



## TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN

### Finance Committee

Lawrence Memorial Hall  
2 Jabish Street • P.O. Box 670  
Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007

Lynne Raymer, Chairman  
Edward Boscher, Vice-Chairman  
Laurie Shea, Clerk  
Melissa Hurst  
Steven Rose



### Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, April 14, 2016  
Time: 7:02 PM  
Location: Lawrence Memorial Hall  
Present: Lynne Raymer, Edward Boscher, Laurie Shea, Steven Rose, Melissa Hurst  
Guests: Ronald Aponte, George "Archie" Archible, Brenda Aldrich, Nicholas O'Connor, William R. Barnett, Gary Brougham, Jill Panto, Karol Coffin, Ed Dunn, Richard Fritsch, Michael Knapp

- Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM
- Ms. Shea distributed the minutes from the April 7, 2016 meeting.
- Ms. Hurst moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Boscher seconded.
- Minutes were accepted 4-0-1.

#### **Old Business:**

Ms. Raymer opened the meeting by discussing where we were in the budget process. She announced the state was proposing raising the Chapter 70 education aid contribution per student from \$20 in FY16 per to \$55 per in FY17 and that if passed by both the House and Senate, would provide an additional revenue of \$86,003 based on current student population.

Ms. Raymer recognized the School Committee and asked for an update on their budget process. Ms. Koffin asserted the School Committee voted the full budget amount \$28,427,687 they initially presented due to parents participation and assertion that is what they wanted at a meeting held on April 5, 2016.

Mr. Fritsch asserted the same and went further to say he was requesting the Finance Committee and Select Board guide him on the budget process. It was discussed that in order to present a town wide balanced budget at the Annual Town Meeting, the School Committee should be working to meet an FY17 total budget goal of \$27,734,631. It was also noted that neither the Finance Committee nor Select Board had any authority over line item expenditures within the school department's budget.

Level Service funding was defined by Ms. Panto and Ms. Hurst noted the need to present a balanced budget at town meeting which took into account the needs of the town as a whole. Mr. O'Connor asked the School Committee members if they could direct the Superintendent to not cut from certain areas or line items and no definitive answer was given.

Various discussions then ensued by all Meeting participants, including:

- How to best meet the needs for adequate services within the school and town departments based on anticipated available funding.
- The need to identify additional revenue streams as specific funding mechanisms.
- The tax implications of a Proposition 2 ½ Override to the home and business owners within the community. When and whether the override would be feasible and necessary, and whether it should be restricted to capital needs funding. What factors should be considered in calculating the amount requested. What the necessary steps and timelines would be to move forward, including an opportunity for public comment at an open meeting.
- School Committee members noted they were considering raising fees for athletics, transportation and student parking, and that they would go back and revisit their level and needs budget and try and meet the updated amount of \$27,734,631.

**Next Meeting:**

- Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 7:00 PM; Lawrence Memorial Hall Auditorium

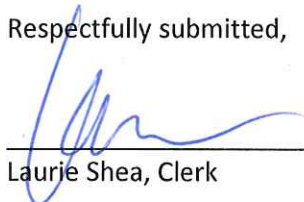
**Other Business:**

- None noted.

**Adjournment:**

- Ms. Raymer called to adjourn
- Mr. Rose motioned; Ms. Hurst seconded.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

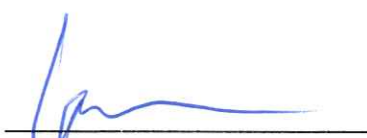
Respectfully submitted,

  
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Laurie Shea, Clerk


FINCOM Town of Belchertown (Endorsed by majority)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lynne Raymer, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Edward Boscher, Vice Chairman

  
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Laurie Shea, Clerk

  
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Steven Rose

  
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Melissa Hurst