

**TOWN OF POMFRET
BOARD OF FINANCE – PUBLIC HEARING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2011 AT 7:00 PM
POMFRET COMMUNITY SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

In Attendance: Board of Finance Members John Dilorio, Carolyn Gerrity, Michael Baum, Kenneth Kristal, Margie Huoppi, Mary Anthony. Also present – Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, and approximately 50 citizens and interested parties.

- I. **Open Public Hearing** – J. Dilorio opened hearing at 7:05 PM.

- II. **Board of Finance Presentation of Proposed General Government and Board of Education Budgets for FY 2011/2012** – J. Dilorio reviewed process to date and presented a Powerpoint presentation regarding each budget. The General Government budget reflect a 0% increase. He reviewed where some line items have increased but are off-set by a decrease in another areas. The Board of Education reflects an increase of 4.89%. He reviewed the areas that have gone up – primarily in the areas of Special Education, Insurance, Fuel, and Tuition. J. Dilorio reviewed future considerations and recent actions by the board. He presented possible cuts and how they would be represented in mills. The floor was then opened for public comments and questions.

- III. **Citizen’s Comments** - E. Brewer asked about fund balances and how that works. B. Hull asked what is the percentage of tax increase associated with the possible mil increases displayed. The Board of Education was asked where their current year budget stood, if special education costs were mandated and if those costs have increased. A citizen asked where the Board would make cuts if they were asked and Richard Schad provided some possibilities. Comments were made regarding full-day Kindergarten and support for this earlier structured setting. Diane Reese teaches Kindergarten in another town and the half day programs allow for very limited time with students. D. Flath stated he had no objections to full-day Kindergarten but not at this time. He asked what the savings would be without it. M. Baum asked if the value of dollars spent has been assessed. Further comments and questions were directed to the Board of Finance. A couple that has recently moved to Town stated that Pomfret has a great educational system and support full-day Kindergarten. D. Flath asked them to keep in mind the added State taxes that will impact all individuals. Many retired citizens are forced to work part-time. One woman stated that a flat budget was unrealistic but something medium would be good. Another woman asked that the majority of the school’s population be kept in mind and

encouraged against action that would shrink their programs. Alyson A. supported education as an investment in the future.

IV. Adjournment – Moved and seconded that public hearing adjourn. Duly adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk