

**BOARD OF FINANCE PUBLIC HEARING
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
May 13, 2015**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 p.m. at the Avon Town Hall by Chairman Thomas Harrison. Members present: Chairman Thomas Harrison, Vice Chairman/Secretary Thomas Gugliotti, Margaret Bratton, Catherine Durdan, Dean Hamilton, and Brian Stoll. James Speich was absent. A quorum was present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was omitted due to venue.

III. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING:

March 30, 2015 Regular Meeting

April 13, 2015 Budget Hearing

It was unanimous agreed to move approval of the minutes to the next meeting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

14/15-07 FY 15/16 Budget: Set Tax Rate (28.80)

Mr. Harrison stated the Referendum passed although it did not achieve the 9%, therefore under the Charter it is deemed automatically approved. There were 406 ballots cast at the polls and 15 absentee votes for a total of 421 ballots cast; 292 voted Yes, 129 voted No.

On a motion made by Thomas Harrison, seconded by Thomas Gugliotti, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance set the Tax Rate at 28.80 Mills.

Messrs: Harrison, Gugliotti, Hamilton, Stoll and Mmes: Bratton and Durdan voted in favor.

V. NEW BUSINESS

14/15-18 Supplemental Appropriation: Pine Grove Schoolhouse Windows Restoration, \$13,740

Mr. Robertson stated that the Council approve this appropriation at their last meeting. In response to a question from Mr. Gugliotti, Mr. Robertson stated that the funds were used to replace the windows at the Schoolhouse.

On a motion made by Tom Gugliotti, seconded by Brian Stoll, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance hereby amends the FY 14/15 Budget by Increasing:

REVENUES

General Fund, Intergovernmental, CT Trust for Historic Preservation Grants Receipts, Account #01-0330-43330 in the amount of \$10,067.00 and General Fund, Other Local Revenues, Donations & Grants, Private Sources, Account #01-0360-43651 in the amount of \$3,673.00 from the Avon Historical Society, for a total of \$13,740.00 and increasing

APPROPRIATIONS

General Fund, Town Hall, Buildings, Account #01-1701-52212, in the amount of \$13,740.00, for the purpose of funding expenditures, which were reimbursed through the approved Historic

Preservation Technical Assistance Grants (HPTAG), Maintenance & Repair, and donations from the Avon Historical Society for the restoration of windows at the Pine Grove Schoolhouse. Messrs: Harrison, Gugliotti, Hamilton, Stoll and Mmes: Bratton and Durdan voted in favor.

14/15-19 Supplemental Appropriation: Board of Education, \$480,378

In response to a question from Mr. Gugliotti, Mr. Robertson affirmed that this is a “wash” transaction. Mr. Spang added that the budgeted Grant money comes in in two pieces; the Open Choice Grant and the CREC Open Choice Grant for a total \$1,200,000.00. In the current school budget \$660,000.00 had been appropriated. In January additional funds were appropriated for Fisher Drive and this appropriation will finish appropriating the grant revenue.

In response to a question from Mr. Stoll, Mr. Spang stated that with the addition of the Chrome Book carts, the access has slowed down so we need to install more wireless access points in addition to more carts. In response to a question from Mr. Gugliotti, Ms. Zirolli stated the \$1,000,000 reimbursement is directly related to enrollment; how many we allow and how many do we actually have. We receive \$4500 per student for Kindergarten or pre K in addition to the normal \$8,000 per student.

On a motion made by Dean Hamilton, seconded by Cathy Durdan, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance hereby amends the FY 14/15 Budget by Increasing:

REVENUES

General Fund, Intergovernmental, Education Program Grant, Account #01-0330-43343 in the amount of \$480,378.00

and increasing

APPROPRIATIONS

General Fund, Intergovernmental, Education Program Grants, Account #01-9401-55000, in the amount of \$480,378.00, for the purpose of providing classroom technology, textbooks, professional development and personal services for the District.

Messrs: Harrison, Gugliotti, Hamilton, Stoll and Mmes: Bratton and Durdan voted in favor.

VI. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

A. Quarterly Financial Report Summary

A memo from Margaret Colligan to Brandon Robertson dated April 28, 2015 was included in the meeting packet detailing the financial information presented in the accompanying report. Ms. Colligan stated the entire document is on the web site.

B. Monthly Financial Report Summary

Details were included in the packet report dated period ended 3/31/15 prepared and reported by Ms. Colligan. She noted that included in Intergovernmental, we finally received the final payment from the State for the High School project in the amount of \$127,000. The reported 10.95% Unassigned Fund Balance has temporarily dropped to 10.1% due to the recent reimbursable appropriation of \$700,000 for the road project.

C. Short-Term Investment Fund (STIF) for FY 2014/2015

A memo from Margaret Colligan to Brandon Robertson dated March 26, 2015 was included in the meeting packet detailing the request for approval to set up a Short Term Investment Fund (STIF). Mr. Robertson stated this required approval from the Council, but does not require approval from the Board of Finance. Up until recently town used CLASS, this was like our savings account. With interest being what it is, CLASS made a business decision to get out of the business. This is where unassigned fund balance sits; it is millions of dollars. We have moved the funds to a STIF account similar to vehicles used by other towns. It is run by State Treasurer's office. Council has approved the transfer. In response to a question from Mr. Stoll, Mr. Robertson stated we need to look at our options. At one time, prior to his tenure, Avon had active cash management program. The daily rate for STIF is a .15% daily rate.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Robertson reviewed several interesting legislative updates with the Board. Avon belongs to CCM (Connecticut Conference of Municipalities), a lobby group. The most interesting piece of legislation in the hopper right now is known as Senate Bill 1. It is being marked up in Committee, you can go to the General Assembly website to look at it. The state is looking to implement a soft spending cap for towns. The second item is the motor vehicle tax issue; the State would impose limits on the local mill rate for motor vehicles. Finally, every session there seems to be an effort to resurrect the Heart & Hypertension concept.

On a motion made by Thomas Gugliotti, seconded by Thomas Harrison, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance authorizes Mr. Gugliotti to express the sentiment of the Board of Finance that we would be highly critical of anyone who supports either of these two Bills.

Messrs: Harrison, Gugliotti, Hamilton, Stoll and Mmes: Bratton and Durdan voted in favor.

Mr. Stoll requested to see a copy of the letter prior to it's distribution.

Mr. Robertson provided an update on the Horse Guard. In 2011 there was a move to consolidate the horse guard and merge Avon with Newtown. This didn't pass. The Governor's budget in January included language that reduced funding for the care & feeding of the horses. Letters were written. When the appropriations budget came out on 4/27, not only was the reduction in funding that was proposed by the Governor carry through, but this language that would close the Avon facility and merge it into Newtown was included. A representative from Newtown sits on the appropriation committee. There is a lot of concern about this. The Council is on board with keeping it exactly where it is. It is State owned property but the Town has a right of first refusal. Witcos & Becker have been helpful, a forced consolidation will not happen. He expects we will have to go out & raise funds to cover the cost of care & feeding of the horses. There is no deed restriction from when state took position from horse guard.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was none

IX. ADJOURN

On a motion made by Thomas Gugliotti, seconded by Thomas Harrison, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Messrs: Harrison, Gugliotti, Hamilton, Stoll and Mmes: Bratton and Durdan voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Thomas A. Gugliotti, Secretary

Attest: Mary Marinello, Clerk

All referenced material will be available to the public in the Town Clerk's office.