

**Town of Colebrook  
Board of Finance**

**Minutes to the Meeting of March 9, 2016**

**Members Present**

J. Millar, Chairman  
R. Carfiro  
T. Corvo  
D. Johnstone  
M. Klimkosky  
M. Neal

**Absent**

**Others Present**

J. Jones  
J. Chittum

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m. by Chairman J. Millar.

1. J. Chittum presented a revised 2016-17 budget on behalf of the Board of Education. It increases expenditures for health benefits and cleaning the well tanks, partially offset by lower Shared Services, bringing the new total to \$1,906,843, which is \$1,494 higher than the original budget and 1.7% higher than 2015-16.
2. J. Chittum and J. Jones responded to questions about health care, the new enrichment program, and special ed transportation, noting that health care is based on the expectation of a 3.5% premium increase.
3. The proposed 2016-17 budgets and preliminary grand list report currently in hand result in a deficit of \$166,613 at today's mill rate of 27.8. Property values (excluding the BNE wind turbines and MDC) declined 8.4% during the recently-completed revaluation, reducing tax revenues by \$381,445. A reduction of the MDC's personal property assessment and the proposed budget increases add another \$115,234 and \$65,684, respectively, to the deficit. These negative factors are mitigated by new taxes of \$264,499 on the BNE wind turbines and \$190,197 from a reappraisal of MDC's real property. Measures to close the deficit – most likely a higher mill rate – will be discussed a next week's meeting.
4. Discussed financing options for the new fire truck, which will shortly be submitted by the Selectmen to a town meeting for approval. A consensus of the Board favored borrowing from reserves to pay the cost of approximately \$325,000. Accordingly, J. Millar moved, and T. Corvo seconded, that the Board of Finance support the purchase of the fire truck from reserves in the general fund; provided, however, that the capital fund repay the general fund in a manner satisfactory to the Board of Finance and that adequate records be maintained to track the status of repayment. The motion was approved with the exception of D. Johnstone who wanted to clarify the status of the existing "due to general fund" of \$259,965 (presumably in connection with the Sandy Brook Bridge) prior to adding the cost of the fire truck to the balance.

5. Briefly discussed the audit issue, which entails a conflict between Quick Books and the draft balance sheet as of June 30, 2015. Quick Books still has entries for accounts receivable and deferred revenue that were made by King, King in 2013 but do not appear in the draft audit. The Board will revisit this issue at the meeting scheduled for March 16.
6. R. Carfiro moved to accept the minutes of March 2, 2016. Second, M. Klimkosky. Passed unanimously.
7. T. Corvo moved to adjourn. Second, R. Carfiro. Passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha F. Neal  
Secretary