

**Sterling Board of Finance  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 10, 2024 @ 7:00pm  
Sterling Municipal Building Room #15**

**Present:** Chairman Robert Salisbury, Vice Chair Neil Delmonico, James Molodich, Steve Offiler and C. Peter Rabbitt

**Absent:** Tracie Adams w/notice

**Also Present:** First Selectman Lincoln Cooper, Selectman David Shippee, Selectman Jack Joslyn, Treasurer Sherri Soucy, Superintendent Ted Friend, Business Manager Courtney Brannon, Melissa Bradley; recording secretary, and general public

- I. **Call to Order:** R. Salisbury called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** All stood to honor the pledge of allegiance.
- III. **Audience of Citizens:** Courtney Langlois, BOE Chair, states the board built a reasonable, transparent budget. Tuition is a large part of the increase and is federally mandated. Any cuts would have a serious impact on the services offered.

Peter Grillo states the BOE put a good budget together and anticipates the board took the last two weeks to really look over both budgets line by line.

Victoria Robinson-Lewis, BOE member, states the board worked very hard on the budget and the majority of the increase is tuition, which is non-negotiable.

- IV. **Correspondence:** No new correspondence
- V. **Approval of Minutes:** S. Offiler points out a clerical error in the March 27<sup>th</sup> minutes under item #4 – it states a 1.39% mill increase and should read a 1.39\$ increase. P. Rabbitt made a motion to approve the minutes of 3/27/24 with the noted correction and approve the 3/13/24 minutes as presented. S. Offiler seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**VI. New Business**

a. **Revenue Collectors Report:** The board reviewed the report, no discussion.

b. **Treasurer's Report:** The board reviewed the report, no discussion.

**c&d. Consider and Act on 2024/25 BOE & BOS Budget and Rate:**

The board discusses the budgets and ask the Selectman and BOE to comment.

R. Salisbury and S. Offiler propose cutting the presented 1.39\$ increase in half to .70 and decreasing the budgets on how they impact the overall budget, 65/35%.

The proposed BOE increase was \$321,723 and the BOS was \$241,977.

This proposal would be a \$209,076 increase for the BOE and \$110,364 for BOS.

Resulting in a decrease of \$112,647 for the BOE and \$131,613 for BOS.

S. Offiler made a motion to decrease the BOE requested increase of \$321,723 by \$112,647 and the BOS requested increase of \$241,977 by \$131,613 in the 2024/25 budget.  
J. Molodich seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Projected date for the Public Hearing is April 24<sup>th</sup>; Town Meeting May 8<sup>th</sup>; and Referendum May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

S. Offiler made a motion to move the 2024/2025 budget as amended to a public hearing on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. N. Delmonico seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**VII. Any Other Business to come before the Board: None**

**VIII. Adjournment:** P. Rabbitt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. J. Molodich seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.

Respectfully Submitted;

*Melissa J. Bradley*  
Recording Secretary