

Weston Annual Town Budget Meeting
April 20, 2016 8:00 PM
Weston High School Auditorium

Present: (*Head Table*) First Selectman Nina Daniel, Town Administrator Tom Landry, Finance Director Rick Darling, Board of Finance Chairman Steve Ezzes, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Colleen Palmer, Ellen Uzenoff BOE Chairman, School Finance Director Richard Rudl, Legal Counsel Patricia Sullivan, Woody Bliss Parliamentarian and Donna M. Anastasia, Clerk of the Meeting.

Comments and/or questions are not direct quotes of the speaker and only a sample of comments are included.

The ATBM was called to order at approximately 8:07 PM by the First Selectman Nina Daniel.

First Selectman Daniel thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She noted that in keeping with Weston's history that tonight's meeting is the 237th town meeting regarding the budget for the Town of Weston. She then introduced the head table and made a motion to nominate Susan Moch as Moderator of the meeting.

Motion: First Selectman Daniel made a motion to appoint Susan Moch Moderator of the meeting; motion seconded and with none opposed, motion passes unanimously.

Moderator Moch welcomed everyone to the meeting and appointed Woody Bliss as Parliamentarian of the meeting.

Moderator Moch noted the seating arrangement for voters and non-voters with the exception of the press.

Ms. Moch appointed Donna Anastasia Clerk of the meeting.

Motion: A motion was made to waive the reading of the Call with the exception of the revised section made part of these minutes; motion seconded and approved unanimously.

Moderator Moch instructed the Clerk to include the Call of the meeting into the minutes So noted by the clerk. .

*The voting procedures and rules were read including eligibility to vote.

Madam Moderator would like to recognize the Registrar of Voters Theresa Brasco and Laura Smits who will handle all voting procedures throughout the meeting and be available for residents to vote by machine after the meeting.

Motion: Moderator Moch made a motion to limit the comments to three minutes; motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

The meeting was turned over to Steve Ezzes, Chairman of the Board of Finance. He welcomed all for coming to the meeting and made some brief comments regarding the careful preparation of the budget and the need to visit alternatives such as consolidating services with neighboring towns and apply technology where possible.

Chairman Ezzes wished to recognize Tom Landry, Town Administrator who will be retiring next year. He commented on the outstanding work Tom has done for the Town and the Town's finances in general. Tom received a resonating round of applause from all.

Moderator Moch announced that the Town Meeting had a quorum; 166 people and we will proceed with the 237th Annual Town Budget Meeting.

Chairman Ezzes proceeded with the Town Operating Budget individually; Town Operating line items were moved, seconded and unanimously approved without anyone opposed and without abstentions.

Resident Jeff Sears asked how health insurance costs were allocated. Mr. Landry said the Town pays about 82% and employees pay 18%.

Dan McNeill, Steep Hill would like clarification on the Board of Education budget. Mr. Landry said the cost in that budget is for the Town audit.

Amy Sanborn, Old Hyde commented that the Tax Collector's office is an important function and the role should not be looked at as insignificant.

Moderator Moch made a motion to approve the Town operating budget pending final referendum vote as proposed, motion was seconded, with none opposed and no abstentions the total Town Operating Budget is approved unanimously.

Total Town Operating Budget of \$12,497,995. passes unanimously pending final referendum vote.

Moderator Moch explained to the audience that the Board of Education is voted upon as a total number unlike the Town Operating Budget.

Motion: Margaret Wirtenberg, Wilson Road made a motion to amend the Board of Education amount by the ECS grant which at this time is uncertain (853,528.) Thus taking the original amount of \$48,905,141. down to \$48,051,613.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the ECS grant and the impact on the budget including the impact if any on the mill rate. Chairman Ezzes explained that while the grant may not come in we believe we can meet the majority by Capital spending cuts and reallocation of personnel.

Motion: Harvey Bellin, Maple St made a motion to cut the Board of Education by 500,000. in light of the declining enrollment and increasing costs. (\$48,405,141.) Motion seconded.

Discussion continued regarding the state grant and Mr. Landry explained that the budget is prepared using conservative estimates, for example supplemental car tax was budgeted for zero when in fact there will be 200K. We also anticipate a 500K increase in revenue although this amount does not show up now in the budget. Both the Town and School are committed jointly to handle this should we have to.

Motion: Richard Troxell moved to Call the question; motion seconded and with all in favor, none opposed, motion passes unanimously.

Madam Moderator made a motion to approve, pending final referendum a total Board of Education Budget as proposed in the amount of \$48,905,141.

Board of Education passes by voice vote with a majority in favor, one opposed and no abstentions pending final machine referendum vote.

Moderator Moch asked Chairman Ezzes to present the Capital Budget as proposed.

Motion: Harvey Bellin, Maple St moved to strike the BOE A/C Systems \$275,889. motion seconded.

There was discussion regarding the A/C system. Superintendent Palmer explained that the cost includes a comprehensive study for the entire district. Some of the money was devoted to the orchestra room for example where moisture is bad for instruments. The study is the smaller portion of the cost and rest is to address problem.

