

**BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING – APRIL 9, 2014
MEETING ROOM B
WILTON TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: Warren Serenbetz, Lynne Vanderslice, James Meinhold, Al Alper, Jeff Rutishauser, Richard Creeth (arrived late)

ALSO PRESENT: Ken Bernard, William Brennan, Sandy Dennies, Dick Dubow, Hal Clark, John Murphy and Other Town Employees and Members of the Public

Chairman Warren Serenbetz called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Discussion of Taxpayer request to audit BOE/WPS Policies and Procedures related to Settlement Negotiation and Payments

Mr. Serenbetz asked Ken Bernard, Town Counsel to explain to the Board the handling of this request. Mr. Bernard prefaced his remarks by indicating that Board of Ed law was not within his expertise. Mr. Bernard said the CT State Statutes are very clear on this subject and that the Board of Finance has no legal right to audit the Board of Education's Special Ed disbursements or funds. Those disbursements are private. He said that he had been in touch with the Board of Ed and had a two hour discussion with their legal counsel. They would be willing to share any information that they are legally able to do so - such as their Policies and Procedures.

A brief discussion ensued. Mr. Serenbetz said that he would request the Policies and Procedures from the Board of Ed. Mr. Bernard agreed to update the Board on his upcoming meeting with the Lowtherts and their attorney and agreed to attempt to obtain an affidavit from Shipman & Goodwin and the Lowthert attorney as to the negotiations strictly dealing with Special Education issues.

FY15 Bonded Capital Presentation

First Selectman Bill Brennan began his presentation saying that FY 15 is a year of Capital Projects. All these Capital projects have been unanimously approved by the Board of Selectmen and the total amount requested is \$14,769,000.00.

Mr. Brennan passed out a handout illustrating the capital funds being requested for approval from the community at the Annual Town Meeting.

The Road Restoration Project – Mr. Brennan explained that this project is in its second phase. Over the next two years the plan is to pave 20 miles of roadway. The cost for FY15 is \$1,708,500 and the cost for FY16 is \$1,755,250. The vendor is American Paving and they have been very reliable and cost competitive.

Replacement of Engine 3 - Mr. Dubow addressed the need to replace Engine 3 for the Fire Department. He said that the cost of replacement is \$595,000. The cost to repair Engine 3 has been explored and determined that it would not be cost effective.

Ambler Farm White House Restoration – Mr. Clark explained that the Town has an agreement with Ambler Farm’s Restoration program where the Town will match up to \$125,000 per year once Amber Farm has raised \$125,000. He added that Ambler Farm has been very successful in raising that amount of capital. The Town would be bonding the \$250,000 to cover their contribution in FY15 & FY16.

Security Upgrades for Cider Mill, Middle Brook and the Wilton High School – Mr. Clark that the cost to implement the recommendations from the Security Task Force for security upgrades was \$500,000. This includes, perimeter security, mass communication, internal security and errors and omissions.

Installation of Oil Tank to Operate Generator at the High School- Mr. Murphy explained that the cost of planning, design, construction and installation of the oil tank to operate the generator would be \$60,000. Mr. Creeth questioned the cost of the project. Mr. Brennan indicated that only one quote had been received and additional quotes would be obtained before releasing the funds.

Comstock Renovation Project – Mr. Brennan explained the need to renovate the Comstock Community Center. Turner Construction’s cost to do the renovation is \$9,900,000. Ms Vanderslice asked if moving the back wall to make the gym bigger was considered by the project team. Mr. Brennan indicated that to do so would substantially increase the cost of the project.

Mr. Serenbetz said that at the next Board of Finance meeting they will be voting on their recommendations to the voters on the Capital Projects as well as the resolutions for the mil rate.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mariana Corrado
(off a video tape)