

**Preston Board of Finance
Special Meeting
Wednesday July 10, 2018
7:00 pm
Preston Town Hall Conference Room**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Melissa Lennon, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Members

Melissa Lennon – Chair
Stacey Becker
Keith Wucik
Ken Zachem
Jerry Grabarek

Alternates

Ian Stammel - excused
Lennie Spencer – seated in place of Dan Duprey

Also Present

1st Selectman Robert Congdon
John Spang, Finance Director
Daniel Sandoval – BoF candidate
Sandra Allyn-Gauthier - BoF candidate
Michael Clancy - BoF candidate
Denise C. Beale (Sharp) - BoF candidate
Joshua Sweeney - BoF candidate

2. Public Comment & Questions

Nick Vegliante Preston resident and Chairman of the Democratic Town Committee stated he submitted a letter from the Democratic Town Committee endorsing Sandra Gauthier. N. Vegliante noted that S. Gauthier ran for a position on the BoF and only lost by 20 votes which demonstrates a significant amount of voter support. She has the education, qualifications and the temperament to be an asset to the Board.

3. BoF Resignation

A motion was made by S. Becker and seconded by K. Zachem that the BoF regretfully accept the resignation of Dan Duprey.

All in favor. Motion carries

4. Executive Session: Interview Candidates to fill vacancy on BoF

A motion was made by K. Wucik and seconded by K. Zachem that the BoF go into executive session to interview candidates to fill the vacancy on the BoF.

All in favor. Motion carries.

The BoF went into executive session at 7:05 pm.

**A motion was made by S. Becker and seconded by K. Zachem that the BoF come out of executive session and resume the meeting.
All in favor. Motion carries.**

The BoF meeting resumed at 7:50 pm.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on appointment of New BoF Member

A motion was made by K. Wucik and seconded by J. Grabarek to nominate Sandra Gauthier as a BoF Regular Member.

Yes: M. Lennon, S. Becker, K. Wucik, J. Grabarek

No: L. Spencer

Abstain: K. Zachem

Motion carries

A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to recess the meeting in order to find out the results of the Referendum.

All in favor. Motion carries.

The BoF meeting was recessed at 8:00 pm.

A motion was made by K. Wucik and seconded by S. Becker to reconvene the meeting at 8:26 pm.

All in favor. Motion carries.

FY 18-19 Budget: referendum Results and Next Steps for FY18-19 Budget

The results of the BoE budget;

Yes 291 No 382

The results of the General Government Budget;

Yes 337 No 333

A motion was made by K. Wucik and seconded by J. Grabarek that the BoF approve moving \$58,091.19 from Fund Balance, line item #3000 to pay payroll and payroll taxes from the General Government Budget and request that the Town Treasurer provide an itemized list of all expenditures to BoF at the next Regular Meeting on July 18th.

All in favor. Motion carries.

A motion was made by J. Grabarek and seconded by K. Zachem that the BoF approve moving NTE \$60,000 from Fund Balance, line item #3000 to Operating Budget, line item #5100 to pay payroll and payroll taxes for the BoE budget.

All in favor. Motion carries.

M. Lennon requested an itemized list of essential bills that need to be paid from BoE and General Government be presented at the next BoF meeting on July 18th.

M. Lennon requested the bills be presented in order of priority by the date they are due.

A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek that the BoF recommends that the BoE hold a Public Hearing to present their budget and scenarios of impact to the budget with cuts of \$50,000, \$75,000, \$100,000, and a flat budget with the impact of services from the budget voted on July 10, 2018. The BoF requests a response from the BoE by July 18, 2018.

All in favor. Motion carries.

7. Public Comment & Questions

Andy Depta, Preston resident stated that another Public Hearing is going to be held, where 60 people will tell you what they want, when you just had 600 people tell you what they want. You are not listening to the voters. What they are telling you is that the Board of Education budget is too high. Do your job. I think you're doing the wrong job, I think you're doing a bad job. You're not doing the fiduciary responsibility of the Board of Finance is to not do the Board of Education's job. It is not for you to give them a scenario of numbers. You are to tell the Board of Education what you want to bring the Town budget down to.

R. Congdon congratulated Sandra Gauthier.

R. Congdon stated that it is interesting that the same person who said he sat in on every Board of Finance budget workshop and they did a fabulous job is now telling you that you are not doing your job. I think you're doing exactly what you need to do. Just pulling a number out of the air is irresponsible.

Andy Bilodeau, Preston resident stated that this BoF still does not know the actual cost of non-mandatory pre-K, the cost of Superintendent reduction to half time, the cost of the study to see if the Superintendent should be half time or full time. The BoF does not get the answers or information required to make a true pick of a number that you should cut the board of Education budget.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by J. Grabarek to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 pm.

All in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Charpentier
recorder