

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON
JOINT MEETING FINANCE COMMITTEE/SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday September 28, 2017 6:30 P.M.
Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room
109 Front Street, Winchendon, Mass.**

Finance Committee Members:

Thomas Kane, Chairman
Christian Orobello, Vice Chairman
Dr. Maureen Ward
James Robichaud
Tonya Dokulil
Douglas Delay

Debra Dennis, Recording Secretary

Absent: Charles Corts

Board of Selectmen:

Barbara Anderson, Chairwoman
Audrey LaBrie, Vice Chairwoman
Mike Barbaro
Austin Cyganiewicz
Charles Husselbee

School Committee Members:

Danielle LaPointe, Acting Chairwoman
Dawn Fronte
Greg Vine
Felicia Nurmsen

Steven Haddad, School Superintendent

Absent: Larry Murphy

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Revenue Sharing Samples
 - Fiscal Year 17 Budget Report
 - General Fund Equity FY2017 Sheet
 - Special Town Meeting Date
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The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman Orobello at 6:45 pm with the *Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America*.

Fiscal Year 17 Budget Report- Town Manager Mr. Keith Hickey stated Roselli & Clark has finalized the field work for the audit which consists of the balance sheet and the General Fund Equity. There is 1.37 million dollars free cash uncertified. The deficit legislation allows the town to keep \$325,000 and the remainder goes to the state for towards the deficit borrowing. He said we have asked the state to keep \$500,000.

He stated he drafted the warrant that is being proposed using just about all of the \$500,000. Two hundred and fifty thousand would be used for capital items and the budget shows an increase in the town and school budget for electricity.

Town Accountant, Mr. William Schlosstein said the balance sheet as of June 20, 2017 has been submitted to the Department of Revenue for certification of free cash. Mr. Schlosstein went over the general fund equity FY2017 sheet. He stated when FY18 closes the town will only owe \$600,000 of the deficit legislation note.

James Robichaud asked if the Health Insurance Trust has been released from Blue Cross Blue Shield. Mr. Schlosstein said yes.

Revenue Sharing Discussion- James Robichaud read page twenty four of the Financial Management Review in FY15. He stated the Finance Committee Chairman Thomas Kane attended a revenue sharing seminar in March 2017 where they talked about revenue sharing. He said it seems like we have to do something. He said this is the place to start. We owe it to ourselves and the school children to look at this.

Chairman Thomas Kane said currently we use net school spending formula to dictate the budget. There is some flaws in the formula. We start a budget starting with net school spending. The budget is tied to net school spending.

School Superintendent Steven Haddad said he would like to do some research on how the towns that use it. Form an exploratory committee to dig deep and see if it's a viable situation.

Christian Orobello stated that we should look at strategy and sustainability. If you get something you don't lose it in the future. He wants it to move us forward not backwards.

Acting School Committee Chairwoman Danielle LaPointe said she likes the idea of forming a committee.

Chairman Kane said this was presented tonight to put on the table to initiate some discussion. Included in the packet that was handed out is two towns that illustrate an agreement. There are a lot of aspects to the town. He said he wanted to see if there was some interest and if people want to follow through.

Selectwoman LaBrie said she is open to looking at any possibility, it looks like it can have some merits.

Chairman Kane said the agreement is an informal guideline it guides you it doesn't dictate. The beginning part of the budget would be this. As the town revenue grows this would show how we allocate it in a fair way.

Dr. Maureen Ward said it would be a few years out, we need to do research. Chairman Kane said the next step is getting representation from Boards, the Town Manager and the Superintendent. Discuss and see if there is any interest to move forward.

Special Town Meeting, November 13, 2017- Mr. Keith Hickey said the fall town meeting is November 13, 2017. The warrant opened on September 25th and closes on October 5th. On October 16th the Board of Selectmen will vote on the articles and on October 17th the Finance Committee will have their public hearing and vote on the warrant. There is currently ten warrant articles. He went over the draft warrant articles.

Member Comments-Chairman Kane stated the Finance Committee long term Secretary is resigning which creates a hole in the town.

Public Comments-None

Adjournment-A motion was made by Dr. Maureen Ward to adjourn the meeting; James Robichaud seconded.

KANE (Y) OROBELLO(Y) WARD(Y) ROBICHAUD(Y) DOKULIL(Y) CORTS(Y)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Debra A. Dennis
Recording Secretary