Moderator Moch made a motion to approve the Capital Line item for the BOE Air Conditioning Systems as proposed for \$275,889.

By voice vote motion passes with a majority in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

Chairman Ezzes presented each of the fourteen capital budget items with all passing unanimously (with the exception of the BOE A/C System which was discussed.)

Moderator Moch made a motion to approve Debt Service budget.

Chris Kimberly, Broad St asked what the total debt is right now, Mr. Landry answered that as of June 30, 2015 it was 43.4M and the current debt is just under 4M.

Moderator Moch asked for a voice vote to approve the Debt Service budget in the amount of \$6,308,838.; motion is seconded and with no abstentions and none opposed motion passes unanimously.

With no further business to come before this meeting Moderator Moch made a motion to adjourn this Annual Town Budget meeting to a machine vote; motion was seconded and passes unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Moderator Moch directed those in attendance to cast their vote in the High School library and the Registrars will continue a machine vote on Thursday April 28th, 2016 from 12:00 PM until 8:00 PM at the Town Hall.

Call of the meeting

**LEGAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING OF THE
TOWN OF WESTON**

The legal voters of the Town of Weston are hereby notified and warned that the Annual Town Budget Meeting of the Town of Weston will be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 8:00 p.m., at the Weston High School Auditorium, 115 School Road, Weston, Connecticut. The Board of Selectmen has nominated Susan Moch to serve as Moderator in accordance with Section 3.3 (b) of the Weston Town Charter.

Persons eligible to vote at this Annual Town Budget Meeting must be an elector of the Town of Weston or a citizen of the age of eighteen years or more who, jointly or severally, is liable to the town, for taxes assessed against him on an assessment of not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) on the last completed Grand List of Weston, or who would be liable if not entitled to an exemption.

The meeting shall be held for the following purpose:

1. To consider and act upon the appropriation for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2016. The meeting will make a dispositive vote upon all proposed capital budget items, debt interest and debt principal appropriations. Further, the meeting will decide the proposed school operating budget, the town operating budget and the combined capital budget to be presented for final referendum consideration on April 28, 2016. Individual appropriations listed in this Notice and Call may be reduced to an amount less than the proposed budget recommended by the Board of Finance if, and only if, 130 or more Qualified Voters are present at the Annual Town Meeting and a majority of those Qualified Voters present and voting vote to make the reduction.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S BUDGET

Administration & Finance	\$668,581
General Administration	4,387,200
Information Systems	191,329
Probate Court	4,000
Elections/Registrars	61,913
Board of Finance	56,500
Assessor	133,291
Tax Collection	105,775
Legal Counsel	255,500
Town Clerk	136,305
Land Use Department	378,037
Volunteer Fire Department	231,312
Fire Marshal	59,646
Animal Control	81,469
Communications Center	244,065
Emerg. Med. Commun. Serv.	13,333
Regional Paramedic	136,987
Police Services	1,953,109
Public Works- Highway	1,907,989
Solid Waste Disposal	89,513
Westport/Weston Health Dist.	211,700
Weston Water Utility	18,760
School/Town Water Supply	35,800
Human Services	81,663
Youth Services	41,943
Senior Services	148,339
Public Library	446,398
Recreation Department	175,819
Parks & Fields	158,713

Middle School Pool 83,006

TOTAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S BUDGET \$12,497,995

TOTAL BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET \$48,905,141

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET

Town Vehicle Sinking Fund	375,000
Town Bridge Repair	40,000
Town Building Repair	50,000
Parks & Recreation Bisceglie Infield #1 Replace	23,000
Parks & Recreation Morehouse Fence/Rail Replace	16,500
Fire Department Base Radio System	135,000
Police Radio Repeater	27,600
BOE Air Conditioning Systems	275,889
BOE Replace Flooring Hurlbutt Ramps	18,000
BOE Security Initiatives	35,700
BOE Remove Wall Chemistry HS	25,000
BOE Library Learning Commons	80,000
BOE Refresh Master Plan of Facilities	50,000
Town/BOE Turf Replacement Fund	20,000
TOTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET	\$1,171,689

DEBT SERVICE BUDGET

Debt Interest	1,668,838
Debt Principal	4,640,000
Less Debt Service Proceeds	
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE BUDGET	6,308,838

TOTAL TOWN BUDGET \$68,883,663

Less: Estimated Budget Revenue 3,044,076

Net to be Raised by Taxation \$65,839,587

Proposed Mill Rate @ 97.8% Collection = 28.56

Mills for Uncollectible Taxes = .63

Estimated Amount for Uncollectible Taxes = \$1,481,054

2. To transact any other business which may properly come before this meeting.

FOR THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Nina Daniel, First Selectman
Dennis Tracey III, Selectman
Chris Spaulding, Selectman

Respectfully submitted
Donna M Anastasia
Town Clerk

Included as part of the ATBM minutes
Complete Call of the Meeting