

**BOARD OF FINANCE  
MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2017  
7:30 P.M. – GREENE COMMUNITY CENTER**

Chairman Matthew Hoey called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Present: Board Members: Michael Ayles, Louis Federici, Kenneth Gamerman, Matthew Hoey, Jeffrey Beatty and Kenneth MacKenzie

Town Officials: Finance Director Maryjane Malavasi, First Selectman Joseph Mazza and Clerk Traci Brinkman

BOE Officials: Assistant Superintendent Jason Beaudin, Accounting Coordinator Greta Maynard and BOE Member Susan Renner

Others: Nicoleta McTigue from Blum Shapiro

Media: Guilford Courier Reporter Zoe Roos and Mike Graziano, taping for GCTV

**1. Receive Audit Report for FY2015-2016 prepared by Blum Shapiro**

Nicoleta McTigue went over the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. She added that the town was given an unmodified clean opinion. She went over the various sections of the report.

Ms. McTigue noted that the Town ended the year with a General Fund of \$10.6 million, of which \$8.2 million was the unassigned fund balance. This represented 8.5% of the total expenditures for the year. The general fund increased \$1.7 million from the previous year.

Ms. McTigue then went over the Federal Single and State Audits. The Town was also given unmodified or clean opinions on both of those. Ms. McTigue highlighted in their letter to the Board of Finance that there were no difficulties in performing the audit. She noted that while there is nothing wrong with internal controls, there is no formal documentation of those internal controls. Ms. McTigue said while they did not find any fraud, they normally recommend to their clients to consider a fraud risk assessment. She added that Blum Shapiro does provide this service and it can be done in stages instead of all at once.

**2. Public Forum**

None

**3. Approve minutes of:**

**3.1 Regular Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2017**

Mr. Federici noted under item four, first paragraph to remove the extra “s” from estimates.

Mr. Federici clarified the statement regarding the 15% reduction to the ECS grant. It should state that it was a 15% reduction after the already 5% reduction from the state mid-year so it is a 20% reduction from the 2016 approved budget.

Mr. MacKenzie suggested to replace “budget assumptions on the bottom of Page 4, to “budget priorities.” He stated on Page 6 delete the “thousand dollars” after the figure.

Mr. Hoey wanted to clarify Ms. Balestracci’s comments about the Excess Cost Grant. So far they have received \$950,000 and are on track to receive the full amount which would be 72%.

Mr. Federici said it should actually be Dr. Balestracci instead of Ms. Balestracci.

*Motion:* Upon a motion made by Mr. Ayles and seconded by Mr. Federici, the board voted to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2017 Regular Meeting as amended.

*Vote:* In Favor: Ayles, Federici, Hoey, Beatty and McKenzie  
Opposed: None  
Abstaining: Gamerman

**3.2 Special Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2017**

Mr. Hoey noted on Page 3 that it states he will be running for first selectman in the fall. He added that he hasn’t decided yet, but is strongly considering running for first selectman this fall. Mr. Hoey said the discussion regarding the reports was a good one. The reports are cleaner and using the MUNIS System makes it more efficient for the staff.

Mr. MacKenzie said it states on Page 1 that he would like to see cash flow and tax receipts, but he stated that he would like to see bank statements not tax receipts. He clarified his statement on Page 2, it should just read that he would like to see a new auditor and leave out “he would want to make sure the reports are the same.”

He also clarified his statement on Page 3 regarding his suggestion that the BOS be paid \$100 per meeting. Prior to that statement he said he would like to see the amount they are paid reduced to zero, but if they had to be paid something it should be more in the nature of \$100 a meeting.

He clarified his comments on Page 4 regarding the First Selectman’s salary.

The current first selectman salary is not \$96,000. It is \$110,300 which he believes it too high. The average salary of towns surveyed is \$96,000 and he questioned why they couldn't have that average salary.

Mr. Hoey recused himself from voting on the minutes.

