

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
March 10, 2020  
7:00 PM  
Lower Level Conference Room**

**1. Call To Order**

Kathy Devlin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**2. Members Present**

In attendance were Joe Tolisano, Michael Parker, Kathy Devlin, Bill Salka, and Bill Meier. Also, in attendance was CFO Michael Marinaccio, First Selectman Bud Knorr, DPW Director Todd Rolland, Fire Chief John Roache, Superintendent Brian Czapla, Business Manager Bill Boutwell, and Assistant Finance Director Brian Wissinger.

**3. FY 2021 Budget Presentation and Discussion with BOE**

Superintendent Brian Czapla presented the Board of Education approved budget to the Board of Finance. Czapla is requesting an increase of \$805,833 or 3.37%. Salaries, Insurance Costs, and Transportation contracts are the 3 main cost drivers of the increase, totaling \$675k of the increase.

Michael Parker inquired about the salary costs. Czapla explained that the increase covers the entire staff.

Parker asked if there have been any savings in the current year due to the mild winter and asked if the Board of Education had any end of year projections for a return to fund balance. Czapla replied that the information had not been compiled yet, but his early estimate is \$50-100k.

Tolisano asked if the Town had an early estimate for returns to the general fund.

Wissinger responded that the early projections are \$200k.

Parker asked where we are with enrollment. Czapla responded that enrollment is down but the trends are showing an increase of 6.5% over the next 5 years.

Meier thanked the Superintendent and the Town for the combined partnerships that have grown over the years. Meier asked what the Superintendent anticipated for future increases from the Board of Education. Czapla responded that he anticipates a lower increase in the coming years, closer to the 3% mark.

#### **4. FY 2021 Budget Follow-up and Discussion with BOS**

First Selectman Knorr presented a follow-up of the Town budget after the last Board of Finance meeting. Knorr explained the increases on the Town side with health insurance being the main driver. Even though the premium increase is 0%, the number of individuals on health insurance has increased and therefore are increasing the total cost of coverage.

Salka asked what falls into the “Other” category. Wissinger explained that other includes items such as postage, advertising, credit card fees, and election costs.

Meier asked about increases in the Fire Department and the trend in the revenue projections for the Ambulance Fund transfer. Wissinger replied that \$400k in future years is a realistic projection.

Kathy Devlin asked about Credit Card Fees. Wissinger explained that is the cost associated with having the credit card machines in Town and the taking of payments.

#### **5. CIP Update and FY2021 Recommendations**

CFO Marinaccio explained the items on the CIP FY2021 Budget and the annualized cost for the year. Marinaccio then explained the breakdown of the capital fund balance and the expenses associated with it.

*Joe Tolisano made a motion to approve the FY2021 Capital Budget Plan of \$801,224, seconded by Bill Salka. Meier asked if the mower and the Kubota would be shared between the Town and the Board of Education. Meier asked why discretionary funds would not be pre-authorized for use. A unanimous decision followed.*

#### **6. FY2021 Revenue and Expense Analysis**

CFO Marinaccio gave the Board a handout showing the projected FY21 expenses and revenues, leaving a budget gap of \$1,185,836. He also gave them a breakdown of various mill rate increases and uses of fund balance to fill the gap.

Tolisano asked what was the recommendation of the CFO. Marinaccio responded that he would not go any lower than a ½ mill increase to protect the financial health of the Town.

#### **7. FY2021 Budget Recommendations and Decisions**

Tolisano asked what was the recommendation of the CFO. Marinaccio responded that he would not go any lower than a ½ mill increase to protect the financial health of the Town. Wissinger recommended a .63 mill increase because of the FY22 increases plus use of fund balance in FY21 will only increase the gap in the coming years.

**8. Review of Meeting and Referendum Dates**

Wissinger gave the Board an updated calendar with the upcoming dates laid out on it.

**9. Adjournment**

*Joe Tolisano made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm, seconded by Bill Salka. There was no further discussion and a unanimous decision followed.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Wissinger

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

*Video of this meeting can be found at*

*<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCitLJypaGg5rGsVVbsUYK8A>*