

BOARD OF FINANCE
Following Public Hearing - Auditorium

Town of Essex
29 West Avenue
Essex, CT 06426

April 24, 2014

MINUTES

In attendance: Keith Crehan, Chairman, Campbell Hudson, Vice Chairman, Jeffrey Woods, Mary-Louise Polo, Don Mesite. Absent: Fred Vollono

Others in attendance: Norman Needleman, First Selectman
Kelly Sterner, Finance Director
Yvonne Roziak, Recording Secretary

Meeting called to order at: 9:20 p.m. by Keith Crehan, Chairman

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Jeffrey Woods, seconded by Don Mesite. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Campbell Hudson requested that the BOS budget presentation to the BOF be included as part of the BOF Minutes of March 27, 2014 under "Board of Selectmen's 2014-2015 Budget".

Campbell Hudson made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Don Mesite. Passed unanimously. Motion carried. (Amended minutes reflecting recommended changes have been filed with the Town Clerk).

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Kelly Sterner, Finance Director provided the following financial report for the fiscal year through the month ending March 31, 2014:

REVENUES:

Current Property Tax collections of \$236,659 for the month of March bring the total YTD collections to \$20,801,997 or 98.7% of budget. Once again, this is slightly short of the collection rate as of March month-end of the prior year but higher in absolute dollars. Our biggest contributors to local revenue, Building permits, Conveyance Taxes and Town Clerk fees, continue to be strong and each already exceed 90% of their full year budgeted amounts. I have included full year forecasted revenue of \$22,801,298.

Based particularly on the Municipal Revenue Sharing and Municipal Grant in Aid as well as the return of the R4 surplus, this total revenue covers the budgeted decrease in the unassigned fund and would finish the fiscal year approximately \$117K over budgeted revenue.

EXPENDITURES:

Total expenditures as of March month end of \$17,997,708 represent 79.3% of the total fiscal year budget. While this is slightly higher compared to March month end of the prior fiscal year, most of the blame can be pointed at the costs incurred in connection with the winter storms. Spending for the month of March showed no unexpected surprises. The full fiscal year forecast shows only a couple budget lines with fairly certain expectations of over/under spending. The Highway Department is a given but the magnitude is not yet fully known. The Town Garage has incurred substantial heating expense this year. Employee Benefits currently look to underspend on budgeted unemployment expense. And the Elementary School is currently projecting a small surplus.

Should these projections hold, we would end the fiscal year with a surplus of almost \$79K. This is an estimate only and much can change in the final quarter of the fiscal year. I will refine these projections as more information becomes available.

Motion made by Don Mesite to accept the Financial Report, seconded by Jeff Woods. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT:

Norm Needleman, First Selectman stated his satisfaction with the process and outcome of the Public Hearing. He thanked those responsible for their presentations on the proposed 2014-2015 expenditures.

OLD BUSINESS:

Campbell Hudson made a motion to approve and move to Town Meeting the proposed 2014-2015 expenditures in the amount of \$23,056,963 for the support of schools, highways and the general government and other necessary objects. Jeff Woods seconded the motion and it was unanimously approve. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: None

COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Mary-Louise Polo made a motion to adjourn at 9:35 p.m., seconded by Jeff Woods. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

***Yvonne Roziak
Recording Secretary***