*Motion:* Upon a motion made by Mr. Federici and seconded by Mr. Ayles, the board voted to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2017 Special Meeting as amended.

*Vote:* In Favor: Ayles, and Federici  
Opposed: None  
Abstaining: MacKenzie

### 3.3 Budget Public Hearing Minutes of March 7, 2017

Mr. MacKenzie noted a number of areas where the word thousand followed a figure. Those should be deleted. Ms. Anderheggen asked if there was any way to cut overtime in Police Fire and also **Communications**.

Mr. Federici noted on Page 7 the second paragraph insert the word not so it reads "...unfortunately by the time he leaves office he will **not** be able to accomplish..."

*Motion:* Upon a motion made by Mr. Federici, the board voted to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2017 Budget Public Hearing as amended.

*Vote:* In Favor: Ayles, Federici, Hoey, Beatty and MacKenzie  
Opposed: None  
Abstaining: Gamerman

### 3.4 Budget Workshop Minutes of March 9, 2017

Mr. Hoey noted a correction to the top of Page 2. The percent total for the BOE should read 1.49% not 2.09%. The total budget increase is \$1.9 million.

Mr. MacKenzie noted on Page 2 it should read "ECS" not "EECS." Also on Page 2 change "whole" to "hole."

On Page 3 Mr. MacKenzie felt the comments written did not convey the meaning of what he said at the meeting. The clerk suggested the board table action on the minutes and that Mr. MacKenzie submit in writing his comments, which can then be attached to the minutes.

*Motion:* Upon a motion made by Mr. Ayles and seconded by Mr. Federici, the board voted to table action on the Minutes of the March 9, 2017 Budget Workshop for more clarification and review.

*Vote:* In Favor: Ayles, Federici, Hoey and MacKenzie

*Opposed: None*  
*Abstaining: Gamerman and Beatty*

#### **4. Correspondence**

##### **4.1 Standing Building Committee Minutes**

Mr. Ayles said the March minutes have not been released yet, but he attended that meeting for about 10 minutes before having to go to the BOF meeting. He asked about a meeting between the three boards and Johnson Controls that is going to be set up. They were looking toward the end of March, but a date has not yet been set. He also asked if the bids for Baldwin were still on schedule and they were due back today.

Mr. Mazza confirmed they had the bid opening today.

Mr. Hoey asked about the performance contracting utility data for the schools and Parks and Recreation. He questioned if it could be shared or if it was proprietary.

Mr. Ayles said it is in draft form, but he didn't see why it couldn't be shared.

There was more discussion regarding performance contracting.

##### **4.2 Pension Committee Minutes**

Mr. Gamerman noted in the minutes that on the bottom of Page 2 Ms. Trudeau stated that the BOE budget includes more contribution for the pension plan, because the recommended contributions have not been made.

Mr. Hoey said the BOE Pension is at 81% funded, which is down from the high 80 percent range. It is not dramatically out of range, but they identified a need to address it in this budget.

#### **5. Review and accept report of expenditures for the Board of Education for February 2017.**

Ms. Renner said they are a little behind on their spending a year ago, mainly due to a timing difference in the receipt of the Excess Cost Grant. They got it in February this year, which is earlier than last year. The percent is higher than they were expecting. It was 75% of what they budgeted which is lower than the projections for year end, but they are still waiting on the second installment. There are no surprises. They are running higher in certain areas like special education and tuition, but those are all what they have been seeing.

Mr. Ayles noted that Safety, Sanitation and Upkeep for Building and Grounds ran high last year and is running higher this year. There is a large amount of encumbrances and he questioned if some of those will drop off.

Ms. Maynard said she would look into it and get back to him.

Mr. Beatty stated that substitute teachers still continues to trend higher.

Ms. Renner said it has been running high all year, but that is about the statewide average.

Mr. Gamerman asked about a discussion in the minutes regarding an identified high cost for in district students.

