

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Robert Dixon, Treasurer, distributed the YTD results through February. Robert indicated that the YTD Property Tax revenue remains strong; the balance of the revenue items are on track to forecast. On the expenditure side we have added some \$10,000 to central services reflecting the repairs on the auditorium room, necessitated by the collapse of the heating element. We anticipate insurance should cover the bulk of the repairs. In total, assuming some FEMA reimbursement we should break even for the year.

Keith Crehan motioned to accept the Treasurer's report. Seconded by Fred Vollono and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT:

- A. Norman Needleman, First Selectman, requested from the Board of Finance approval of a withdrawal of \$5,000 from the Parks & Rec. sinking fund for an engineering study of Main Street Park to repair the bulk head.

Keith Crehan made a motion to make the withdrawal and it was seconded by Fred Vollono. It was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

- B. Norman Needleman, First Selectman, requested from the Board of Finance approval of a withdrawal of \$5,000 from the contingency account for costs incurred to repair the auditorium. CIRMA will cover 60% of the costs with our share being 40%.

Fred Vollono made a motion to approve the transfer of an amount not to exceed \$5,000 from the Board of Finance Contingency fund for the repairs. Seconded by Keith Crehan. It was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

- C. Essex Elementary School Budget – Lon Seidman, Chairman of Essex Elementary Board of Education presented the Board of Finance with their budget request for 2013/2014 Budget reflecting an overall increase of 1.33% or \$100,326 over the current appropriation for the school.

The budget plan addresses a drop in student enrollment by eliminating two teaching positions at the school. The current enrollment at the kindergarten through sixth grade school totals about 477 students, down from enrollment of 486 students during the 2011-2012 school year. Projections estimate an enrollment of about 455 students for the coming 2013-2014 school year.

The budget plan calls for reducing the number of classroom sections for the first, second, and third grades from four sections to three. But based on enrollment, the number of sections for the fifth grade would increase from four sections to five. There would be a net reduction of two teacher positions.

The budget funds only two physical plant improvements at the elementary school, including \$15,000 for interim repairs to the roof over the 1990 building addition, and \$5,000 for repairs to rubber flooring in hallways at the school. Town and school officials are planning for a more extensive roof repair project at the school, including the roof on the 1990 addition that received no improvements during the school renovation and expansion project that began in 2007.

Additional cost savings will be the teachers contributing more to their health benefit costs over last year.

OLD BUSINESS:

Request from Town Clerk to purchase a new Board of Finance Meeting Minutes book along with the special paper required for such filings. The cost would come out of the Town's Office Supply budget. Cost for the binder is approximately \$45.00 and the cost of the paper is \$65.00.

Keith Crehan made a motion to approve the purchases, seconded by Campbell Hudson. Unanimously passed. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: None

COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

An audience member thanked the Board of Education for a reduction in the budget of approximately \$400k and was also in favor of approving contingency fund withdrawals that are less than \$20K eliminating the need for a Town meeting up to that dollar amount.

ADJOURNMENT:

Keith Crehan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. seconded by Fred Vollono. Unanimously passed. Motion carried.