

**BOARD OF FINANCE
PUBLIC EXECUTIVE BUDGET SESSION--DRAFT
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 28, 2012**

Pursuant to the call and written notice, the Public Executive Budget Hearing of the Board of Finance was held on Thursday, March 1, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the Board of Education Administrative Offices, Seminar Room 300, 501 Kings Highway East, Fairfield, CT.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Thomas Flynn, Robert Bellitto, Jr., Ken Brachfeld, Mary LeClerc, Robert Stone, Elaine Gaffney, James Brown

MEMBERS ABSENT

Christopher DeWitt, Kevin Kiley

ALSO PRESENT

Michael Tetreau, Cristin McCarthy-Vahey, Board of Selectmen, Town of Fairfield
Paul Hiller, Chief Fiscal Officer and Clerk of the Board of Finance
Linda Gardiner, Budget Director, Town of Fairfield

Chairman Tom Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Mr. Flynn reminded all present that tonight's meeting is strictly for discussion between Board of Finance Members on the Town and Board of Education budgets and that there will be no public comments allowed this evening.

Mr. Flynn invited First Selectman Mike Tetreau to present the adjustments made to the budget set forth by the Board of Selectmen on Monday, March 26, 2011.

Mr. Tetreau informed the Board of the following adjustments approved by the BOS:

- Add 1 mil into the Internal Service Fund (to help the deficit in this account) – adding that the BOS looked for savings in other line items to help balance out this adjustment (eliminated some work attendance bonuses, for example)
- \$250,000 cut from the BOE
- Cuts were also made to the surplus and legal accounts

Discussion took place on the projections for the end of year on the general fund (if trend continues we could be estimating a 1.5 mil surplus; the affect the additional 1 mil into the ISF would have (marginally improve the fund-assuming everything else is right on target in the budget).

Mr. Flynn made it know that this Board is highly concerned with the Reserve Balance, Internal Service Fund, General Fund and the Pension.

Discussion took place on salaries for the 2 Registrar of Voters. Salaries need to be set prior to term, which would begin in November and the Board is scheduled to vote on these salaries tomorrow night.

Mr. Brachfeld mentioned that he will be proposing a \$100, 00 cut in the investment revenue account and would like to see a breakdown of fees paid to providers.

Discussion occurred on the presentation provided on the pension fund from the actuary, different scenarios and assumptions in calculations, drastic changes and inflation rate. Mr. Tetreau told the Board that the Board of Selectmen accepted the recommendations from the actuary.

Mr. Brachfeld told the Board he is very uncomfortable with the assumptions and changes, and the ARC from last year to this year (40%) presented by the actuary and will make a motion to increase the pension contribution to equal last year's contribution and asked that it be spread across to all the areas involved-Town, Board of Education, School Lunch and WPCA.

Mr. Brachfeld stated that with this action the Board would be investing in the Town's future –not spending.

Mr. Brown , Bellitto and Flynn voiced support on this action.

Mr. Flynn led a discussion on the Major Budget Drivers, including those which are contractual and cannot be changed; state of the General Fund; actions being taken to increase certain funds in lieu of negative comments from rating agencies-including our Internal Service Fund, OPEB and contingency accounts.

Mr. Hiller made the Board aware of necessary budget line changes needed as a result of the recently settled Fire contract and the effect in this year's and next year's budget.

Mr. Stone questioned the additional staffing request for the Building Department. It was made known that the contingency account was increase for future additional staffing, however, Mr. Tetreau would like to review where the staffing is most needed, cost effective and the effect on departmental budgets before committing to specific staffing requests.

Mr. Stone began discussion on the town's charitable contributions and Board members expressed confusion as to which contributions are mandated and those that are not; tough economic times for all and these lines should be cut. Board members supported looking into cutting in this area and ask for more information going forward on how these contributions are determined.

Mr. Hiller informed the Board of one change- that the Fairfield Theatre Company expenses have been removed from the Private Agencies and now can be found in separate line items in the Public Works budget.

Mr. Brachfeld asked going forward the revenues received from the Fairfield Theatre Company should have a separate line item in the budget and removed from the Town property revenue line.

Mr. Brown commented on the out of control worker's compensation figures, high year after year and requests quarterly updates to the Board for more information and to review more frequently.

Motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Bellitto, seconded by Mr. Stone. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm

Respectfully submitted by Christine S. Boccamazzo