Ms. Renner explained that this is something new Ms. Trudeau has calculated. It is the same concept as the Excess Cost Grant for out of district students. If services for an in district student reach a certain level then they can request reimbursement for the costs above that level. There are currently a couple of students that are eligible and the amount they hope to apply for is \$32,000.

Mr. Gamerman asked about a payment to the Grove School. He questioned if that was for one semester.

Ms. Maynard said she believes Grove is paid on a monthly basis.

Mr. Gamerman asked why the special services line has increased so much over last year.

Ms. Renner said there are more students in the in-house program.

Mr. Hoey noted that social security is only at 55%. He questioned why it is so low.

Ms. Maynard said she would look into it.

Mr. Federici asked about the World History and Geography Textbook purchase. He asked what is being bought and why. There were 250 e-texts purchased for the Chrome Books and then 50 e-text and print packages.

Ms. Renner noted that they mostly read them on the chrome books, but they still need books to purchase for the classrooms.

*Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Gamerman and seconded by Mr. Beatty, the board voted unanimously to accept the expenditures for the Board of Education for February 2017 in the amount of \$3,755,408.*

*Vote: In Favor: Ayles, Federici, Gamerman, Hoey, Beatty and MacKenzie  
Opposed: None  
Abstaining: None*

**6. Review and approve expenditures for Town Government for February 2017.**

Ms. Malavasi passed out information related to where the \$80,000 in budget reductions were made in the Board of Selectmen budget.

Revenues

Ms. Malavsi said they are 67% through the year and they have collected 97% of the revenue budget, which is up just slightly from 96.8% last year. Tax collections are right on track as well as the fire department.

Expenditures

Ms. Malavsi said 67% through the year they have obligated 64.6% of the budget, which is a little less than this time last year. She added that they are paying close attention to Public Works. This report doesn't include the recent storms. Ms. Malavasi said by the end of March they should have a good idea where they stand with that.

Mr. Gamerman noted that Engineering and Public Works is about 10% over last year and there is an increase in fuel and equipment repair.

Mr. Mazza stated that it is just due to the encumbrances right now.

Ms. Malavasi wanted the board to be aware that revaluation looks over expended, but they have a reserve fund that will cover that.

Mr. Gamerman noted that easements for the Mulberry Point Water project are being paid from the Land Acquisition Fund.

Mr. Mazza explained that it is a loan from the Land Acquisition account. Once the project is hopefully approved all of those expenses will be part of the assessment for the 145 homes in Mulberry Point, Tuttle's Point and Long Cove. The total for the easements is \$26,000. If the project is not approved at referendum then they will have to hit the reserve account for those funds.

Mr. Federici asked about the expense for the EV charging station. He asked if it was correct that there was no charge for users.

Mr. Mazza explained that the town could not charge for three years. It was a deal they made when it was installed using grant funds that people would be able to use it free of charge for three years and the town would absorb the cost during that time. Once the three years is up they can install a card reader.

Medical Benefits

Ms. Malavasi noted that February was a good month and she is projecting a \$2.3 million fund balance at the end of the year.

Golf Course

Mr. MacKenzie asked why the utility and water bills are so high in January and February.

Ms. Malavasi said she would look into it.

*Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Ayles and seconded by Mr. MacKenzie, the board voted unanimously to approve the expenditures for Town Government for February 2017 in the amount of \$3,561,960.*

*Vote: In Favor: Ayles, Federici, Gamerman, Hoey, Beatty and MacKenzie  
Opposed: None  
Abstaining: None*

**7. Consider and take possible action on resolutions for bonding items for consideration at the April 18, 2017 Budget Referendum.**

Mr. MacKenzie noted that his kids use the skate park and the tennis courts. But he cautioned that approving these bond resolutions is going to add another \$400,000 every budget going forward. Some items are essential, but some could probably be rolled out a year.

