

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman M. Dougherty called the meeting to order at 7 pm.
2. **Roll Call:**
Michael Dougherty (Present)
David Fortin (Present)
Roy Bradrick, Jr. (Present)
Frederick Chmura (Present)
Michael Bernardi (Present)
Jeffery Kelleher (Present)
Barry Shead (Alternate) (Present)
Charlene Cutler (Alternate) (Present)
Excused: Michele Woz (Alternate)
Noted for the Record: Quorum
Others Present: First Selectman Swan, Victor Toth, Janice Thurlow, Members of the Board of Education Holly Dearborn, Meagan Bard Morse, and others, Preston Schultz, Kevin Withers, Members of the Public
3. **Seat Alternate if Necessary:** None.
4. **Approve Minutes from February 11, 2020 Regular Meeting:**

Frederick Chmura **Moved** to **Approve** the February 11, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes as presented; Mike Bernardi **Seconded**; **Motion Carried Unanimously.**
5. **Public Comment:** Preston Schultz asked the BOF what category the asset would be placed in from Woodstock Academy's capital assessment charge. Chairman Dougherty explained that this has not been determined yet and he would get back to Mr. Schultz.
6. **Old Business:**
 - A. **Update on State Budget:** Chairman Dougherty stated there was nothing new to report on this item.
 - B. **Update on Local Bridge Project:** Chairman Dougherty stated there was nothing new to report on this item. First Selectman Swan shared that the state money is expected at some point, but there is no clear timeframe.
7. **New Business:**
 - A. **BOE FY 20-21 Budget Presentation:** Superintendent Victor Toth thanked the Board of Finance for the BOE's annual invitation to present its proposed budget. Mr. Toth referenced the last page of the FY 20-21 BOE budget proposal, which indicates an overall increase of \$20,409,769 or 9.49%. Taking into consideration the removal of fixed costs (WA tuition, health insurance, and contractual obligations), the increase represents 5.7%.

Janice Thurlow provided highlights from the budget presentation and then opened it up for Q&A. She shared their change in methodology on reporting the budget to the BOF so that it is in line with how they report to the state.

Significant increases include WA tuition (5.9%), health insurance (3.5%), union-related contractual obligations and new staffing. A summary of increases was presented to the BOF and included:

- \$705,498 – WA tuition (\$152,850 regular education; \$552,648 special education)
- \$260,952 – Elementary School (new reading program; contractual obligations; new kindergarten teacher; quarter-time curriculum coordinator)
- \$241,927 – Middle School (restore athletic funding; half-time media specialist; quarter-time curriculum coordinator; contractual obligations)
- \$773,693 – Special Education (health insurance; contractual obligations; WA per student special education costs)
- \$249,939 – Health Insurance (3.5% regional pricing; expanded by 17 participants)
- \$18,004 – Transportation (DATTCO; athletic trips)
- \$59,525 – Maintenance (half-time staff; contractual obligations)

Ms. Thurlow shared potential solutions as a result of this increase, which included accessing the remaining balance of the Health Reserve Fund of approximately \$440,000, and the recent introduction to an Early Retirement Incentive Plan, which has already resulted in a \$100,000 savings. The deadline for qualified ERIP candidates is March 12, 2020. Ms. Thurlow closed her presentation and opened it up for questions.

Regarding the insurance plan, Ms. Thurlow and Ms. Bard-Morse explained that the current plan is comparable to the old plan and backed by the state. Relative to transportation, the contract with DATTCO expires in FY 21-22. The subsidy from DATTCO of \$100,000 will expire at that time as well. Ms. Thurlow confirmed that the final payment on the WA capital assessment is \$218,136 and the BOE's contract with WA expires in June of 2021.

At the last meeting, the BOF requested a representative from the BOE speak with WA to better understand the year over year increase of approximately \$5,000 in the capital assessment fixed payment. Victor Toth spoke with WA. WA clarified that the increase is per pupil based instead of a fixed cost. Last, it was noted that a community forum will be held Saturday, March 7, at the Middle School.

There being no further questions, Chairman Dougherty thanked the BOE for their presentation.

8. Public Comment: None.

9. Other from Board: None.

10. Correspondence & Announcements: Chairman Dougherty reiterated the Community Forum meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 7, at 10 am, at the Woodstock Middle School Cafeteria. Upcoming BOF meetings include March 10, at 7 pm, to review the general government budget, and March 24, at 7 pm, to review the combined budgets and revenues.

11. Adjournment: Michael Bernardi **Moved to Adjourn**; Jeffrey Kelleher **Seconded**; **Motion Carried Unanimously**. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Brown, Recording Secretary. **DISCLAIMER:** These minutes have not yet been approved by the Board of Finance. Please refer to next month's minutes for approval/amendments.