

**BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING – NOVEMBER 14, 2023
COMSTOCK COMMUNITY CENTER – ROOM 31 AND VIA ZOOM**

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

ABSENT: Chris Stroup

GUESTS: First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice, Superintendent Dr. Kevin Smith, CFO Dawn Norton

Call to Order

Chairman Michael Kaelin called the BOF meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Approval of BOF Special Meeting Minutes of October 18, 2023

Mr. Kaelin asked for a motion to approve the Special Meeting minutes of October 18, 2023. Motion moved by Ms. Arkell to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of October 18, 2023. Motion seconded by Mr. Raimondi and carried 4-0 with Mr. Santosky abstaining as he was not present for the meeting.

Status of Budget Guidance Inputs and Related Issues

Mr. Raimondi began the discussion on the status of budget guidance input and other related issues and invited Superintendent Dr. Kevin Smith to join the discussion. Mr. Raimondi began reviewing a presentation (available to view on the town website) to aid the board in determining whether the BOF will provide guidance for the FY25 BOS & BOF budgets. Ms. Vanderslice joined the discussion. Members of the board expressed their views on providing guidance to the BOF & BOE. The analysis forecasts a projected mill rate increase of 5.4%. After review, the consensus from the board was that a 5.4% increase in the mill rate appears too high. Discussion continued. Mr. Raimondi stated he was in favor of the BOF providing some guidance to the BOE and BOF and suggested not pushing a mill rate increase over 4%. Other board members expressed their views. After review and discussion, Mr. Raimondi made a motion to set guidance at 4%. Motion seconded by Ms. Arkell. As there was no further discussion, motion carried 5-0.

Communications to the Public

Mr. Koenigsberg reviewed a list of potential data sets for charts to be put together for availability on the town website. Discussion on the possibility of hiring someone to help do the research to put the information together. Ms. Vanderslice noted that a lot of the information is available on the town website.

Introduction of Incoming BOF Members

Mr. Kaelin introduced the new BoF members that will be joining the board beginning December 1, 2023. Incoming members are Tim Birch, Rudy Escalante and Prasad Iyer.

Committee Reports

BOE Operations Committee – Mr. Raimondi gave a brief review of BOE Operations Meeting that took place on Thursday November 2, 2023.

Mr. Kaelin noted BOE Chair Ruth Deluca, Member Nicola Davis, and incoming Member Lori Bufano were present at the meeting in Comstock, and the First Selectman Elect Toni Boucher attended the meeting via Zoom.

Public Comment

None

Mr. Koenigsberg took the opportunity to acknowledge Mr. Kaelin, Mr. Santosky and Mr. Stroup for their contributions to town and for their service on the BOF.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Mr. Kaelin asked for motion to adjourn the BOF meeting at 8:51 pm. Motion moved, seconded and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Jacqueline Rochester
(from video recording)