

**Andover Board of Finance
Special Meeting -Budget Workshop
Wednesday, April 13, 2016
7:PM-Old Fire house
15 Center Street**

Minutes

BOF Members: Present:

Dan Warren, Board Chair, Linda Fish, Georgette Conrad, Eric Shevchenko, CIP Representative

Absent: Adrian Mandeville, Jeff Murray, Nathaniel Houle

Staff Present:

Sandra Nichols, Board Clerk

Other Attendees: Robert Siminski, Superintendent of Schools

Agenda Items 1&2: Call to Order: Dan Warren, Board Chair, called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance at 7:06PM

Agenda Item 3: Public Comment: None

Agenda Item 4: RHAM Budget Presentation:

Brief discussion on the CT State Budget, the Governors Mid-Term Budget.

Dan Warren points out cuts to ECS and Municipal revenue sharing. Was projected to be \$96K and now they didn't provide a break out for a Towns however it went from \$109 million to \$18 million. This will be discussed tonight when the Town Budget is discussed.

Robert Siminski Hands out a booklet on the Schools and a packet which is a summery of Regional School District 8 Budget 2016-2017.

Discussion on the Schools

Dan Warren asks if the Budget presented is still going forward to referendum?

Robert Siminski replies that they plan to have a District Meeting on May 2nd and then go to Referendum on May 3rd. They do have an issues however due to the school vacation week so this is a factor.

Dan Warren asks if there has been any significant update in the schedule?

Robert Siminski mentions two items that are Capital Expenditures: The replacement of the hot water heater and new curtains in the auditorium that are fire retardant. Discusses other fire protection incentives that they are looking at

that are costly and have included this in the budget. They also would like to do the track since it is in the budget.

Dan Warren asks about the gas conversion?

Robert Siminski they have a contract next year for 105 gallons of oil and it would be a problem getting rid of that they made a proposal to the gas company to hook up a gas line to the school and hook up the hot water heaters and the kitchen and then will look at converting the boilers in the spring/summer. Their time line was extremely aggressive. He is taking a conservative stance on this. They also, over the summer since they signed a contract with DES energy to come into the schools and replace the light bulbs and ballasts. They will also put electronic timers on the lights outside to save money and will install additional solar panels on the roof. They are calibrating the entire building which is being paid for from savings and will be the pay back in savings is two to three years.

Eric Shevchenko asks about the repairs for RHAM High School

Robert Siminski it was recommended that they do a certain amount of work over the next 3 years, Carver(?) Company recommended that they spend approx \$500K. Looking at the bonds for the building, the large ones, they will be paid in years 21 and 22. They could bond the work for these projects.

Linda Fish inquires about police presence at the schools

Robert Siminski replies that they have a resource office and a police officer would be approx. \$200K/yr do they are looking at a constable at approx. 90K/year and that is the proposal in the budget.

Agenda Item 5: Budget Presentation/Review:

Dan Warren there was last minute news from the Governor's Office on revenue reductions as of the last meeting we had a flat mill rate, we are now looking at a rate of 31.31 a .6% increase which needs a \$160K decrease from State aid. We looked at the Times Farm Bridge and moved the expenditures to a separate line item. He points out the changes that were discussed last week and the changes that were made.

Georgette Conrad comments that she thought that the Board was looking to put more money into the Bridge line item.

Dan Warren replies that it would come from Working Capital and the total expenditure is close to \$400K, Budget line 307. The Town would be reimbursed 80% which would go back into

Working Capital. The earmarking of the \$200k for the Community Center this would be moved from Capital Expenditures to Fund Transfers (1305). This is what was discussed at the last meeting it shows that \$17K is put in the Engine Fund, \$100K Public Works Building and \$200K Multi-Use Public Building. The last two are not from taxation. There is a shortfall of \$160K based on what was talked about last week. He touched base with the Fire Chief and got a list of abatement's this year it is \$19,500 and last year it was \$22,500 so he made the adjustments. He talked to the First Selectman and as of right now the Resident Trooper there is no action to put 100% of the cost to the Town since it is still holding steady at 85% so he adjusted

that number down which puts it at \$162,290. There is a bit of a risk since the State Budget is not yet final. He removed from the Fund Transfer 17K to the Fire engine fund (1305). There is still a short fall left of \$73K. The only other change was in Non Recurring is at approx \$103K that would bring it down to \$30K so in the upcoming years we would have to start building it up.

Georgette Conrad asks if the Fire Dept would still get the new exhaust and floor. **Dan Warren** replies that they would it would just not come from taxation it would come out of the Non Recurring Fund. All the other Operating Budgets will remain the same as they were proposed and the Capital programs as described in 1101 detail would remain except for the School Budget it would be reduced by \$50K to \$300K.

Linda Fish asks if this is for the repairs to the roof and did they have money set aside?

Dan Warren replies that it is and out of that \$300K now \$125K will come from the School Improvement Fund and \$75K will be funded from the Unassigned Balance so there will not be any money coming from taxation.

Offline discussion

Georgette Conrad **Motions** to send the revised Budget of \$8,272,150.21 to a Public Hearing on April 20, 2016.

Linda Fish **Seconded**

Motion Passed/Unanimous

Budget is available on line at the Town of Andover Web Site

Agenda Item 6: Public Comment: None

Agenda Item 7: Adjournment:

Georgette Conrad **Motions** to adjourn at 8:10PM

Linda Fish **Seconded**

Motion Passed/Unanimous

Next Meeting Wednesday April 20, 2016, Public Hearing

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Nichols

Board Clerk

April 18, 2016

