were planning to have some high school kids decorate the banners
  o Landscaping – under Spring Planting line item – to maintain the flowers @ Town Hall and planters
  o Will check with Fire Department to see if they could hang the banners – if so, we can save the money to hang them
  o Would like to order some spring banners (about $3,000/set) and some for the fish ladder and pumpkin festival (will be more each because we’re ordering less)
  o Need to get storage containers for the banners

✧ Revenues
  o Increase 1.06 mils
  o Will leave the Police Admin Fee where it is for now and transfer periodically ($35k)
  o First Selectman’s Budget will have about $300k in initiatives and about $275 in use of fund balance
  o Bill Sawicki requested that the Finance Director provide an excel sheet for Revenues like we have for the expenses
  o Regarding claim from BOE/Middle School: we received the money ($225k) - currently shown as a bonding deduction. Should be shown as a miscellaneous revenue line item. Should be in “Capital Fund Project Reimbursement” and then transfer to the General Fund.
  o 25% of slot revenue from casinos goes to CT towns based on population
Recycling revenues should be posted to line item called “Recycling Revenue” not deducted from the expense.

Amount of available General Fund (balance) is $4.6 million

Should more go into Site Inspection Revenue? Doug will check with the building inspector

Should we increase the Supplemental Car Tax category?

Emergency Management and Communications Commission

Emergency Management remained the same.

Department has 22 people

All town employees are on the town’s Verizon plan; administrators are: Tom Eighme, Rick Belden, Tony Caserta, and Michael Metzler

The $7,200 line item for Communications has been reduced to $1,000

In the future we will have a seven year lease for Simulcast Radios

2017 Regionalized Dispatch System ($400 - $600k) – with Police Department – Include with Oxford and Beacon Falls

Regarding previous question asked about the reasons that a termination and non-appropriation clause were not included in the Winters Brothers contract for garbage and recycling: response letter from town counsel did not address the questions asked. Was there a P&P bond taken out? Doug Thomas will check

Item #4- Adjournment
Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Submitted by:
Monica Dimon
Recording Secretary