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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Tony Caserta, Nicole Klarides-Ditria, Kurt Miller, Jody Mozdzer-Gil, 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 First Selectman discussed his projected Budget:

- The First Selectman thanked the members of the Board of Finance for their dedication and service to the community
- Began work with Operations Manager in October to formulate this budget
- The First Selectman met first with each department to relate his recommendations
- There are five parts to the budget:
  - Debt Service
    - Have improved bond rating to AA+ strong
    - 8.94% - 7.13% is General Fund Debt - 1.81% is WPCA Debt
    - Negatively affected by the town roads and town buildings – Positively affected by the school buildings and WPCA debt has been separated
    - Over next few years debt should be fairly level
    - Schools are 77% of Debt
    - Capital plan will be fully funded after this year
  - Fund Balance
    - Working on bringing up to 8.5% this year – goal is 10% by 2017/2018
    - $180,700 Reserve
  - Capital
    - Put in $100,000 per year
    - Capital Plan – have $332,847 in requests for this year – some things will be taken out
    - From 2014/2015 – added investments in capital not paid for from capital plan - $357,000 out of LOCIP account; $1,081,871 in other grants – largest is the Main Street Investment Fund; Sidewalk Replacement Grant - $200,000; Small Cities Housing Rehab Project - $400,000 (revolving loan fund)
previously had $39,000 and $22,000 for two people, now is $43,000 plus $5,000 for additional work required; will be merging the Building Compliance, Planning & Zoning, Fire Marshal, and Inland/Wetlands Departments to improve efficiency and avoid duplication of work.

- **Highway Wages & Maintenance (Public Works)** – Remove the $8,000 for Catch Basins - are planning to purchase a vacuum truck with four other towns – this will allow us to do more cleaning of the catch basins than currently done – need to do every year; Annual F550 Truck Purchase – previously purchased through capital - put in $90,000/year to purchase new $550– will save on maintenance costs and allow planning better because we will be able to turn over the fleet every six years; Line #’s 130, 131, 135 #’s are not correct for actual current costs – Doug Thomas will correct these along with the Sanitation #’s for Wednesday’s deliberation meeting

- **Road Account** – Recommend $200.00 and add $25,000 each year; $297,000 in road aid received – this money needs to go to roads

- **Waste Collection** – Recycling is saving us $10,000 per month; should be entered in the revenue not an offset of the expense; receiving 20% more in our per tonnage

- **Recreation** – increase is new director – will be responsible for overseeing the Recreation, Library and Services to the Elderly Departments; the new director will hire her assistant (27 applicants)

- **Parks** – increase of $5,000 for flags (donation has been received for the flagpole) for French Park; Rotary may donate this money; increase in the Machinery line item of $15,000 – should have this in the budget every year for equipment needed to update; Public Works will be responsible for taking over the maintenance of the school grounds (inside the fences) – BOE will be responsible for outside the fences

- **Town Health Insurance** – Decrease of 15.17 % - $347,000 Savings – all town employees are given two choices

- **Workers Comp Insurance** - $325,000 – may change

- **Contingency** - $50,000 yearly contribution plus the $15,000 from the Tax Collector (From Fund Balance)

- **Interest** - $225,000 in Bond Premium – change line item to debt service – put with revenue
  - Town Side increase of 1.66% - Overall increase of 1.57%; Mill rate = 34.31 (0.27% increase)
  - If the Road Program and F550 truck are removed, the increase goes to 0.38% Town Side and 1.04 Overall.
  - First Selectman’s Recommendation for the BOE budget was 1.5%; the budget presented by the BOE was higher than that.

**Item #4- Adjournment**
Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Submitted by:
*Monica Dimon*
*Recording Secretary*