Mr. Ayles noted that the questions are grouped in categories. The more questions, the more apt people are to pick and choose. With the exception of the skate park and court resurfacing all the other items are public safety issues.

Mr. Federici asked how much of the \$288,000 in the first bond issue is for the resurfacing.

Mr. Mazza said it is about \$180,000. He added that the courts are getting dangerous in particular for the seniors that are using them.

Mr. Hoey noted that having the items separated into categories also gives the public the opportunity to vote on particular issues.

Mr. MacKenzie asked if the purpose of their vote on the questions is to give the public the opportunity to vote. So even if he might not agree with some should he still vote in favor to allow the public the opportunity to vote?

Mr. Hoey said he can vote no if he doesn't agree with something.

*Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Ayles and seconded by Mr. Gamerman, the board voted unanimously to approve the following resolution: "RESOLVED, that the Board of Finance recommends that the Town of Guilford appropriate \$288,000 for costs related to improvements to various Town facilities, contemplated to include: (1) improvements to the elevator and to the fire alarm and other safety systems at the Town Hall, (2) resurfacing of the skate park, tennis courts and pickle courts located at Bittner Park on Route 77 in Guilford, and (3) improvements, equipment and other work related to such facility improvements; and to the financing thereof; and that the Town issue bonds or notes and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$288,000 to finance the*

*appropriation, the amount of borrowings authorized to finance the appropriation to be reduced by the amount of grants received by the Town, if any, and applied to pay project costs. The Board of Selectmen shall be authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the project. The Board of Selectmen may reduce or modify the scope of the project including without limitation the deletion of components of the project, and the entire appropriation may be expended on the project as so reduced or modified. No contract may be awarded for any component of the project until it has been approved by the Board of Selectmen following receipt of a recommendation of the Board of Finance with respect thereto. The appropriation may be spent for design, construction, acquisition and installation costs, engineering fees, materials, equipment, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project.”*

*Vote: In Favor: Ayles, Federici, Gamerman, Hoey, Beatty and MacKenzie  
Opposed: None  
Abstaining: None*

*Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Beatty and seconded by Mr. Ayles, the board voted unanimously to approve the following resolutions: “RESOLVED, that the Board of Finance recommends that the Town of Guilford appropriate \$1,047,000 for costs related to the Town’s Inland Road Reconstruction and Improvements Program, including: (1) the continuation of Phase 1 of the Program as described in the \$1,280,000 appropriation and borrowing authorization resolution approved by the voters of the Town at referendum held April 21, 2015 for such project and the acquisition of a Public Works Department grader, including work on such other roads as determined by the Board of Selectmen pursuant to the authority granted in said resolution, (2) Phase 2 of the Program, contemplated to include (A) Driftwood Lane along its entire length, (B) Long Hill Road from Cardinal Drive to Route 80, (C) Old Sachems Head Road from Trolley Road south to Uncas Point Road, (D) New England Road from Briarwood Road to Long Hill Road, (E) Briarwood Drive from New England Road to its terminus at the cul-de-sac, and (F) such other roads as are determined by the Board of Selectmen following, to the extent applicable, a report from the Town Planning and Zoning Commission pursuant to Section 8-24 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended; to improvements, equipment and other work related to such reconstruction, improvements and acquisitions; and to the financing thereof; and that the Town issue bonds or notes and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$1,047,000 to finance the appropriation, the amount of borrowings authorized to finance the appropriation to be reduced by the amount of grants received by the Town, if any, and applied to pay project costs. The Board of Selectmen shall be authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the project. The Board of Selectmen may reduce or modify the scope of the project including without limitation the deletion of components of the project, and the entire appropriation may be expended on the project as so reduced or modified.*

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*No contract may be awarded for any component of the project until it has been approved by the Board of Selectmen following receipt of a recommendation of the Board of Finance with respect thereto. The appropriation may be spent for design, construction, acquisition and installation costs, land and easement acquisitions, engineering fees, materials, equipment, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project.”*

