

MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
BOARD OF FINANCE
LISBON CENTRAL SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2017
7:00 P.M.

The Board of Finance held a public hearing at the Lisbon Central School, 15 Newent Road, Lisbon, Connecticut on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at 7:00 PM, on the following:

To present and scilicet comments from taxpayers on the proposed Fiscal Year 2017/2018 General Government and Education budgets.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Zelasky, Thomas Wakely, Frank Burzycki, Jim McCloud, Robert Dufort, Denice Duplice; Leo MacDonald (Alternate)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Miles LaFemina, Wayne Donaldson (Alternates)

Chairman Michael Zelasky presented a report on the proposed General Government and Education Budgets for the 2017/2018 Fiscal Year. He stated that the state budget should be out by the end of June, but that by town ordinance, the annual town meeting must be held the first Monday in May. The Board of Finance will vote on the proposed budgets on Wednesday, April 12. He also stated that the budget starts with a deficit of \$240,000.00, with a proposed cut by the governor of \$1.9 million to the FY 2017/2018 budget.

Chairman Zelasky stated that the Board of Education is proposing a 0% increase over the last fiscal year budget, in spite of increases in salaries, tuition and insurance. He stated that the town can expect as much as a 15% cut to the budget should the Governor's proposed budget pass the Senate. This would require as much as a 5 mil increase in taxes.

Chairman Zelasky asked for public comment. Alison Orcutt stood to support the Board of Education budget and asked the Board of Finance to do the same.

Shelley Apperson, 128 Kimball Road, asked the Board to please support the Board of Education budget of 0% increase over last year, saying it is a reasonable budget.

Matt Orcutt asked how many years the Board of Education presented a 0% increase? Chairman Zelasky stated that the budget has gone from .5% to 1% increase over the last 9 years.

Rich Rogers thanked the Board for coming in at 0% increase. He asked if the Board of Finance could hold its meeting after April 27th, as no one knows what will happen with the state budget. Chairman Zelasky stated that it all comes down to the town ordinance, and the BoE and BoF must have time to make cuts, if need be. Mr. Rogers asked what happens if mil rate is set but numbers come in from state unfavorably? Chairman Zelasky responded saying that that we are stuck as are other towns, and would like to hear what the townspeople would want to do. Mr. Rogers asked what are town officials doing to put pressure on the Reps in Hartford? L. MacDonald interjected that the townspeople should send massive amounts of letters to our representatives in order to get a waiver for the date of the town meetings, to give the towns more time.

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Deedee Gothier is concerned that the April 12 meeting is Spring break and families will be on vacation. Chairman Zelasky clarified that the April 12 meeting was for the Board of Finance to vote on the proposed budgets to bring before the town to vote on in May.

Marlene LePine asked if there would definitely be a decrease in state funding, and if so, what are our options? Will we increase taxes, or try to raise the money in another way? R. Rogers asked if we will have an option at the referendum to determine how we get the \$1.9 million? Chairman Zelasky stated that we do not know what will happen with the state until June. If it is \$1.9 million, we will have to make it up in taxes.

Chris Denesha of 199 Kimball Road asked where the cuts would be? Thomas W. Sparkman, First Selectman, answered that the cuts will be in things that the townspeople want, such as road plans, spring clean up, drainage, other programs and services.

Ian Rogers, Chairman of the Board of Education, stated that the Board already cut \$600,000.00 to stay at the 0% increase. There really is nothing more to cut, and said that the state is going after the more financially stable towns.

Chris Denesha responded and asked the Board of Finance to keep the 0% increase on both the Board of Ed and General Government budgets.

Tara Hood, 42 Lisbon Heights, supports the 0% increase. Dave Norakowsky, a member of the BoE, stated that the middle step has been eliminated.

Ken Mahler, 72 Bushnell Road, said if we stay at 0% increase and the state does not come through, your only chance is to raise the mil rate.

The following residents stood in support of the 0% increase of the General Government and/or Board of Education budgets: Kim Bryant, 52 Club House Road; Heather Gigliotti, 124 Strawberry Street (BoE); Kelly Burch, 306 Ross Hill Road; Marcia Orcutt; Tricia Maynard, 166 Ross Hill Road (BoE); Judy Zegasky, 266 Ross Hill Road (BoE); Aimee Riley, 56 Mell Road (BoE).

Tara Hood, 42 Lisbon Heights, asked what is a "non-allocated expenditure"? Chairman Zelasky pointed Ms. Hood to page 16 of the hound-outs.

Mr. Rogers, Chairman of the Board of Education, asked if the town supports 100% of the State Trooper costs? First Selectman T. Sparkman responded that we are at 85% of the costs. Alison Orcutt asked if the Resident State Trooper was designed to actually live in the community, and shouldn't there be a DARE Program? We have not had DARE in the last 2 years in the school system.

Sally Keating, LCS Superintendant, stated that there has been a semblance of the program but not to the extent of DARE. Ms. Orcutt said that the community is plagued by drug problems and that the program

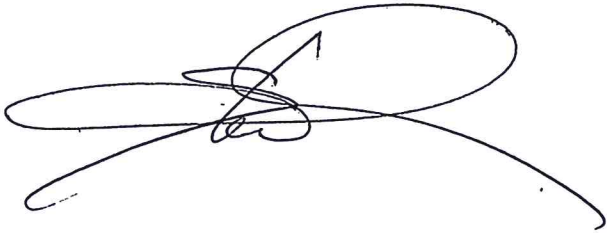
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is necessary. Alyssa Fabry, 53 Sergeants Way and a teacher at LCS, said she is trying to incorporate DARE with her program. Last year, the school did not have a program at all – this year has also been a struggle.

Rich Rogers asked, where are we with the incinerator? First Selectman T. Sparkman stated that we are at 22 years and 6 months from the date the incinerator started operating. He stated the contract will be ending on March 27, 2019 if we go by the date that the DEEP gave them the permit.

Deedee Gothier asked the Board of Finance how they felt about all this, and Chairman Zelasky answered that they are currently just trying to gather information from the townspeople.

This Public Hearing was closed at 7:53 PM.



Elaine Joseph, clerk

APPROVED: _____
Michael Zelasky, Chairman

RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT LISBON
CT ON 4/10/17 AT 10:35am
ATTEST. LAURIE TIROCCHI, TOWN CLERK
