

**BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING
SALEM TOWN OFFICE BUILDING
PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 11, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT

George Householder, Chairman
Marshall Collins, Clerk
Deborah Cadwell
Janet Griggs
John Houchin
William “Skip” Dickson, Alternate (*seated*)

ABSENT

Hernan Salas
Corinne (Cory) Bourgeois, Alternate
Michael Jensen, Alternate

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Householder called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**M/S/C: Houchin/Cadwell, to seat Alternate Board Member Dickson for Board Member Salas.
Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.**

AGENDA:

1. MEETING – PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE FY2018/19 BUDGET

Chairman Householder provided a brief explanation of the budget process and the following schedule:

Wednesday, May 2, 2018, 7:00 p.m., Salem School Multi-purpose Room
Annual Town Meeting to discuss the FY2018/19 Budget
(*note*: budget can be lowered, but not increased, following the Town Meeting)

Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall
Referendum on FY2018/19 Budget

Over the last five years, the mil rate has increased from 31.1 mils in FY2014/15 to 32.2 mils in FY2017/18 or 3.53%; the proposed budget for FY2018/19 will keep the mil rate at 32.2. During this time frame, the Town also began making payments for the Salem School Renovation Project, purchased a new tanker truck for the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company and will be purchasing a new truck for the Salem Volunteer Fire Company and installing a new roof and a/c units for Salem School. By regionalizing our services, including the Town Planner, Animal Control Officer, and Uncas Health District, and lower fuel and utility costs, lower insurance rates, an improving economy, a great job by the Tax Collectors as well as a declining student population and a concerted effort to move special needs children back into the District by the Board of Education, the Town has been able to remain financially stable. In addition, the Board of Finance has worked diligently to better control and maintain the stability of their long-term Capital Plan and the Boards, Commissions, and various Departments, recognizing that we’re all in this together, have made a concerted effort to lower their costs.

Board of Finance Public Hearing Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 11, 2018

Unfortunately, due to the State's ongoing fiscal crisis, the Town has experienced some significant cuts, including cuts to ECS (Educational Cost Sharing), TAR (Town Aid Roads), LoCIP (Local Capital Improvement Program), Mohegan Funds, and other holdbacks. Continued cuts to the Town's ECS Funding for FY2018/19 are expected.

Chairman Householder provided a brief presentation reviewing the Capital and General Government Budgets and Board of Education (BOE) Chairman Sean Reith presented a brief overview of the BOE Budget for FY2018/19.

Capital Expenditures:	\$ 895,974.00
General Government:	\$ 3,793,128.00
Board of Education:	\$10,338,225.00

Recent updates to the BOE Budget include:

- an adjustment to the projected Health Insurance cost increase reduction from 13.7% to 5.67%.
- the BOE, in conjunction with a discussion held with the Board of Finance, will be expending \$102,000.00 for technology items utilizing the current year's budget, rather than including the expense in the FY2018/19 budget.

Chairman Householder reviewed the Town's revenue streams, which includes taxes, Town services (permits, library fines, recording fees, etc.), and Federal and State Funding. The Board is hoping to maintain a zero or very minimal mil rate increase over this coming and the next fiscal years. He credited former Board of Finance Chairman T.J. Butcher for helping raise the value of the Town and establishing and improving the Town's value and budget process as well as the Boards and Commissions for their fiscal responsibility.

2. COMMENTS – *none*

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem