

**Town of Colebrook
Board of Finance**

Minutes to Meeting of March 15, 2017

Members Present

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

Absent

R. Carfiro

Others Present

C. Johnstone

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman J. Millar.

1. M. Klimkosky briefed the Board about the Region 7 budget workshop he attended last week on March 8. He noted that most of the Region 7 towns attended and that they voiced concern about the increase proposed for 2017-18. The Region 7 Board was urged to develop an alternative plan in event the proposed budget is defeated at referendum. J. Millar will also contact Region 7 to concur with the need for an alternative plan and to ask about revenue risks due to the possible loss of state aid.
2. The Board then discussed the revised budget submitted by the Selectmen at the last meeting. The principal focus was the Selectmen's salaries, which lag well behind those paid by other towns of similar population, according to the salary survey published by the Northwest Hills Council of Government in December 2016. The low salaries paid by Colebrook may affect the town's ability to attract qualified individuals to fill these positions. After much discussion, M. Neal moved to recommend that the Board of Selectmen consider increasing the annual salary of the first selectman to \$50,000. Second, D. Johnstone. Passed unanimously. M. Klimkosky then moved to recommend that the Board of Selectmen consider increasing the annual salaries of the second and third selectmen to \$4000 each. Second, J. Millar. Passed unanimously except for D. Johnstone who recused herself.
3. Reviewed the status of the municipal reserve fund, which is expected to require an additional appropriation of roughly \$150,000 to pay for the the fire truck and other projects previously approved by the town. Such an appropriation will increase the balance of the "due to" general fund account to slightly more than \$300,000. Accordingly, J. Millar moved to approve a supplemental appropriation of up to \$150,000 as needed from the general fund to the municipal reserve fund. Second, T. Corvo. Passed unanimously.
4. J. Millar will continue to follow up with the Republican-American about doing a story on the impact of Governor Malloy's budget proposals on Colebrook's mill rate.
5. D. Johnstone moved to accept the minutes of March 8, 2017. Second, J. Millar. Passed with the abstention of M. Klimkosky who was absent.
6. M. Neal moved to adjourn. Second, M. Klimkosky. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha F. Neal
Secretary