

# BOARD OF FINANCE

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 19th 2012

- |         | <u>Regular Members</u>        | <u>Others</u>                         |
|---------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Present | Y Tom Bechtle                 | Y Barbara Herbst - BoF Clerk          |
|         | Y Earl Brecher arrived @ 7:35 | Y Gordon M. Ridgway - First Selectman |
|         | Y Ralph Gold CHM.             | Y Sam Herrick                         |
|         | Y Sally Hart                  |                                       |
|         | Y Celia Senzer                |                                       |
|         | Y John LaPorta                |                                       |
|         | <u>Alternate Members</u>      |                                       |
|         | Y Jack Preston                |                                       |
|         | Y Maureen E. Donahue          |                                       |

Call to Order
Chairman

7:30 p.m.  
 Asked Jack Preston to sit for Earl Brecher

#1 - Additions to the Agenda
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None

# 2 - Minutes:
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Minutes for the December 15th meeting were made available to all members previously via email and the town Website. Paper copies were available at this meeting.

**Motion**

**Tom Bechtle** Made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 15th regular meeting as submitted.

**John LaPorta** Seconded the motion.

Chairman

Asked for any discussion

**Motion passed unanimously**

# 3 - Reports of Boards and Commissions
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Region #1 Business Manager, Sam Herrick

Sam Herrick presented a very broad overview of the Region #1 Budget process to date. Sam reported that always the budget process starts with an analysis of the current enrollment and the projected enrollment per town and the enrollment percentage that will be applied to the overall cost to determine the liability per participating town. A report showing the Shift in Enrollment was provided to all persons present. Sam reviewed that document and stressed that these numbers are preliminary however it does reveal that the overall enrollment percentage for the Town of Cornwall is going up therefore, the net assessment for FY 2012-2013 will reflect that increase.

Currently three budget workshops have been completed, the next one will be January 25th at the high school and the Public Hearing is set for April 4th, 2012. Ralph Gold asked Sam Herrick to please provide the Board of Finance with email reminders of Budget workshops so if anyone would like to attend they may do so. Sam requested email addresses and will facilitate that request.

The next portion of the presentation focused on processes that are being analyzed in an effort to cut current costs and increase productivity amongst the staff and student body. These processes include but are not limited to; replacing some textbooks with the Kindle (electronic readers that have the capacity of loading more than one book on it), creating centralized printing workstations thereby eliminating small individual printers that consume excess paper, toner and ink and possible implementation of a centralized software platform for the educators that allows expedited interaction with students and parents in regards to testing, grading and monitoring student performance.

Lastly the discussion focused on particular aspects of the budget such as Health Insurance costs, contractual increases for teacher salaries and capital projects necessary at the physical plant of HVRHS. Region wide, the loss ratio provided by Aetna is 74% and Aetna has come in with a preliminary increase of 8 to 10 %. This figure will be negotiated by our insurance brokers and if necessary, an RFP (request for proposal) will be issued. Currently there are 425 persons utilizing health benefits in Region # 1, of that total 218 are enrolled in the High Deductible plan. There are 90 FTE (full time equivalent) teaching positions covered by the bargaining unit at HVRHS and the recently ratified contract calls for a 5.75% increase over three years. Management is hopeful that some of the salary increases will be offset by savings in Health

Insurance premiums as more people are switching over to the High Deductible plan The Physical plant of HVRHS is 70 years old and there are capital projects that will need to be addressed.

If the FY 2012-2013 budget was exactly the same as the current FY 2011-2012 budget, the increase to the Town of Cornwall would be \$172,369. The preliminary budget for Region #1 shows an increase of 2.53% however Sam Herrick reiterated that budget workshops are still in progress and a final number will not be available until the middle or end of April.

Board of Selectman

# 4 & 5 - Reports of  
Boards and  
Commissions  
and Review of  
General Fund  
Actual vs. Budget

First Selectman Ridgway reported that the Board of Selectmen have started to discuss the upcoming budget for FY 2012 - 2013. A report on current Capital Projects to date was distributed to all BoF members, First Selectman Ridgway reviewed each capital project and the current available balance. The bridge construction over Mill Brook has been completed and the payment requisition paperwork has been submitted to FEMA. The ARRA road project is on track to start in the spring and hopefully the reimbursement from FEMA will be received in time to replenish the coffers of the Town before commencement of the ARRA project. A report showing General Fund activity Actual vs. Budget to date was distributed to BoF members. Finance Director, Barbara Herbst reviewed some highlights of that report including an unbudgeted revenue of \$6,885 for a 490 penalty, commercial recycling has exceeded its revenue projection by over 100% and interest income has exceeded it's projection due to a change in processing of state grants that released some interest that was being held at Reich and Tang.

**Motion**

**Sally Hart** Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.  
**Celia Senzer** Seconded the motion  
Asked for any discussion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

Adjournment

8:50 PM

Submitted:

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Barbara E. Herbst, Board Clerk