**Board of Finance Meeting**

**March 17, 2014**

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

**Present:**

Members: Jack Boyer, Barbara Brown, Sally Cornell, Michael Jackson, Craig Schoon, Rex Swain

Alternates: Ted Bent, Keith Templeton

Selectmen: Mark Lyon, Richard Carey, Jay Hubelbank

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

Guests: Tony Bedini, B&P Chair; Region 12 B/E member

**Minutes**: Approved as submitted.

**Building and Property:** Mark reported there is the potential to apply for a STEAP grant to complete work that will be needed on the town garage ($25,000), the firehouse ($58,000) and the pavilion ($44,000). He has not as yet submitted this to the Selectmen. Bids are also being solicited for the pavilion floor.

**Tax Collector’s Report:** The Tax Collectors Report as of the end of February was reviewed. Question was raised if the collection rate was comparable to that of last year’s at this time. It was suggested the collection rate seemed comparable and the Tax Collector will be asked to review this for the Board.

**Treasurer’s Report:** The Treasurer’s Report was approved as submitted.

**Education:** It was reported the Board of Education has settled on the questions to be asked of voters with regard to the future of the school buildings. The referendum on the matter is scheduled for April 29th. If the voters agree to build a new elementary school but do not vote to approve the funds, a question still remains. But without money you cannot build a school.

However the vote goes, the funding for the high school will still be available. A majority of votes from the overall Region would be required. If the first vote fails and the money vote passes, question was raised if the work on the high school could still be done. Question was raised if the Board could continue with work on the high school if the reorganization fails but the money vote passes with an overall majority. The exact wording of the referendum votes is still in the hands of the attorneys. The Region will continue to move ahead with the Common Core program. It was noted one size program does not fill all school district and what is good in one town may not be good for another.

The Region plans to proceed with the Common Core program, which consists of a set of goals and states what the student have to learn. Each school decides what is best for their school. The Common Core has rigorous guidelines but some feel it has been implemented too quickly for the State. Everyone has pushed to insure that everyone is trained and the curriculum is set. A vote in the three towns has been scheduled for April 29th.

**Highways:** Garage: Mark noted he has been working with Union Savings regarding the borrowing of funds for construction of a replacement building. He has not received the answer if the Town is eligible for short-term borrowing but is still pursuing it. It was suggested pursuing this question with bond counsel. Rex Swain questioned the need for borrowing money since there is insurance and LoCIP and other funds available. Mark noted while there are LoCIP and some other funds available, he wants to review all avenues.

Michael Jackson noted we are considerably underspent in the Nonrecurring Bridge projects. Mark noted funds have been set aside for these projects over the past few years due to the enormity of costs. Currently in the Bridge funds we have $1.1 million, while $1.5 million in projects has been planned for the next three years. Some of this will be covered through bridge grants.

Rex: This is the first time I have heard a number put on oer th town garage.

ML: The bids came in in Feb. He asked MJ to talk to the bank aobut the money.

**Town Hall:** CHK is drawing up plans and specs for the stage area. Handprints were on the newly installed window. They will be replaced in May at no cost to the Town.

Tony Bedini has been working on a settlement and balancing the new conference room cost. He noted the basement is essentially finished.

**Titus Road Property:** It was noted all road materials will be removed from that site; but while the garage is being constructed, most likely not everything will be moved right away.

**Financial Reports:** 92% of Winter Maintenance funds will be spent by the end of March. Everything else has come in with a flat budget.

**State Bridge Funds:** Funds are deposited into the General Fund and will be transferred to other Funds to be written. The State makes electronic deposits directly into the General Fund.

**Ex-Budget Appropriation**: The Board approved an ex-budget appropriation of $10,000 for legal costs for review of the old and new pension plans.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Gollow, Secretary