Members Present: Aileen Baldwin, Jim Cretella, Zani Imetovski, Beverly Kennedy, Heather McDaniel, Bill Sawicki, John Stelma; Richard Demko (alternate)

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Stephen Behuniak, Doug Thomas, and Sean Walsh

Item #1 – Call to order
Chairman Bill Sawicki called the deliberations 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 2016/2017 Budget
The Board of Finance discussed the budget; answered questions raised at last deliberations:

- Registrar of Voters – the First Selectman didn’t agree with the number of elections/referendums/primaries that the Registrar put forth; we should keep the original #. He also didn’t realize that the training costs requested are for mandatory training. This money should be kept also.
- Public Works – The actual cost of the dump truck was only $73,000 instead of the $90,000 budgeted because they actually got a different truck than planned. They were going to get a mason dump truck but ended up getting a flat body dump truck. This year, will get the mason truck.
- Economic Development Committee – the First Selectman felt that the $1,500 budgeted for the website upgrade should be deleted because the town computer person could handle this.
- Fire Department – Communication/Telephone – lease renewal was deleted. WHY? Still need answer. Machinery & Equipment – pagers – they DEFINITELY NEED 24 new pagers; they are more expensive because they have necessary enhanced abilities. Regarding the $30,000 for air tanks needed – this is also a DEFINITELY NEEDED expense – they need to replace 25 this year. No evaluation will be done. The 25 that need replacement expire this year.
- Tax Collector – costs for computers were removed; they are included in the Capital Plan
- Town Buildings - $20,000 was cut from the Repairs & Maintenance line item but there is a line item in the Contingency for $150,000 for Town Buildings Repairs & Maintenance. The extra money is here.
- Police – the First Selectman changed his number in the car category to the original #. They definitely need the additional money for uniformed officers and training.
- Building Compliance – Directors Salary includes a cost of living increase; the Assistant Directors Salary line item includes a cost of living increase plus $5,000 for specialists and/or any extra hours that the director needs to put in; money that was deleted from the First Selectman’s budget for training can be
added back – he didn’t realize this was REQUIRED training; computer costs deleted from Machinery & Equipment & Computer Services can be added back to his budget as well.

- Highway Wages & Maintenance – Snow insurance cost would be about $60 – 80,000; Sean Walsh spoke to several people who did not feel that this was a necessary cost – we would be wasting our money.

- Waste Collection Revenues – we get $10/ton – year to date revenues are $6,840.30 Sean Walsh said that the transfer station could be more of a money maker for the town; he will be working on developing ideas; we need another person at the transfer station to monitor the weighing of the recyclable tonnage. Will public works be putting in for another person? Sean Walsh said that there is a public works meeting on Monday night where he can bring this up. Bill Sawicki asked if Doug Thomas could put together a cost estimate for a laborer vs. cost of a regular, experienced person – including the salary and benefit information. This way we can have the number to work with. The Board of Selectmen still need to approve any hiring. History has shown that having a person there checking residency was not worth it.

- Dog Warden – increase of 21% - was for extra hours needed

- Recreation Commission – the ratio of 1:16 is not needed, but recommended; these are estimates of enrollment. What happens if the number of kids isn’t that many? Is the Friday Night including just Boys & Girls Club or does it include recreation? $160,245 Proposed Revenue breakdown sheet was attached.

- Town Contingency – what is the “MSW” line item?
- Revenue #’s – Doug will e-mail to the Board
- We need to get rid of the work “Stipend” on any line item. Can we get a list of STIPEND departments and contracted departments?
- We need to set a time and day for the Town Hearing so we can get this information in the paper.
- There is a state statute that we cannot lower the Board of Education budget lower than last year’s number. The First Selectman lowered their budget by the $300,000 due to the insurance.

Item #4– Adjournment
Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Submitted by:
Monica Dimon
Recording Secretary