

**TOWN OF POMFRET  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2006 AT 7:00 PM  
POMFRET TOWN HALL**

In Attendance: Board Members-Maureen Nicholson, Tony Emilio, Peter Mann, John DiIorio, Carolyn Gerrity, Margie Huoppi, Jim Rivers-First Selectman, Ex-Officio member. Others present-Richard Schad-Chair, Board of Education, Lou Mager-Superintendent of Schools, Sandra Ahola-Principal, Pomfret Community School, Board of Education Members: L. Champany, R. Cerrone, S. Black. Citizen-Ford Fay

- I. Open Regular Meeting** – Meeting opened at 7:05 PM by Maureen Nicholson
  - a. Approve Minutes, Meetings of Jan. 9 and February 14, 2006** – Carolyn Gerrity made a motion to approve the minutes of January 9, 2006 as written. Seconded by Margie Huoppi. All in favor. Minutes of February 14, 2006 – C. Gerrity noted that under Current Business, Item d. the asking price of land referenced should show the word ‘million’. Maureen Nicholson submitted some minor corrections adding some citizen’s names. Peter Mann made a motion to approve minutes of February 14, 2006 with corrections. Seconded by John DiIorio. All in favor.
  - b. Items to be Added to Agenda** – None
  - c. Citizens Participation** – None
  
- II. Unfinished Business**
  - a. Open Space Acquisition Fund** – Tabled. There has been no new information since the last meeting.
  
- III. Current Business**
  - a. Treasurer’s Report** – None
  - b. Tax Collector’s Report** – Jim Rivers reported that he had spoken with the Tax Collector recently. She is at 97% of collections as of last week.
  - c. Assessor’s Report** – None
  - d. Board of Selectman’s Report** – Jim Rivers reviewed the following:
    - \*The Selectman’s Budget is pretty much tracking for where it should be at year end.
    - \*The owners of the property across the street would like to sell to the Town. This is currently being worked on and the State is working in parallel.
    - \*The 2006-2007 budget will be presented at the Workshop Meeting of March 21, 2006.
  - e. Board of Education Report, Budget Presentation** – Richard Schad reviewed the following:
    - \*School Safety – No issues. Additional safety devices have been installed and some procedures have been put into place.
    - \*The school is in the process of undergoing a Safety Evaluation.

\*Busing – The past few weeks have been good. Some changes have been put in place by both the bus company and the Board of Education. 3 years remain on this contract. BOE is continuing to look at other options.

\*State of Finances-An increase in Special Education costs hasn't changed. They may still be able to bring it down some but will still need to ask for an appropriation.

\*Budget Presentation – A package detailing the proposed budget was distributed to all Board members. Mr. Schad felt this is the most complete and transparent budget he had been part of completing. It represents an 8.9% increase over last year. Review of the areas of increase which are comprised of: Fixed Costs, Out of District Special Education Costs, Contracted Staff Salaries, Tuition Accounts, Health Insurance, and Utilities. Brief discussion of each area. Other points discussed: School enrollment, Special Education, PreK Identified Needs program, Remedial Math, State Funding. Lou Mager stated that this School District ranks in the upper 20% of achievement rankings and in the lower third of spending. If the Board of Selectmen feel more discussion is warranted for the BOE budget, they will add to the Workshop Agenda of April 18, 2006.

- f. **Fire District Financial Review** – Reports distributed to Board reflecting Revenues/Expenses to date. Some discussion.

#### **IV. New Business**

- a. **Review Marien & Company Quote** – Proposal received from Marien and Company for the audit of year ending June 30, 2006 was distributed. Discussion regarding possibility of bids. Peter Mann moved to accept the proposal and hire Marien and Company for the audit of year ending June 30, 2006. Tony Emilio seconded. All in favor.
- b. **Discussion-Land Use Forum Meeting of March 30, 2006** – Maureen will be out of town but will provide a written statement. Tony Emilio will be available to present it. Jim Rivers gave an overview of the intent of the meeting.

#### **V. Correspondence** – None

- VI. Citizen's Participation** - Ford Fay asked what the Board of Finance needs to act on the Conservation Commissions request regarding the Open Space Acquisition Fund. M. Nicholson explained that the Conservation Commission has asked the Board of Selectmen to put money into their budget. The Board of Finance can do nothing until that time. Discussion.

- VII. Adjournment** – Tony Emilio moved to adjourn. Seconded by Peter Mann. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Ryan, clerk

date approved\_\_\_\_\_