

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance held at 7:00 P.M., on Wednesday, March 8, 2006.

Members Present: Chairman Johns, First Selectman Kopetz, Mr. Gillen, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Doheny, Mr. Feinberg, and Mr. Hallahan

Also Present: Director of Finance V.E. Palmeri

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman Johns.

The following materials were either mailed to the members prior to this meeting or distributed at this time.

1. Agenda – March 1, 2006
2. Minutes of Regular Meeting held on February 8, 2006
3. February 28, 2006 - Report of Budget/Overexpenditures/Special Funds
  - Report of Revenue
  - Board of Education Accounting
4. Draft – Resolutions (3) FY 2006-2007 Budget and Public Hearing
5. IOM dated 2/10/06, Estimates of State Formula Aid to Municipalities
6. IOM dated 2/24/06, Reply to queries posed by 3d Selectman
7. IOM dated 2/26/06, Transmittal
8. Income Budget, FY 2006-2007
9. Decrement List dated 3/8/06
10. Budget Recap dated 3/8/06

MINUTES

After a brief discussion of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 8, 2006, Mr. Peterson moved their acceptance, seconded by Mr. Doheny.

VOTE:	Johns - Yes	Gillen - Yes	Kopetz - Yes
	Peterson - Yes	Doheny - Yes	Feinberg - Yes
	Hallahan - Yes		

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

REPORT OF BUDGET/OVEREXPENDITURES/SPECIAL FUNDS, REVENUE AND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCOUNTING FEBRUARY 28, 2006

Mr. Palmeri referred to these reports stating that tax collections at the end of February were 98.7%. Mr. Palmeri reviewed the overexpenditure report in detail. Further discussion followed. These reports were accepted as presented.

FINALIZE FY 2006-2007 BUDGET

Mr. Johns began the discussion stating that the budget before the Board will go to the Public Hearing on April 4<sup>th</sup>, to a Town Meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup> with a referendum to follow on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Palmeri distributed draft resolutions (3), a decrement list and a budget recap sheet.

Mr. Kopetz stated that the decrement list contains items that are recommended to be eliminated from the Town Government Budget. He said that the list included a factor for raises for non-bargaining unit personnel which is in line with or less than increases granted to the Town's bargaining units. In preparing the FY 06-07 Budget we had to take into account the effect of revaluation. Many people are concerned about their property taxes as a result of the revaluation and it was very difficult to put together a budget. He stated that reductions need to be made to both the Board of Education and the Town Government as a result. The capital budget recommendation is minimal and needs to be addressed later. The proposed increase in the Town Government Budget is 2.3% and the Board of Education increase 3% with an overall proposed increase of 2.68%.

After reviewing the decrement list, Mr. Gillen stated that elimination of capital items represents the largest decrease to the budget and that we need to develop a plan immediately to find ways of funding the implementation of capital projects and equipment purchases.

Mr. Peterson agreed and suggested that at the end of this fiscal year a Town Meeting be scheduled to appropriate funds to purchase new equipment and other capital items. He stated we need to find another funding vehicle other than property taxes – maybe a sinking fund. We have to fix this for the long term instead of in dribs and drabs.

Mr. Hallahan recommended that we fund the money now and felt that the Board should not ignore Departmental needs. He said he was shocked at the miniscule allocation for Capital.

Further discussion followed.

At 7:30 PM Mr. Feinberg suggested that the Board recess for 15 minutes +/- to review in caucus the proposals discussed thus far. The Board agreed, recessed and reconvened at 8:00 PM at which time the Chairman invited new commentary.

Mr. Gillen then moved the following:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance recommends to the Public Hearing a FY 2006-2007 Town Government Budget of \$33,390,213.

Seconded by Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Hallahan then moved to amend the resolution as follows:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance recommends to the Public Hearing a FY 2006-2007 Town Government Budget of \$33,515,213; including the addition of \$60,000 to fund the Library full time line and \$65,000 to fund the Recreation part time line.

Seconded by, Mr. Feinberg.

VOTE:	Johns - No	Gillen - No	Kopetz - No
	Peterson - No	Doheny - No	Feinberg - Yes
	Hallahan - Yes		

Mr. Johns then called for a vote on the original resolution.

VOTE:	Johns - Yes	Gillen - Yes	Kopetz - Yes
	Peterson - Yes	Doheny - Yes	Feinberg - No
	Hallahan - No		

Mr. Peterson then moved the following:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance recommends to the Public Hearing a FY 2006-2007 Board of Education Budget of \$38,860,189.

Seconded by, Mr. Doheny.

Mr. Hallahan moved to amend the resolution as follows:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance recommends to the Public Hearing a FY 2006-2007 Board of Education Budget of \$39,499,286.

Seconded by, Mr. Feinberg.

VOTE:	Johns - No	Gillen - No	Kopetz - No
	Peterson - No	Doheny - No	Feinberg - No
	Hallahan - Yes		

Mr. Johns then called for a vote on the original resolution.

VOTE:	Johns - Yes	Gillen - Yes	Kopetz - Yes
	Peterson - Yes	Doheny - Yes	Feinberg - No
	Hallahan - No		

Mr. Feinberg stated that he voted no on both resolutions because he felt they were both inadequate. He said that the Board of Education reductions would include loss of positions and possible elimination of full day kindergarten. He recommended that residents write to the Governor's Office and request assistance for our education system.

Further discussion followed.

Mr. Peterson then moved the following:

RESOLVED: That a FY 2006-2007 Budget recommendation of \$72,250,402 be presented to the Public Hearing to be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2006, with the Board of Education Budget to be presented first, beginning at 7:00 P.M., followed by the Town Government Budget, to begin no later than 8:00 P.M., with general discussion to follow as may be warranted.

Seconded by, Mr. Doheny.

VOTE:	Johns - Yes	Gillen - Yes	Kopetz - Yes
	Peterson - Yes	Doheny - Yes	Feinberg - No
	Hallahan - No		

OTHER

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Peterson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM, seconded by Mr. Gillen.

VOTE:	Johns - Yes	Gillen - Yes	Kopetz - Yes
	Peterson - Yes	Doheny - Yes	Feinberg - Yes
	Hallahan - Yes		