

**BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 22, 2015**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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, James Speich and Brian Stoll. A quorum was present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by James Speich.

**III. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE
(Including Board of Education Liaison Report)**

There was none.

IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING:

March 30, 2015 Regular Meeting

April 13, 2015 Public Hearing: Page 4, last paragraph, add “less than a mill” and change “really and officially” to “already”.

April 15, 2015 Budget Workshop: Page 3, 1st paragraph, 10th line change “8%” to “85% of the budget” and “add percent increase” after 1.7%.

April 15, 2015 Special Meeting

May 13, 2015 Special Meeting

On a motion made by Brian Stoll, seconded by Dean Hamilton, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance approves the minutes of the March 30, 2015 Regular Meeting, April 13, 2015 Public Hearing, April 15, 2015 Budget Workshop, April 15, 2015 Special Meeting and the May 13, 2015 Special Meeting as amended.

Messrs: Harrison, Gugliotti, Hamilton, Speich, Stoll and Mmes: Bratton and Durdan voted in favor. James Speich abstained from the vote for the March 30, 2015 and May 13, 2015 minutes.

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

14/15-20 Approve Suspense List, \$18,940.22 Deborah Fioretti, Collector of Revenue Ms. Fioretti stated items that are on the suspense list are not necessarily uncollectable. Avon collects about \$2,000 or less per year from items on this 15 year list. Mr. Harrison added that the list represents debts that are no longer actively being pursued for collection.

On a motion made by Mr. Gugliotti, seconded Mr. Speich, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance approve the suspense list as submitted by Deborah Fioretti.

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

14/15-21 Technology Lease/Purchase Approval

Mr. Robertson stated the background information is the same as presented during a previous meeting. He added that this request falls under the town's debt policy and requires both Council and Board of Finance approval. Mr. Spang stated the requested funds will be used to purchase chrome books (24/25 per each cart) and 32 carts. In response to a question from Ms. Bratton, Mr. Spang stated the term of the lease is for 60 months. In response to a question from Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Spang stated that there are still issues with the Wi-Fi being overloaded. The contractor has been chosen and the issue will be resolved over the summer.

On a motion made by Margaret Bratton, seconded by Brian Stoll, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance approve the Technology Lease/Purchase.

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

Mr. Harrison asked Mr. Spang to comment on a petition the Board of Education has received for a meeting to discuss the budgetary decision to drop the social workers and replace the positions with psychologists. Mr. Spang stated there is a statute in education law that states if a certain number of people petition the Board of Education, then the Board must hold a hearing. Parents wanted to be heard on a decision that brings more school psychologists into our schools and replaces some social workers. The Boards thought was that school psychologists can do everything that the social workers are currently responsible for and in addition they can provide services that the social workers cannot. The petition has been turned over to the Town Clerk to verify that the signatures meet the requirements, and if they do the Board will schedule a public hearing. Mr. Harrison asked if the psychologists were added, would there be any budgetary adjustments required. Mr. Spang stated he believed any adjustments would be internal to the approved budget. In response to a question from Ms. Bratton, Mr. Spang stated the cause for the petition is because the petitioners feel there is more of a human touch with social workers who interact with the students who have issues and the psychologists are perceived to have a more diagnostic relationship. In response to a question from Mr. Stoll, Mr. Spang stated the elimination of the Academic Level is in the approved budget. In response to a question from Ms. Bratton, Mr. Spang stated a schedule change will be implemented in September.

Mr. Harrison thanked Mr. Spang for his service to the town. His resignation was accepted by the Board of Education.

14/15-22 Supplemental Appropriation: Avon Rotary Club Grant to Avon Senior Center, \$500.00
Mr. Robertson stated that money has been donated from the Rotary Club to purchase a television for the Senior Center.

On a motion made by Margaret Bratton, seconded by Brian Stoll, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance approve the supplemental appropriation for the Senior Center.

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

VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**A. Monthly Financial Report Summary**

Details were included in the packet report dated period ended 4/30/15 prepared and

reported by Ms. Colligan. She stated that for Property Tax & Assessments, Licenses, Fees & Permits and Intergovernmental categories should all exceed 100%. Charges for services should come in at 93%. Other local revenues are also slightly increasing. In response to a question from Mr. Stoll, Ms. Colligan stated that she does not know when reimbursement for the Old Farms Road project will begin. She has reached out to Larry and Tom for their input.

B. FY 16 Adopted State Budget (Summary Prepared by CCM)

Mr. Robertson stated that he included this report in the monthly packet, however, he has not seen any of the implementation language. All of the funding for the Horse guard budget has been restored and they are not requiring consolidation with Newtown. Expansion of workers compensation coverage has failed. Cancer presumptions for firefighters and other public safety personnel have also failed, but we believe both will come back for discussion next year. Senate Bill 1 is still the most interesting. It will effectively cap the Mill rate a municipality can charge for a motor vehicle. This will include a soft cap. There are some items that are exempt from the cap. According to a conversation held today with CCM the State budget is still a work in progress. In response to a question from Mr. Stoll, Mr. Robertson stated he has not looked if this soft cap exists in other states. Mr. Robertson believes by August he will have better information to share. In response to a question from Mr. Speich, Mr. Robertson stated there is no official budget until the Governor signs it and he has not signed it and is not expected to until after the special legislative session. He feels the biggest issue will be how to manage the soft cap on spending increases and what the cap on the Mill rate really means. In response to a question from Mr. Stoll, Mr. Robertson confirmed SB 1 has been approved.

C. Miscellaneous Items

There was none.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Bratton stated she and Mr. Stoll had students graduate. She complemented the Board of Education for a well done ceremony.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was none.

X. ADJOURN

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

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Messrs: Harrison, Gugliotti, Hamilton, Speich, 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.