

TOWN OF SOMERS  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2013  
7:00 PM TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Chairman James Persano. Members present included Joseph Tolisano, Stephen Krasinski, Marilyn Pronovost, Thomas Mazzoli and Michael Parker. Also present were First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini, Selectmen Kathy and Bud Knorr, School Superintendent Dr. Maynard Suffredini, School Business Manager Bill Boutwell and over thirty interested residents.

II. BUDGET, CIP, & BONDING DISCUSSIONS/DECISIONS

Stephen Krasinski gave a power point presentation covering the Board of Finance Budget Review for 2013-2014. He gave a summary of assumptions, revenues, expenditures and shortfalls due to the Governors proposed municipal aid budget.

Mr. Krasinski was concerned that the Town would not be able to use the \$1,631,807 in LoCIP (Local Capital Improvement Program) funds proposed by the Governor in 2013-2014 due to the current use criteria. An exercise removed high probable use and low probable use items that would be covered by LoCIP funds in both the Town side and BOE side of the budget. Mandatory CIP commitments such as current leases, school computers and 2 fire trucks were also discussed.

There is concern that LoCIP will not fund what is needed, however adjustments to criteria parameters and changes to the program will most likely be made accordingly as more information comes in from the Governor's office. The Board of Finance discussed how to minimize potential shortfalls. One suggestion is to remove High and Low Probable items from the BOS budget and apply to LOCIP. Another recommendation is to move BOE items into CIP if LOCIP is not applicable. The last recommendation was to apply mandatory CIP Shortfalls.

Lisa Pellegrini, First Selectman explained that currently the town should follow the Governor's current guidelines for LOCIP. Joe Tolisano agreed. The Governor has said that once his budget passes, he will then expand the LOCIP criteria to include such items as school technology, etc. The Board of Finance went over the budget numbers in detail.

There was also a discussion regarding the TAR (Town Aid Road) funds. The proposed TAR funds are \$270,000. This is an increase of \$135,000. A brief discussion followed regarding what to do with the funds. The funds would remain in a special revenue account for use as needed.

The Board of Finance discussed the future CIP expenditure plan. It was noted that the current Plan of Bonding is no longer viable. The plan called for yearly bond payments, which were to be expense neutral (No Tax Increase). Bond payments were to be \$500K, to be taken from CIP. CIP is now insufficient to support this plan. The town will hold a separate meeting on how to proceed. Non-funded items include School Roofs, Road Project, DPW equipment, Fire

Trucks/Equipment, School Generators and Alarms, etc. will be discussed. A brief discussion was held on how to pay for the two new Somers Fire Dept. trucks. It was determined that the first truck would have short term financing while the other truck would be paid for by LoCIP funds.

### III. BUDGET FLYER, CONTENT FINALIZATION AND APPROVAL

Chairman James Persano entertained a motion contingent upon a review of the numbers by the CFO/Treasurer of a proposed 2013-2014 Budget of \$29,956,218 in expenditures matched with revenues of \$29,956,218 with a proposed mil increase of .65 Mils.

*A motion was made by Joseph Tolisano to accept the above budget as stated, seconded by Thomas Mazzoli. Further discussion was had and Stephen Krasinski was opposed to the motion because he felt the town was taxing the citizens too much. With only one opposed and no abstentions the motion was carried at a vote of 5 for to 1 opposed.*

The proposed budget is \$29,956,218. Details are as follows:

	2012/2013 Adopted Budget	2013/2014 Proposed Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	% Change
Town Government	\$ 6,742,645	\$ 6,742,645	\$ 0	0.00%
Board of Education	19,827,174	20,407,880	580,706	2.93%
Debt Service	2,006,382	1,765,693	(240,689)	-12.00%
Capital Expenditures	665,000	1,040,000*	375,000	56.39%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$ 29,241,201</u>	<u>\$ 29,956,218</u>	<u>\$ 715,017</u>	<u>2.45%</u>

\*Capital Expenditures of \$1,040,000 include a total of \$275,000 comprised of existing leases of \$100,000, \$115,000 in proposed leasing of one fire truck and \$60,000 in computers, \$530,000 for a new fire truck, \$35,000 for a police car and \$200,000 in road chip sealing.

Once the budget numbers are validated a budget flyer will be put together and mailed to the residents of the town.

### IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Julia Sarno-Recording

*Minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent meeting.*