

**TOWN OF POMFRET  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2008 AT 7:00 PM  
POMFRET COMMUNITY SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

In Attendance: Board of Finance Members Maureen Nicholson, John DiIorio, Tony Emilio, Carolyn Gerrity, Margie Huoppi. First Selectman James Rivers, Board of Education Chairman Richard Schad. Board Member not Present: Michael Baum. Approximately 20 Citizens.

- I. Public Hearing** – Walter Hinchman opened the Public Hearing for the Board of Finance at 7:00 PM.
  - a. 2008/2009 Budget Presentation-General Government** – Jim Rivers presented the proposed General Government budget. He highlighted debt service, capital, and core appropriations. David Flath asked if the \$250,000 shown in a Capital line for Land Acquisition was over and above the 4 mil recently approved for bonding. J. Rivers stated that this Capital line could often be used instead of bonding, often partnering the money with State or Land Trust entities – or be used to service the debt if any of this bonding is applied for. David Flath commented on the snow removal line – last year he recommended a reduction of \$15,000 – he felt this could be reduced by the same for the coming year.
  - b. 2008/2009 Budget Presentation-Board of Education** – Richard Schad presented the proposed budget for the Board of Education. He reviewed contents of proposal and indicated the goals for the school that the Board considers while budgeting. He provided an overview of where budget increases have occurred. Kathy Williams asked why the Town was not providing the truck and sander. Tim McNally stated he really liked the budget format. It is presented in a way to easily take in information. A woman asked if Solar has been considered in light of rising fuel cost. A presentation will be give by John DiIorio on May 13<sup>th</sup> at the school that addresses this possibility.

Maureen Nicholson introduced Board members. She stated some adjustments were made to the budgets before the Public Hearing so that citizens could see proposals, comment tonight, and see any prompted changes again at the Town Meeting.

David Patenaude commended the Board for bringing forward a budget with just a .59 mil increase. He felt in a normal year this would be excellent however this is not a normal year. He mentioned the \$250,000 in the Land Acquisition line and \$135,000 in a long-range capital line – both of which could be reduced. He felt that during such economic times people should not be taxed beyond what is necessary to run the Town. David Flath stated that the two weeks between the hearing and the Town Meeting was not enough time for people to consider the budget proposals. The Public Hearing was closed at 7:45 PM.

- II. Open Special Meeting** – Opened at 7:46 PM by M. Nicholson
- a. Discussion and Possible Adjustments to Presented Budget** – J. Rivers stated that due to some staffing changes he would like to move \$25,000 of the \$35,000 that the Board added to the Long-Range Capital line to a Board of Selectmen staffing line. He estimated that the General Government budget would turn back about \$50,000 this year. Discussion. J. DiIorio made a motion to move \$25,000 out of the presented Long-Range Capital line and putting it to a Board of Selectmen line. M. Nicholson seconded. All in favor. M. Nicholson made a motion to appropriate \$2,415,571 to the General Government budget and \$8,654,627 to the Board of Education budget. Four in favor: M. Nicholson, J. DiIorio, C. Gerrity, M. Huoppi. One opposed: T. Emilio. Margie Huoppi commented on her disappointment in the limited amount of townspeople who attended the meeting. She heard no comments that compelled her to change any budget items. J. DiIorio stated he felt it was a good budget and that Jim Rivers has been a good financial steward of the Town.
- III. Adjournment** – Motion made and duly seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ryan, clerk

Date approved \_\_\_\_\_