*Vote: In Favor: Ayles, Federici, Gamerman, Hoey, Beatty and MacKenzie  
Opposed: None  
Abstaining: None*

*Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Ayles and seconded by Mr. Federici, the board voted unanimously to approve the following resolution:  
“RESOLVED, that the Board of Finance recommends that the Town of Guilford appropriate \$1,450,000 for costs related to various public safety equipment acquisitions and improvements, contemplated to include: (1) acquisition and installation of a 30,0000 gallon in-ground water supply tank for use by the Guilford Fire Department to service the Cambridge subdivision off South Hoop Pole Road in Guilford, to be installed on yet undetermined Town property, (2) acquisition of a replacement ambulance for use by the Guilford Fire Department, (3) acquisition of a heavy rescue vehicle for use by the Guilford Fire Department, and (4) improvements, equipment and other work related to such acquisitions and improvements; and to the financing thereof; and that the Town issue bonds or notes and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$1,450,000 to finance the appropriation, the amount of borrowings authorized to finance the appropriation to be reduced by the amount of grants received by the Town, if any, and applied to pay project costs. The Board of Selectmen shall be authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the project. The Board of Selectmen may reduce or modify the scope of the project including without limitation the deletion of components of the project, and the entire appropriation may be expended on the project as so reduced or modified. No contract may be awarded for any component of the project until it has been approved by the Board of Selectmen following receipt of a recommendation of the Board of Finance with respect thereto. The appropriation may be spent for design, construction, acquisition and installation costs, engineering fees, materials, equipment, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project.”*

*Vote: In Favor: Ayles, Federici, Gamerman, Hoey, Beatty and MacKenzie  
Opposed: None  
Abstaining: None*

*Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Ayles and seconded by Mr. Beatty, the board voted unanimously to approve the following resolution: “RESOLVED, that the Board of Finance recommends that the Town of Guilford appropriate \$3,465,000*

*for costs related to facility improvements to various Town school facilities, contemplated to include: (1) at Abraham Baldwin Middle School, Melissa Jones Elementary School and A.W. Cox Elementary School, replacement and upgrades to the main electrical service and associated electrical distribution panels, (2) at Melissa Jones Elementary School, partial roof replacement of the shingle roof, and (3) improvements, equipment and other work related to such facility improvements; to architectural and engineering design for future school facility projects; and to the financing thereof; and that the Town issue bonds or notes and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$3,465,000 to finance the appropriation, the amount of borrowings authorized to finance the appropriation to be reduced by the amount of grants received by the Town, if any, and applied to pay project costs. The Standing Building Committee shall be authorized to determine the particulars of each of the projects. The Board of Selectmen shall be authorized to reduce or modify the scope of the projects including without limitation the deletion of components of the projects, and the entire appropriation may be expended on the projects as so reduced or modified. No contract may be awarded for any component of the projects until it has been approved by the Board of Selectmen following receipt of a recommendation of the Board of Finance with respect thereto. The appropriation may be spent for design, construction, acquisition and installation costs, preparation of educational specifications, schematic drawings and outline specifications, engineering fees, architects' fees, materials, furnishings, equipment, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the projects.”*

*Vote: In Favor: Ayles, Federici, Gamerman, Hoey, Beatty and MacKenzie  
Opposed: None  
Abstaining: None*

*Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Ayles and seconded by Mr. Beatty, the board voted unanimously to approve the following resolution: “RESOLVED, that the Board of Finance recommends that the Town of Guilford appropriate \$660,000 for costs related to security and other upgrades to Abraham Baldwin Middle School, contemplated to include window upgrades, card readers and security cameras and PCB abatement, and improvements, equipment and other work related to such upgrades; and to the financing thereof; and that the Town issue bonds or notes and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$660,000 to finance the appropriation, the amount of borrowings authorized to finance the appropriation to be reduced by the amount of grants received by the Town, if any, and applied to pay project costs. The Standing Building Committee shall be authorized to determine the particulars of each of the projects. The Board of Selectmen shall be authorized to reduce or modify the scope of the projects including without limitation the deletion of components of the projects, and the entire appropriation may be expended on the projects as so reduced or modified. No contract may be awarded for any component of the projects until it has been approved by the Board of Selectmen following receipt of a recommendation of the Board of*

*Finance with respect thereto. The appropriation may be spent for design, construction, acquisition and installation costs, preparation of educational specifications, schematic drawings and outline specifications, engineering fees, architects' fees, materials, furnishings, equipment, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the projects."*

*Vote: In Favor: Ayles, Federici, Gamerman, Hoey, Beatty and MacKenzie  
Opposed: None  
Abstaining: None*

**8. Discuss and take possible action on award of RFP#2-1617 – Auditing Services.**

Mr. Hoey said they need to appoint an auditor. He had the finance office and in-house counsel issue an RFP and they received three respondents. They recently had a special meeting to discuss the proposals. He would recommend that they engage Blum Shapiro for FY 2017. Blum Shapiro agreed to match the low bidder. There had been a \$200 difference in year 1, a \$200 difference in year four and a \$600 difference in year five.

Mr. MacKenzie said at the meeting they talked about the prudence of changing auditors. The finance director said it was a good thing to do as well. He is in favor of trying something new for the year. The pricing was all very close.

Mr. Ayles said the highest bidder has only done one audit for a municipality with a population over 20,000 and the low bidder hasn't done any. He added that this is something worth considering. Mr. Ayles said Blum Shapiro has been doing a good job and all things equal he would lean towards staying with them.

Ms. Malavasi recommended that if they are going to change she would recommend interviewing the companies. She noted that some might have experience with populations around 18,000. She knows all three companies and they could all do the work. At some point in the future they might want to speak to the companies and get a sense as to what is out there.

Mr. Federici said while he thinks there is some value in changing, but since the finance office is undergoing a transition it might be good to keep them another year.

*Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Hoey and seconded by Mr. Gamerman, the board voted unanimously to appoint Blum Shapiro as the auditor for FY2017.*

*Vote: In Favor: Ayles, Federici, Gamerman, Hoey, Beatty and MacKenzie  
Opposed: None  
Abstaining: None*

*Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Federici and seconded by Mr. Ayles, the board voted unanimously to flip item 9 and 10 on the agenda and take capital plan purchase first.*

Vote:           In Favor:     Ayles, Federici, Gamerman, Hoey, Beatty and MacKenzie  
                  Opposed:     None  
                  Abstaining:  None

**9. Discuss and take possible action on request from the Board of Selectmen with regard to Capital Plan purchase.**

Motion:        Upon a motion made by Mr. Ayles and seconded by Mr. MacKenzie, the board voted unanimously to recommend the Board of Selectmen contract with HAKS, LLC for design and development of bid documents for the Public Works Truck Wash in the amount of \$49,500.

Vote:           In Favor:     Ayles, Federici, Gamerman, Hoey, Beatty and MacKenzie  
                  Opposed:     None  
                  Abstaining:  None

**10. Consider and take possible action on Elected Officials Salaries.**

Mr. Hoey recused himself from this item since he is considering running for a position. It was noted that the board is looking at the salary adjustments for the BOS and first selectman, but are holding off on Registrar of Voters.

Mr. MacKenzie stated there is a change he may run as well so he also recused himself. Mr. Hoey and Mr. MacKenzie left the meeting room at this time.

Mr. Gamerman noted that the current salary for first selectman is \$110,300 and it will increase to \$111,900 in July of 2017. They are looking at the salary level for the next four years. Whatever they do will not take effect until July 2018.

