

**Town Of Haddam
BOARD OF FINANCE
Budget Meeting
Town Office Building Annex
Monday, March 7, 2016
MINUTES**

Approved as Printed at the April 11, 2016 Regular Meeting

In attendance: Chairman Joseph Centofanti; Members: Chris Alexy, Marjorie DeBold, Cheryl Haase, and; Alternates James Bucko and Joanne Nesti

Not in Attendance: Vice Chairman Harlan Fredericksen, Member David Kapitulik and Alternate Robert McGarry

Staff in Attendance: Haddam Finance Director Barbara Bertrand and Barbara Galloway, Recording Secretary

Also present was First Selectman Lizz Milardo.

1. *The Pledge of Allegiance*

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. *Introduction of new Member*

Mr. Centofanti introduced new Member Chris Alexy to the other Board Members, who all welcomed him to the Board.

3. *Seating of Alternates*

Ms. Haase made the Motion seconded by Mr. Alexy to seat Mr. Bucko for Vice Chairman Fredericksen and Ms. Nesti for Mr. Kapitulik. The Motion was approved unanimously.

4. *Public Communications:*

a. *Communications to the Board of Finance*

Mr. Centofanti pointed out to Board Members that 2016-2017 Town Budget notebooks had been available for pick up at the Town Office building prior to this Meeting and were distributed this evening to those Members who had not retrieved them earlier. Several individual department budget pages, recently approved by the Board of Selectmen, were also given out this evening. The Board Members were also given their individual copies of the Regional District #17 2016-2017 Budget for their review and study.

b. *Public Input/Comments*

There were no comments offered by any of the members of the public present.

5. *Presentation of 2016-2017 Budget - Board of Selectmen*

First Selectman Milardo presented the 2016-2017 Budget, providing an overview and noting the areas of notable increases including Town Counsel lines for Labor and Bonding, Health Insurance, Liability Insurance, Road Fund, and others.

First Selectman Milardo pointed out various changes and notable issues related to several budgets including the Ambulance Services and Dispatch Services budgets. The Board noted that the Health budget was continuing in the new Budget and First Selectman Milardo led a discussion of how the Health budget will change with the replacement of Chatham Health District with her final selection of another as-yet-unnamed health district at the end of this fiscal year. Costs will remain similar with services and accountability vastly improved.

First Selectman Milardo informed the Board that the Board of Selectmen had funded the Road Fund with an additional \$250,000 to the generally approved \$500,000 for a proposed \$750,000 in the new fiscal year's budget. First Selectman Milardo briefly described her plan to bring before the public in the coming months more information and a plan for bonding in order to fund, among other projects, the completion of long-required major road and bridge improvements and reconstruction for multiple roads/bridges in town. She believes a portion of this bonding should be able address the big road projects that had been dealt with in past years with the ongoing

temporary or "Band-Aid" repairs and some selective road reconstruction that could only be partially paid for through the Town's Road Fund appropriations. First Selectman Milardo noted that an official priority list will need to be created by the Town's engineer, reflecting which road work needs to be completed and in what order, and showing official estimated costs for each job, based on recent testing, studies, and assessments. First Selectman Milardo informed the Board that a Revenues projection, Supplemental Taxes, and the Capital Plan had not yet been completely addressed. She said she hopes to have all of the Budget totals prepared for the March 21, 2016 Board of Finance Meeting.

6. Review and discussion of the 2016-2017 Budget

After discussing aspects of the Budget with First Selectman Milardo and Finance Director Bertrand, the Board Members decided that prior to beginning the deliberation process they would spend some time individually reviewing information in their 2016-17 Budget notebooks as well as the additional department budget paperwork that had been distributed at this Meeting.

The idea of holding Saturday workshop(s) to discuss individual department/agency budgets with the department/agency representatives met with positive response by the Board Members. A tentative workshop date of March 19th was identified, although a start time had not yet been determined. The Board Members were asked to consider what departments/agencies with which they would like to meet so that Chairman Centofanti can contact the representatives to schedule meeting appointments with them. During the discussion, the Board listed several departments/agencies with which it has been its standard practice to meet in recent years. It was noted that there is a possibility that a few departments/agencies will have to be scheduled to appear at one of the Board's Monday night Meetings instead of at a workshop(s).

There was brief discussion about the annual Joint Meeting of the Haddam-Killingworth Board of Education with the Boards of Finance and Selectmen from both Haddam and Killingworth that is scheduled for Thursday, March 10, 2016 to discuss the proposed 2016-2017 RSD #17 school budget. Outcomes of this meeting will be discussed at next Monday's Regular Meeting.

7. Public Comment

Resident Melissa Schlag informed First Selectman Milardo that when she was First Selectman, she had had prepared a priority list of required road work that should be in Road Fund file in the First Selectman's office. Ms. Schlag also stated that she had encouraged the Town to join the State of CT insurance plan, which would be less costly than private insurance. Ms. Schlag noted that she understood the Superintendent of Schools Howard Thiery had considered options including joining a group of other towns to save on insurance costs.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Haase made the Motion seconded by Mr. Alexy to adjourn the Meeting. The Motion was approved unanimously. The Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara D. Galloway
Recording Secretary