

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF FINANCE
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
SOMERS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
Monday, April 22, 2013
7:00pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Michael Parker called the public hearing to order at 7:00PM.

Board of Finance Members: Jim Persano, Michael Parker, Tom Mazzoli, Steve Krasinski, Joe Tolisano and Marilyn Pronovost were present.

Also present were First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini, Selectmen Budd Knorr and Kathy Devlin. Dr. Maynard Suffredini and members of the Board of Education were present. Interested citizens were also present.

II. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 BUDGET:

The purpose of the hearing was to receive public comment and discuss the 2013-2014 fiscal year budgets of the Town and Board of Education. Presentations were made by Michael Parker of the Board of Finance, First Selectman Lisa Pellegrini, and Superintendent Suffredini outlining various aspects of the Town and Board of Education budgets as well as proposed revenues supporting the budgets.

Quite a few residents expressed concern that the full-day kindergarten would be taken out of the elementary school. Dr. Suffredini assured them that this is not the case. The Somers Fire Chief and other residents also expressed concern that funding would be taken from Emergency Services

There were also questions about the Board's decision to include state grants in the Capital Improvements fund rather than including it in the General Fund. Although the move may allow us more grant money from the State, people were worried that the money would be more difficult to access, as a transfer would have to be approved by both the Board of Selectman and Board of Finance. Michael Parker assured them that would not be the case.

The general consensus was that this year's budget was the most complicated and confusing one ever proposed. Board member Stephen Krasinski suggested pushing back the referendum until September 26th, an idea that was entertained by many in the audience. Waiting would give us time to see how the Governor's budget will affect our budget, as well as further educate people so they can make a more informed decision.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The April 22, 2013 Public Hearing on the 2013-2014 Proposed Budget was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Morrow, Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING