

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
DECEMBER 18, 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, Bill Salka, and Michael Parker. Also in attendance were CFO Mike Marinaccio, First Selectman Bud Knorr, Selectman Kathy Devlin, and Superintendent of Schools Brian Czapl.

**3. BOE Update**

Superintendent of Schools Brian Czapl presented the Board of Education's long range facilities plan which was recently approved by the BOE. The plan begins where the initial building assessment left off. It provides detailed cost estimates for all recommended repairs and improvements. It also categorizes what particular items should be addressed by the CIP or considered for bonding. Brian acknowledged that he understood that in the difficult budget environment the Town is encountering, these items might not be immediately addressed, but he felt that all of the items in the plan would ultimately need to be addressed in the future. Jim Persano assured him that the BOF and the CIP would work with the BOE even during these difficult times ensure that the Town's investment in its schools are preserved and well maintained.

**4. Selectmen's Update**

First Selectman Bud Knorr informed the Board that the Selectmen voted not to replace the position of Police Lieutenant. He also stated that they were looking into the possibility of videotaping BOS and BOF meetings. Such a videotaping system should be up-and-running shortly. Bud then briefly discussed some budget items and stated that the CFO, Mike Marinaccio would elaborate and provide a detailed report.

**5. CFO's Update**

Chief Financial Officer Mike Marinaccio provided a further update from last month's meeting on the status of the approved budget that was passed by the State legislature on 10/25/2017 and the round of budget holdbacks announced by the State OPM on November 17, 2017. The budget cuts reduced the Town's state-aid by \$498,000 or (0.59 mills). These State cuts were absorbed by the Town and the BOE through cuts to various departments, but without cutting any positions, impacting education or threatening public safety in Town. On the other hand, the \$602,000 (0.72 mills) in additional cuts or holdbacks will require a supplemental tax levy. The CFO expressed reluctance in using any more of the fund reserves to close the gap, as doing so would very likely jeopardize

the Town's bond rating. The total revenue shortfall is approximately \$1.1 million or a mill equivalent of 1.30.

Mike indicated that lawmakers might hold a special session after Christmas; however, it was unlikely they would address any shortfalls in municipal aid. He then presented a Mill Rate Comparison chart and a Supplemental Tax Increase Impact chart. Finally, he reminded the Board that the Selectmen have scheduled an informational meeting on the proposed additional tax levy to be held at Town Hall on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 7:00 pm. He also stated he would schedule a Special Meeting of the Board immediately following the informational meeting to discuss and vote on any proposals for an additional tax levy.

**6. Appropriations and Transfers**

None

**7. Approval of Minutes**

**a. 11/27/17 Regular BOF Meeting Minutes**

*A motion was made by Joe Tolisano to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2017 meeting seconded by Bill Salka. There was no further discussion and a unanimous decision followed.*

**8. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**9. Adjournment**

*A motion was made by Mike Parker to adjourn at 8:40 pm, seconded by Joe Tolisano. There was no further discussion and a unanimous decision followed.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Parker

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