

**BOARD OF FINANCE  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**Tuesday, February 28, 2023  
7:00 p.m.  
Held Electronically**

**PRESENT:** Michael Kaelin, Stewart Koenigsberg, Sandra Arkell, Matthew Raimondi, Richard Santosky, Chris Stroup

**ALSO PRESENT:** Town Counsel-Ira Bloom, First Selectwoman-Lynne Vanderslice, CFO-Dawn Norton

**Call to Order**

Mr. Kaelin called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

**Approval of Regular Meeting of January 10, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2023 and Special Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2023**

Motion to approve the minutes moved by Mr. Kaelin, seconded by Mr. Stroup. Motion amended to approve all minutes except February 1, 2023 and February 9, 2023 moved by Mr. Kaelin, seconded by Ms. Arkell and carried 6-0.

Motion to approve the February 1, 2023 and February 9 Special Minutes moved by Mr. Kaelin seconded by Mr. Raimondi and carried 5-1 with Ms. Arkell abstaining as she was not present for those meetings.

**Review of BOF Mandate Under the Town Charter with Town Counsel**

Mr. Kaelin began the Review of BOF Mandate Under the Town Charter with Town Counsel noting that Mr. Stroup requested this discussion as a general review of the mandate for the BOF. Mr. Kaelin read the mandate in the town charter located in Section C-30, Subsection E(1) which reads in part:

*“Following the public hearings, the Board of Finance shall consider the views expressed at the public hearings, the views expressed in other communications by voters, the financial resources available to the Town, and the extent to which, in the Board of Finance’s collective judgment, the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen can find savings within their respective budget requests.”*

Mr. Kaelin posed 3 questions that Town Counsel reviewed with the board.

- BOF Role in reviewing the budget?
- As BOF can only act as a majority, what would happen if it could not reach a majority vote on recommending a budget to the Town Meeting?
- If budget is rejected, does BOF have ability to present a higher budget to reconvened town meeting?

**Review of Implications of a Budget Proposal that is Rejected at the Annual Town Meeting with Town Counsel**

Town Counsel reviewed with the board.

**Discussion Concerning Process by Which Members of the BOF Communicate to the Public- in Official Capacity; as a Taxpayer**

Town Counsel reviewed with the board.

**Discussion Concerning Standard Data Requirements for BOF and Taxpayers in Annual Budgeting process**

Town Counsel reviewed with the board.

Town Counsel reviewed all items with discussion amongst the board and the First Selectwoman providing additional input.

Mr. Kaelin noted the next regular meeting is on March 14, 2023 and plan to dig into the BOE and BOS budgets with deliberations to begin on April 3, 2023.

### **Committee Reports**

*Budget Survey:* Mr. Raimondi noted that the February 1, minutes noted the BOF Budget Survey was listed to go live on March 4, 2023 (which is a Saturday). He corrected to note that the survey is scheduled to go live on March 6, 2023 and will be out until March 31, 2023 and encourages all to participate. Ms. Vanderslice added that if Mr. Raimondi sends the Survey to Sarah Gioffre, she can send out e-alert through the town website. She also commented on the decision for use of funds, which she noted is a Board of Finance decision, not the CFO's.

### **Public Comment**

First Selectwoman Vanderslice noted her email (see attached) that was sent to the BOF suggesting that the Public Hearings be in person and via zoom. She also suggested doing the Public Hearing at Comstock instead of at Middlebrook as is usually done. Mr. Kaelin noted he is in favor.

Mr. Kaelin noted Public Hearings are scheduled for March 21, 2023 (BOS budget) and March 27, 2023 (BOE budget). He suggested that the Public Hearings are an excellent time for the public to express their views on the BOE and BOS budgets.

Mr. Koenigsberg noted that he is unable to attend the March 14, 2023 meeting and asks if it can be rescheduled for March 15, 2023. All members are agreeable to move the March 14, 2023 to March 15, 2023.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, BOF voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:21pm.

## Rochester, Jacqueline

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**From:** Vanderslice, Lynne  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023 1:56 PM  
**To:** boardoffinance  
**Cc:** boardofselectmen; Knickerbocker, Matthew; Rochester, Jacqueline  
**Subject:** March 21st Public Hearing

All,

The Board of Selectmen is currently holding hybrid meetings for the public. Meaning the public may attend and comment in-person or watch and comment via Zoom. I'd ask you consider also holding the March 21<sup>st</sup> public hearing as a hybrid meeting for the public. Attendance and public comment over the last 10 hearings has been low, see below. Perhaps the ability to participate over Zoom will increase the number of residents attending and participating.

Room 31 in Comstock can accommodate the number of residents who attended the last 10 public hearings. Using Room 31 also avoids the expense of opening up Middlebrook, which otherwise wouldn't be open, and the expense to engage two employees after hours to set up the meeting at Middlebrook, film the meeting, which won't be available live, and sit through the meeting to ensure the projector and other equipment function properly.

According to the minutes, residents providing in-person comments and the length of comments/Q&A plus final comments by BOF chair are as followings:

2022-5 (29 minutes)

2021-0

2020- not held

2019-7 (42 minutes)

2018-12 ( 1 hour, 2 minutes)

2017-10 (1 hour, 1 minute)

2016-16 (1 hour, 14 minutes)

2015- 1(not noted, meeting lasted 24 minutes)

2014-11 (not noted, meeting lasted 1 hour, 6 minutes)

2013-4 (not noted, meeting lasted 40 minutes)

2012-9 (not noted, meeting last 1 hour 2 minutes)

Thank you for your consideration.

Lynne

Lynne A Vanderslice  
First Selectwoman  
Town of Wilton  
203-563-0100