

SUBJECT: SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD OF FINANCE AND BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

DATE: April 17, 2006, Immediately after the 7:00 p.m. Budget Public Hearing

PLACE: Town Hall Senior Lounge

PRESENT: Mayor Krampitz, Councilman Goodwin, Councilman Zagurski, Councilman Sekorski, Councilwoman Murawski, Councilwoman Scoville, Board of Finance members Paul Ashton, Victoria Carey, Peter Giancesini, Mark Goodwin, David Merchant, Daniel Murray, Board of Education members Raymond Engle, Lisbeth Leonhardt, Velma McConnell, Patrick Perugino, Michelle Spencer, Jennifer Zalaski.

1. Call Meeting to Order - The meeting was called to order by Mayor Krampitz at 9:05 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance - Mayor Krampitz led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Emergency exits were indicated by the Mayor for the safety of the audience.
3. Discuss and take action on proposed FY 2006-07 budget - Mayor Krampitz turned the floor over to David Merchant, Chairman of the Board of Finance, so that this board could discuss and take action on the proposed budget. Chairman Merchant began the discussion with his disagreement with the remarks that Mayor Krampitz had made during a television program. He pointed out to the board that there was an oversight that involved a line item on page 14 concerning Hydrant/Plan Reviews/Meetings of \$3,500. He believed that this amount was to be included in the proposed budget and the board concurred that this was an oversight and it should be included. Victoria Carey stated that if there were no other additions or subtractions from the budget, she would like to hear from the Town Council and the Board of Education before anything else is done. Chairman Merchant agreed and Mayor Krampitz asked for comments from the Board of Education Chairman Raymond Engle. Chairman Engle stated that the Board of Education was going to wait and see where the suggested cuts were before they make any final decisions because they know they have to make up \$500,000 right now. Mayor Krampitz asked for comments from the Town Council. Councilman Goodwin asked about the 10% increases in Administrator Salaries at Main St. and Prospect St. Schools. He was told that this was a result of not only a raise but a step increase. Councilwoman Scoville stated that the problem is that if this budget goes to referendum it will fail. We heard 200 people tell us that we have to do something. Councilwoman Murawski stated that she agreed with Councilwoman Scoville. The Board of Finance did a good job but they did not have cuts that hurt and we have to do that. Chairman Merchant stated that he did not disagree with either Councilwoman. He had a hard time thinking that this was going to pass. Where would the cuts come from? Councilwoman Murawski also responded to Chairman Merchant's opening remarks by stating that it should have come as no surprise that Mayor Krampitz was opposed to a higher tax increase. It is simply a matter of a different philosophy and was certainly not personal or political. She was also concerned that the Board of Education's budget was the proposed budget before it had been cut by the Board of Finance. She wants the people to be able to see what they are voting on and the proposed budget does not show it. Councilman Sekorski stated that our system of determining a budget does not make a lot of sense because we really do not know what our revenue will be from the State side. We all end up speculating quite a bit. We should move this proposal forward for a referendum vote. Councilman Zagurski stated that he believed that the townspeople were going to vote the

budget down but we need to put it to a vote and if it is voted down the Board of Finance will have to sharpen their pencils. Councilman Goodwin thought that we needed to listen to the people at the hearing because if we do not, we will only have one opportunity to adjust this budget. Councilwoman Scoville reiterated that we need to listen to the people at the hearing tonight. She recommended that the budget be reduced by a half of a mill. With no further Town Council comments, Mayor Krampitz turned the floor back to David Merchant who stated that most people show up at a hearing that oppose the budget. People will show up to vote no at a referendum and have no idea what the town needs. He said that he heard nothing at the Public Hearing that changed his mind on the budget proposal. Victoria Carey stated that she did not want to see her taxes go up but they spent three months on this budget and looked at everything and she would prefer to send this proposal to the public with the minor adjustment. The board had workshops all year and no one really attended to become informed. Paul Ashton stated that there was nothing specific that the people wanted adjusted. To cut it now without another public hearing to indicate the changes made would not be right for the people. We should move forward with this proposal with minor corrections. Daniel Murray clarified that the increase was 2.7 mills not 2.4. He also stated that it is difficult to predict the outcome of the referendum. But if it fails twice and goes to the Town Council, it will be a big step backward for the town. Peter Giancesini stated that we assume that if we cut the budget a half a million dollars that it will pass and that is foolish. There are people that will keep cutting it and will care less. If it fails, we have to make cuts that will hurt the least. Mark Goodwin stated that historically over the last six years we have gone up four percent so as far as going forward, three percent would be going backward. MOTION: Paul Ashton moved to accept the budget as presented with the small addition of the Hydrant/Plan Reviews/Meetings of \$3500 and to send forward to referendum. SECOND: Victoria Carey. Paul Ashton – yes, Victoria Carey – yes, Daniel Murray – yes, Mark Goodwin – no, Peter Giancesini – yes. MOTION PASSED.

4. Discuss and take action to schedule a referendum for FY 2006-07 budget - MOTION Councilwoman Scoville moved to schedule a referendum to vote on the FY 2006-07 budget on May 1, 2006 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Town Hall Community Room. SECOND: Councilwoman Murawski. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
5. Adjournment - MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 p.m. SECOND: Councilman Sekorski. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted by: David M. Denis, Council Clerk