

Finance Committee Meeting
Minutes – February 18, 2015

Town Hall, Lower Level Hearing Room, 7:30 P.M.

Members Present: Aaron Agulnek, William Brack, Arnold Cohen, Gordon Gladstone, Charles Goodman,
Ira Miller, Edward Philips (late), (Hamilton)

Absent: Patricia-Lee Achorn, Alexander Korin, Laura Nelson

1. The first item on the agenda was Fred Turkington discussing the tax bills. Revenue issues didn't come in; agreement with cell tower didn't come in; Pond Street purchase, and Snow and Ice deficit. \$1.1M in items voted by residents. First and second estimated quarters, then adjusted February and May bill to make up what wasn't there.
2. There was some discussion on the high tax bill with an average of 7.9% increase with some as high as 16%.
3. The next item on the agenda was Snow and Ice budget.
4. There was much discussion regarding Snow and Ice and having another deficit. That budget has been exhausted. The Reserve Fund should be used completely for Snow and Ice, but a suggestion that an amount be saved for something else unforeseen. A plan is needed to reduce spending.
5. Fred Turkington announced that \$165,000 was to be returned from the steel building. The Capital project deficit will now be \$870,000 instead of \$1.262M.
6. The next item was the Priorities process.
7. Fred Turkington stated that year to year was based on revenue projections.
8. There was considerable discussion regarding Priorities and one-time revenues. The majority of Priorities Committee members in favor of spending all the revenue.
9. More discussion on trying to keep taxes from rising, where there might be reductions in expenses, no deficit increases, not to exceed 2.5%, one-time revenues disappearing, and more long-term planning discussions needed.
10. The next item on the agenda was the School Department preliminary budget. Tim Farmer, Superintendent, Jamal Mosley, Assistant Superintendent, Susan Owen, Business Manager.
11. Tim Farmer stated the preliminary budget was voted this past Wednesday. The vote was 5-1. The overall increase was 3.45%, \$40,001,468.58.
12. There were many questions submitted to the Superintendent that he answered in explaining the items in the budget. Some questions regarded the foreign language program both current and proposed for elementary. Staffing requirements were also discussed. Projected enrollment numbers, future needs for the buildings, and where there could be any reductions were discussed. The School Department will be back for the full budget review.

13. Aaron Agulnek left the meeting at 9:30 p.m.
14. The next meeting will be Monday, February 23, 2015.
15. It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** to adjourn.
16. **VOTED:** 6-0-0.
17. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.