

**Town of Essex  
29 West Avenue  
Board of Finance  
Special Meeting – Meeting Room A  
March 26, 2015**

**MINUTES**

In attendance: Keith Crehan, Chair, Fred Vollono, Campbell Hudson, Don Mesite.

Absent: Mary-Louise Polo, Jeffrey Woods

Others in Attendance:           Norman Needleman, First Selectman  
  Bruce Glowac, Selectman  
  Stacia Libby, Selectman  
  Kelly Sterner, Finance Director  
  Maria Lucarelli, Recording Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER:** Board of Finance Meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Campbell Hudson to approve the Agenda, seconded by Don Mesite. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

**2015 – 2016 Budget**

Campbell Hudson wanted to go over the significant budget drivers. Kelly Sterner reported on the following drivers:

- The principal portion of the debt service is a large driver due to scheduled payments for outstanding debt
- The Police Services budget includes a proposed increase to the police staffing level
- The pension plan contribution increased. The Town changes actuaries this past fiscal year. They recommended several changes to assumptions including the update of the mortality tables being used for the actuarial calculation.
- Health insurance premiums are expected to increase 4.5%
- Eversource was granted a significant rate increase. Based on this, we increased the electricity budgets throughout the budget
- Technology budget is up primarily due to the costs associated with the implementation of the VoIP phone system
- Liability, Auto, and Property insurance premiums went up 10% based on experience
- The Emergency 9-1-1 went up 12%. Valley Shore Communications provides our 9-1-1 service and their request has increased significantly due to the inclusion of a capital budget
- The Health Department increased to allow for registered sanitarian services on a consulting basis
- Sanitary Waste Commission budget and Clean Energy budget were eliminated from the proposed request for FY 2015-2016

The Town government budget proposal reflects a 3.53% increase. With the inclusion of the proposed Essex BOE budget and R4 budget, the total projected budget increase would be a \$151,973 increase which is up .66% over the current fiscal year.

Don Mesite made a motion to submit for review and discussion at Public Hearing the 2015-2016 Board of Selectmen's Budget in the amount of \$7,456,687 and the Essex Elementary School 2015-2016 budget of \$7,560,101, seconded by Fred Vollono. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion made by Keith Crehan to adjourn at 7:42 p.m., seconded by Don Mesite. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Maria Lucarelli