

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
NOVEMBER 27, 2017  
7:00 PM  
LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM**

**1. Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Jim Persano.

**2. Members Present**

In attendance were Jim Persano, Joe Tolisano, Tom Mazzoli, Bill Salka, and Michael Parker. Also in attendance were CFO Mike Marinaccio, Selectman Kathy Devlin, and Selectman Tim Potrikus.

**3. Swearing in Elected Officials**

The officials had already been sworn in before the meeting occurred.

**4. CFO's Update**

Mike Marinaccio presented an updated on the status of the Somersville Mill Remediation project and on the Mountain Road Reconstruction Project. Both projects are trending to be on budget or under-budget by time of completion.

**5. Budget Update**

**a. State Budget Impact**

Mike Marinaccio updated the Board with the status of the approved budget that was passed by the State legislature on 10/25/2017. The final budget that was passed reduced the Town's state-aid by \$495k. These State cuts were absorbed by the Town through cuts to departments but without cutting any positions or threatening public safety in Town.

**b. Cuts and Holdbacks**

On November 17, 2017, the State made a round of holdbacks in State Municipal Aid. For the Town of Somers, this equates to \$600k. These holdbacks coupled with the previous cuts with the approved budget total \$1.1 million to the Town of Somers.

*A motion was made by Tom Mazzoli to add an agenda item for the discussion of solutions to the cuts made by the State, seconded by Jim Persano. There was no further discussion and a unanimous decision followed.*

**c. Budget Solutions**

Mike Marinaccio presented the Board with the implementer bill that was part of the approved State budget. The implementer bill allows the Board of Finance to levy additional taxes by February 1, 2018 under CGS 7-567. Marinaccio expressed that due to the negative outlook issued by Moody's and only having

14% in reserves that the use of fund balance is not an option to the Finance Department.

Michael Parker asked what the drop-dead date is to issue new bills if the Town goes that way. Marinaccio informed him that December 20 is the date to have bills issued by January 1, 2018 and it would be some time during January to issue bills for February 1, 2018.

Jim Persano expressed that waiting until February could create push-back with so many billings.

Tom Mazzoli asked what the Finance Department's recommendation would be. Marinaccio responded with a 1.5 mill increase.

The Board recommended that the Board of Selectmen setup a public informational hearing in early January, preferably January 11, to inform the public of what is happening and how the Town plans to address it.

## **6. BOE Update**

There was no update from the Board of Education.

## **7. Selectmen's Update**

Kathy Devlin informed the Board that we had qualified for a grant for the Somersville Mill and had moved on to stage 2 in the process. The Town is applying for additional funding to finish more work at the site of the mill. The maximum grant award is \$200k.

## **8. 2018 BOF Regular Meeting Schedule**

*A motion was made by Michael Parker to approve the schedule of meetings presented for the Board of Finance for Calendar Year 2018, seconded by Joe Tolisano. There was no further discussion and a unanimous decision followed.*

## **9. 2018 CIP Regular Meeting Schedule**

*A motion was made by Michael Parker to approve the schedule of meeting presented for the CIP Committee for Calendar Year 2018, seconded by Joe Tolisano. There was no further discussion and a unanimous decision followed.*

## **10. Approval of Minutes**

### **a. 10/23/17 Regular BOF Meeting Minutes**

*A motion was made by Joe Tolisano to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2017 meeting with the following amendments, seconded by Tom Mazzoli. There was no further discussion and a unanimous decision followed.*

Michael Parker expressed to Mike Marinaccio and Bill Boutwell that the entire Board felt that no Town of Education employee's should be laid off. While the Board of Finance does not control employment status, if layoffs are due to unexpected state funding, the Board will find a solution.

**11. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**12. Adjournment**

*A motion was made by Tom Mazzoli to adjourn at 7:44 pm, seconded by Joe Tolisano. There was no further discussion and a unanimous decision followed.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Wissinger

*MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING*