

**TOWN OF POMFRET
BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2007 AT 7:00 PM
POMFRET TOWN HALL**

In Attendance: Board Members - Maureen Nicholson, Carolyn Gerrity, Margie Huoppi, John DiIorio, Tony Emilio, Peter Mann First Selectman Jim Rivers. BOE Richard Schad, Joe Maragliolo, Sandra Ahola, Woodstock Academy-Richard Foye, Joe Campbell.

- I. Open Regular Meeting** – Meeting opened at 7:00 PM by Maureen Nicholson
- a. Approve Minutes, Meeting of March 20, 2007** – Carolyn Gerrity moved to approve minutes as written. Seconded by Margie Huoppi. All in favor.
- b. Items to be Added to Agenda** – None
- c. Citizen's Participation** – Ann Hennen submitted a letter from the Conservation Commission stating support of the purchase of development rights for the property on Rich Road. M. Nicholson read the letter into the record. Donna Grant, Director of TEEG, made a request that TEEG be allotted more money from Pomfret in the budget. She made a short presentation of the services provided in Town and the growing need in Pomfret. They have been traditionally allotted \$1,000.00 from Pomfret and have been asking for \$5,000.00. They would like to be considered for \$5,000.00 again this year. Their costs have typically exceeded this.
- Richard Foye did a brief review of some of the budget numbers for Woodstock Academy and outlined the areas where costs have increased. Joe Campbell distributed and reviewed a budget presentation for the Academy.
- II. Unfinished Business** – None
- III. Current Business**
- a. Treasurer's Report** – none
- b. Tax Collector's Report** – none
- c. Assessor's Report** – none
- d. Board of Education Report** – Richard Schad stated that the security system is fully installed and working very well. He also stated the proposed change in governance at Woodstock Academy stopped at the State. Regarding school space the BOE has met with two architects and will be meeting with two more next week. He stated there is a space need at the school. Negotiations for Teaching Assistants, Custodians, and Nurse begin this month. The BOE has a negotiating committee and have spoken with an attorney. The contract expires at the end of June. Negotiations for teachers will start this summer. Their contract expires in June of 2008. The BOE has started talking about a sub-committee, they usually have a representative from the Board of Finance.
- i. Pre-School Tuition, Marien Report** – Item moved to Budget Discussion

ii. Contract Negotiations – Preliminary Discussion – tabled until closer to negotiations.

e. Board of Selectmen Report – Jim Rivers stated that he is hearing from the State Representatives to not count on the State budget numbers. A Special Town Meeting is set for May 1, 2007 where he has six items of significance for the call. 1. Discontinuance of Quaker Road, 2. Elderly Tax Freeze, 3. STEAP Grant for State Purchase of 13 Railroad Street/Airline Trail, 4. Purchase of Grange for \$1.00, 5. STEAP Grant for Grange renovations for Senior Center Use, 6. Town Purchase of Development rights for Rich Road farm. John DiIorio requested Tim McNally attend the April 17th Workshop Meeting to review the status of the Station Enterprises lawsuit.

f. 2007-2008 Budgets – discussion – Discussion of mil rate history. BOE Budget – discussion of ECS and what they may be able to expect. John DiIorio stated the bottom line of the expenditures increase is \$490,000. or 6.1%. Much of these expenses are fixed costs. Peter Mann stated he feels some cuts can be made and reviewed some examples. **Pre-School Tuition** – P. Mann stated he felt it was OK to leave with the school budget. Carolyn Gerrity made a motion to put the 45 thousand pre-school tuition to the Board of Education budget. Peter Mann seconded. Discussion. Vote: Three in favor-P. Mann, C. Gerrity, M. Huoppi. Two opposed-M. Nicholson, J. DiIorio. Motion passes.

Discussion of Grand List increase and debt retirements. Jim will have the Treasurer update the draft of revenues with numbers from last year's Governor's budget for review at next meeting.

Review and discussion of General Government budget. Some discussion of \$300,000. of retired debt to land acquisition. John DiIorio presented an analysis he had done regarding the Rich Road property. He does not feel the purchase of development rights would be fiscally good for the Town. He would like to see the Town buy the property outright. He also stated he supported the General Government budget as presented. Peter Mann stated that it appeared some cuts could be made

IV. Other Business

a. Marien – Review of Quote – M. Nicholson stated the GATSBY requirements have added to the costs. John DiIorio moved to approve the use of Marien & Co. auditors this year. Peter Mann seconded. All in favor.

b. Discussion – Placement of Town Investments – J. DiIorio is waiting for some letters to come back. Item tabled to May agenda.

V. New Business

a. Transfer of up to \$5,000. from Economic Development Transfer account to Expense account for Pomfret Proprietor's – J. DiIorio made a motion to move up to \$5,000.00, as expenses to be paid come in, from Economic Development transfer account to expense account. Margie Huoppi seconded. All in favor.

b. Approval of \$1,000,000. Land Acquisition-Rich Road – Discussion concerning analysis done by John DiIorio. J. Rivers stated it seemed to him like

the Board was indicating to hold off on the purchase of the development rights and go back to try to buy outright. Peter Mann made a motion to table to the April 17th Workshop meeting. There was no second. J. Rivers stated that non-action on this project will go against all that's been promoted. Discussion. J. DiIorio made a motion to approve the expenditure of one million dollars for the purpose of acquiring the development rights on the Rich Road farm. Peter Mann seconded. In Favor: None Opposed: All opposed. Motion fails. J. DiIorio stated he would like the BOS to continue to pursue the purchase of the property.

VI. Correspondence – None

VII. Citizen's Participation – None

VIII. Adjournment J. DiIorio made a motion to adjourn. P. Mann seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Date approved_____