Mr. Federici said his view is that this position is responsible for the operations of the Town. It is a large organization with a significant budget and it is important to draw talented people. This position is behind a number of other town employees, including the police and fire chief's as well as the Superintendent of Schools. He is not in favor of it staying the same although he is aware of state pressures. His recommendation is a 0% increase the first year, 1% the second year, 1.5% the third year and 1.5% the fourth year. This would be a 4% total increase over four years.

Mr. Ayles said he was thinking along those same lines so he has no issue with that proposal.

Mr. Beatty added that with the superintendent, police and fire chiefs they have the ability to move to other locations, but you don't have that option as first selectman. It is important to make it attractive and attract good people to run.

Mr. Gamerman said he could go along with that proposal as well although he would like to see it a bit lower. It sends a good message that they are behaving with restraint and responsibility. It is an important full time job that requires enormous dedication and increases the stress on the office holder. They need to make sure the incoming person has a mild incentive.

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*Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Gamerman and seconded by Mr. Ayles, the board voted unanimously to approve the following adjustment to the first selectman salary beginning July 1, 2018 (0% increase - \$111,900 salary, Year 2 (1% increase or \$113,019) Year 3(1.5% increase or \$114,714) Year 4 (1.5% increase or \$116,435)*

*Vote: In Favor: Ayles, Federici, Gamerman and Beatty  
Opposed: None  
Abstaining: None*

Mr. Gamerman noted that the salary for each selectman is \$10,000 a year. He added that he would like to keep it at that.

Mr. Ayles said what was discussed at the special meeting is that while the selectmen do a lot of work around town, they do have other volunteers that attend a lot meetings and volunteer their time for nothing. They talked about changing it to a flat amount per meeting they attend. In the past he has seen some selectmen at a lot of meetings and others that were not as involved. He is in favor of some sort of reduction, but he would not agree to any type of increase.

Mr. Beatty said they do have their meetings in the morning on workdays so there could be an impact on their ability to work at times. He has less issue with the stipend since they are spending time away from their career. Mr. Beatty said having it tied to attendance and participation is attractive.

Mr. Gamerman noted, however, that you can have a meeting that is an hour or three hours so he thinks it would be very difficult basing it on a flat meeting rate.

Mr. Ayles aid they want to attract people to positions like these. It does take time and effort.

Mr. Federici said this amount has been in place a long time and it has drawn talented people to the role. He added that they are all wrestling with trying to balance the issue of making sure services are met and not burdening taxpayers. He would not be in favor of an increase, but maybe a small decrease of \$1,000 to \$2,000 to show that they are taking cuts too.

Mr. Beatty said there have been measures taken by the town to make reductions and become more efficient. They have asked everyone else to cut.

*Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Gamerman and seconded by Mr. Federici, the board voted unanimously to reduce the Board of Selectmen salary beginning on July 1, 2018 to \$8,000 for a four year period.*

*Vote: In Favor: Ayles, Federici, Gamerman and Beatty  
Opposed: None  
Abstaining: None*

Mr. Hoey and Mr. MacKenzie rejoined the meeting.

**11 Committee Reports**

None

**12. Old Business**

None

**13. New Business**

Mr. Hoey briefly discussed a letter Bill Bloss had sent related to additional Excess Cost Grant money. They can discuss and vote on the issue at the next meeting.

**14. Public Forum (Limited to 3 minutes on any item)**

Mr. Mazza said he was invited by COST to accompany some other selectmen to a meeting on Thursday with the State House Majority Leader to express their displeasure with the governor's budget regarding the teachers' pension item. He added that they were very well received and he thinks they have a lot of support from the General Assembly, at least on the House side. Mr. Mazza said COST is poised to take legal action if it is passed.

*Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Ayles and seconded by Mr. Beatty, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 p.m.*

*Vote: In Favor: Ayles, Federici, Gamerman, Hoey, Beatty and MacKenzie  
Opposed: None  
Abstaining: None*

Respectfully submitted,

---

Traci K. Brinkman  
Clerk  
Board of Finance