

# May 16, 2011

*The following minutes of the Board of Finance are submitted subject to approval at the next Board of Finance meeting.*

Chairman Michael Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Present:**

Members: Michael Jackson, Jack Boyer, Gary Fitzherbert

Alternates: A. J. DuBois, Keith Templeton

Selectmen: Nick Solley

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

Guests: Tony Bedini - Region 12 Board of Education, Jack Field

Keith Templeton and A. J. Dubois were seated in the absence of Barbara Brown and Rex Swain.

**Minutes:**

The Board accepted the Minutes of the 4/4/11 and 4/25/11 meetings as submitted.

**Tax Collector's Report:**

Accepted as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Accepted as submitted.

**Education:**

Tony Bedini updated the Board on the maintenance of the buildings in the Region. A meeting of the project managers and architects was held to discuss continuing work at the Region 12 schools. Windows for the Elementary School are being shipped this week and they will begin to install them on June 27th starting with the Burnham School . While they are more costly than anticipated, it is felt they will still bring the project in on-budget. The lease-mandated yearly inspections by the Towns and Facility Committee have been completed and the cost of additional future work has been identified and narrowed down to an estimated cost of \$144,000. Bids will be prepared for the projects and priorities adjusted if necessary.

Tony reported Region 12's Long-Range Planning Committee will begin meeting to address the many issues facing the Region. It is hoped the Committee will establish a mission statement to address strategic planning and explore all scholastic and financial options for the future, as well as building usage as it relates to the declining school population. It would be the responsibility of the Towns to voice their concerns to the Committee and it was agreed the Boards of Selectmen and Finance should get more involved. It was suggested the Long Range Planning Committee look into all possibilities: transporting students between towns, housing of all students at one location and merger with another school district. It was hoped a progress report from this Committee would be available in the early Fall.

**Financial Reports:**

Accepted as submitted.

**Proposed 2011-2012 Budget:**

Selectman Nicholas Solley presented the annual Washington Financial Planning Model that is used by the Finance Board and Selectmen annually to assist in estimating current and future income and cost assumptions for budgeting. The Board noted their appreciation to Jack Field for his assistance in creating

and preparing the Planning Model. Items influencing the budgeting included:

The Grand List had increased slightly over the previous year, possibly due to many home renovations. The net income may increase by an additional \$25,000 from an anticipated FEMA grant. This has not been included as it has not as yet been received.

Building Inspection income has increased.

Education costs were lower than originally anticipated due to the reduction in the Town's school population from 45.01% to 44.6%.

Future assumptions will be discussed in detail during the next fiscal year. It is now too early to determine the State's budget, etc.

Nick reported the following will be proposed for the budget for the July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012 fiscal year:

General Fund	\$4,040,873	+1.0%
Nonrecurring Fund	\$937,500	+6.1%
Transfer to the Open Space Fund:	\$25,000	+1.0%
Transfer to the Housing Fund:	\$10,000	-60%
Transfer to the Legal Litigation Fund:	\$20,000	+0%
Total General Fund, Capital Fund & Transfers	\$5,033,373.	+0.6%

The Town's portion of the net Education budget has previously been approved at \$9,328,359. or +2.0%.

**Route 109 – Bee Brook Road Bridge over the Shepaug River :**

The State is currently completing calculations for replacement of the bridge crossing the Shepaug River north of the Washington Firehouse. The proposed bridge would be built at the expense of the State and the Town had requested a pedestrian walk be included.

The Steep Rock Association has suggested in lieu of the pedestrian walkway on the State bridge that a new pedestrian bridge be constructed a short distance upstream. Estimated cost of the Steep Rock proposal is \$650,000. Funding for this bridge would be provided to Steep Rock through a private donation. In addition, Steep Rock has requested the Town's approval to obtain a \$150,000 STEAP grant to offset costs that is available with the Town's approval. Nick Solley noted the Selectmen have scheduled a town meeting for May 19th at 7:30 p.m. for discussion purposes only on this matter. A vote will not be taken at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Gollow, Secretary