

**TOWN OF POMFRET
BOARD OF FINANCE
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 3, 2010 AT 7:15 PM
OLD TOWNHOUSE**

In Attendance: Board Members John DiIorio, Carolyn Gerrity, Margie Huoppi, Ken Kristal, Mary Anthony, Michael Baum. Also present: Board of Education members Richard Schad, Chris Rothelein, Liz Cartier as well as Dr. Richard Packman and Linda Joly, along with Board of Selectman Jim Rivers, Maureen Nicholson, and Tony Emillio

- I. Open Workshop Meeting –at 7:15 pm**
 - a. Items to be added to Agenda - none**
 - b. Citizen’s Participation - none**

II. Current Business

a. Review and Possible Approval – Board of Education FY 2010/2011

Budget – Richard Schad presented two changes which occurred since the April 6, 2010 public hearing: results of a BOE special meeting and health insurance bid findings. The outcome of a special meeting regarding unaffiliated staff and administration (maintenance and office) salary was a savings of \$5,600 in next year’s budget. Richard recommended keeping the savings in the salary account and gives it back at the end of the year. Health insurance bidding produced a reduction in cost from 9% as originally proposed to 2.6%. The gross savings is \$29,000 and net savings is \$17,376. The reason for the delta is an under estimate on the part of Municipal Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (MIRMA), a self –insurance group program, requiring the school to repay \$12,000 a year for the next five years. Richard also presented how much the proposed budget would decrease if an 84% special education excess cost figure was used instead of the 75% currently in the plan. The difference is \$37,901 (\$30,000 tuition and \$7,901 transportation). Current outplacements are expected to continue throughout the next budget year.

John DiIorio asked three questions around Pre-K tuition, health insurance and potential teacher leave of absence. With an estimate of Pre-K tuition in the proposed budget of just \$34,000 are three sections of Pre-K still planned? Linda Joly noted that only 15 children have enrolled through the lottery and another 15 to 18 identified student are planned for a total of a little over 30 students. Tuition is \$2,000 so the estimate may need to be lowered to \$30,000. The BOE will have to look at the number of sections of Pre-K to offer and possibly entertain a full day Kindergarten option. Regarding health insurance he noted that the planned verses actual cost is \$100,000 higher. Six events justify the difference. John asked if the BOE would be willing to talk to other carriers to review the base; although new bid increase is only 2.6% the figure it’s based upon seems high. Richard is open to the offer. John also inquired whether a teacher’s possible leave of absence would result in a salary

savings for one year while the teacher works without paid leave in another school system. It could benefit the salary account however the leave of absence is dependent upon receipt of a grant by the other school which will be unknown until the end of May. Discussion followed regarding the question of salary concessions and State reimbursement of ECS and its impact on the budget.

III. **Citizen's Participation** – T. Emilio stated that he felt it was up to the Board to determine what the Town could afford and that the Board of Education was best suited to determine where needed cuts could be done. He felt that if you looked at the \$416,783 increase proposed, along with PCS expenses in the General Government Capital budget and the energy savings anticipated with the solar panels, that the increase was closer to six hundred thousand dollars. M. Nicholson agreed with much of the statement but felt that if the Special Education costs had remained static, as has been typical, then the budget would be much closer to the mark. J. Rivers stated that the revenue side of things was indicating many cuts in State monies and local revenues. J. DiIorio suggested that this Board take no action on the Board of Education budget until the anticipated revenues could be looked at. He suggested a Special Meeting of the Board of Finance on May 7, 2010 at 6:30 PM at PCS Library in order to review these revenues.

IV. **Adjournment** – M. Baum moved to adjourn. K. Kristal seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Date approved_____