

TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
BOARD OF FINANCE
Regular Meeting
April 22, 2014
Nathan Hale-Ray High School Auditorium

The April regular meeting of the East Haddam Board of Finance was called to order at 8:07 pm by Chairman Susan Link.

In attendance:

Board of Finance Members:

Susan Link, Chairman
William DiCristofaro
Bruce Dutch
Harvey Thomas
Raymond Willis

Others:

Mark B. Walter, First Selectman
Deb Denette, Town Clerk and recording secretary
Denise Dill, Tax Collector
Cindy Varricchio, Finance Director
Approximately twenty-three people were present in the audience

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Link requested to add an item to the agenda regarding acceptance of a Kitchen Gardeners International Grant.

Motion was made by Mr. Willis to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business—Item B—Kitchen Gardeners International Grant Acceptance. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

2014-2015 PROPOSED BUDGET

a. Review and Discussion:

Mrs. Link inquired of the Board whether they wanted to make any changes to the proposed budget following comments made at the Public Hearing. The Board members opined that the audience was split 50/50. Mrs. Link stated that there did not seem to be public disagreement with the projects identified. The importance of an exit poll was emphasized. Mrs. Denette stated that she would be happy to conduct one. Mrs. Varricchio reported that she has conducted exit polls in the past and can provide samples. Mr. Thomas requested Mrs. Varricchio to work with Mrs. Denette on compiling an exit survey. Mrs. Varricchio requested that sample questions be e-mailed to her from Board members.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to present to the annual budget meeting scheduled to be called by the Board of Selectmen for May 6, 2014 at 8:00 p.m. at the Town Hall a total budget of \$29,731,259 based on the grand list as of October 1, 2013 of \$848,814,900. The

budget would require a mill rate increase of 2.05 mills or a 8.4% tax increase. Mr. Willis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing noted.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

a. Tax Collector Report

Mrs. Varricchio reported that she did not bring copies of the Tax Collector's report, although she acknowledged its receipt. It was noted that it had been e-mailed. Mr. DiCristofaro followed up regarding tax sales. Mrs. Dill stated that she had retained the services of Attorney Adam Cohen to pursue tax sales. She also noted that collections continue beyond the current year on delinquent taxes with resulting interest and penalties.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Walter stated that he had nothing to report that could not wait two weeks for the next regular meeting.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. March YTD Budget Report:

Mrs. Varricchio reported that the Shady Brook tax appeal is having a detrimental impact on the legal budget. She also advised that revenue is down significantly at the libraries. Snow removal is tracking \$12,000 to \$13,000 over budget. She was thankful that last week's snow came during school break.

Mrs. Link inquired about the Resident State Trooper budget (with very little expenditure to date). It was noted that that payment is made to the State at year end.

LIAISON REPORTS

Nothing noted.

GUESTS AND AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Nothing noted.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing noted.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Historic Preservation Grant Application:

The Town Clerk is seeking authorization to apply for the annual Historic Document Preservation Grant. It was noted that there are no matching funds required. This grant will continue a re-indexing project to digitize land records backwards from 1955.

Motion was made by Mr. DiCristofaro to authorize the Town Clerk to apply for the Historic Document Preservation Grant. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

b. Kitchen Gardeners International Grant Acceptance:

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to request that the Board of Selectmen schedule a Town Meeting to accept a grant in the amount of \$500.00 from the Kitchen Gardeners International for the Green Committee-Food Bank Victory Garden. Mr. Willis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Dutch adjourn at 8:20 pm. Mr. DiCristofaro seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Denette,
Town Clerk and BOF Recording Secretary