

Board of Finance
Special Meeting (followed the close of the Public Hearing)
April 4, 2017

MINUTES

Present: Chairman James (Jim) Fitzgerald, Reggie Smith, Steve Tuxbury, Ben Witte, Dan Charest, Bart Baxter; Alternate Members Maria Moore, Bob Nilsson; Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward serving as Recording Secretary.

Chairman Jim Fitzgerald called the Special Meeting to order at 10:30 PM.

2017-2018 New Hartford Budget: discuss (all aspects –town, schools, capital, revenue, etc) and take any action on the proposed 2017-2018 budget:

Members of the Board of Finance discussed the fact that it was late and debated as to whether or not to go forward with the special meeting. Some discussion occurred that some feedback should be given to the Regional School Board regarding their proposed budget.

MOTION: by Smith to not support the Region 7 budget as its current level and ask them to reduce it to a more palatable (lower) level; seconded by Tuxbury.

Chairman Fitzgerald remarked that he had already sent communication to the Regional Board asking them to reduce their budget to a level that would relate to a 0% increase in assessment. He stated that he heard nothing from them.

Member Smith agreed that they should be asked to keep their budget at last year's funding level.

AYE: Fitzgerald, Smith, Tuxbury, Charest, Baxter
Motion carries.

Opposed: Witte

Member Charest asked that there be another meeting called to take action on the proposed budgets. He noted that it was late and it would not be right to hold such a discussion this evening.

Member Moore noted that the Board of Education has called a special meeting for the following evening in order to take any action needed to address whatever the Board of Finance decided with respect to their proposed budget. She stated that, at the very least, the Board of Finance should respond to them with the same message that will be sent to the Regional Board of Ed.

Member Witte stated that he would go along with Member Charest and request that an additional meeting be held to review the budgets, but he also felt that there should be action taken with the local

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school board since they were planning to meet. Witte noted that a discussion for the next meeting should include the topic of the teacher pensions being included in the budget as that may not happen.

Board of Education Member Pat Spaziani asked that the Board of Finance recognize that the Superintendent is obligated to give direction to staff by May 1 regarding their status for the following school year. She asked that the Board of Education be given their direction sooner rather than later in order not to miss that deadline.

Mr. Fitzgerald replied that he was under the impression that Superintendent Murphy will take action that may be needed and Superintendent Murphy responded that he will be able to meet that obligation.

A decision was made to meet again on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

MOTION: *by Witte to adjourn at 10:45 PM, seconded by Charest.*

Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Hayward, Substitute for Penny Miller, Recording Secretary

There are no attachments to these minutes.