

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF FINANCE
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
SOMERS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITROIUM
APRIL 26, 2011**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman, Jim Persano called the public hearing to order at 7:00 pm.

Board of Finance Members: Michael Parker, Tom Mazzoli, George Warner and Marilyn Pronovost were present. Also present First Selectman, Lisa Pellegrini, Kathy Devlin and Bud Knorr, of the Board of Selectmen, and Town CFO, Kim Marcotte. Dr. Maynard Suffredini, Bill Boutwell and Tim Potrikus from the Board of Education, along with a large crowd of interested citizens were also present.

II. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012 BUDGET:

The purpose of the hearing was to receive public comment and discuss the 2011-2012 fiscal year budgets of the Town and Board of Education. Presentations were made by Mr. Persano, Chairman for the Board of Finance, Ms. Pellegrini, First Selectman and Dr. Suffredini, Superintendent of Schools outlining the various aspects of the Town and Board of Education budgets as well as proposed revenues supporting the budgets.

Numerous audience members spoke to support the restoration of funding to the Town, in particular to support the Library operations, and Board of Education.

A number of audience members spoke to support an increase in the proposed mil rate thus reducing the reliance on the use of the general fund balance for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Reasons to not heavily rely on the use of fund balance included the amount of general fund balance being used in the current fiscal year, the uncertainty of state revenues for next year and the contractual obligations in future years. With an increase of a full mil to \$22.12, the tax rate for Somers would still be one of the lowest in the state.

Audience members spoke against an increase to the mil rate citing individuals on fixed incomes and those unemployed who may have problems meeting their obligations if the mil rate was to increase.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Parker to adjourn the April 26, 2011, Board of Finance special meeting at 9:55 pm; seconded by Mr. Warner, and unanimously voted as approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Marcotte, CFO