

**BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**February 22, 2010 8:00 PM**  
**Town Hall Meeting Room**  
*BOARD OF FINANCE REVIEWS FIRST SELECTMAN'S BUDGET*

Board of Finance members: Acting Chairman Jerry Sargent, members Patty Kopas, Melissa Koller, Michael Carter, Steve Ezzes, Bob Atkinson and Secretary Donna M. Anastasia.  
*Unable to attend: Michael O'Brien.*

Also Present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein, Selectman Dan Gilbert, Town Administrator Tom Landry, Finance Director Rick Darling, Social Services Director Charlene Chiang-Hillman, Nancy McCormick, Curtis Gunn and several members of the Fire Dept, Fire Marshal and Fire Dept Pres. John Pokorny, Comm.for the Arts Chair Christine Lomuscio, Library Director Jane Atkinson, Dave Juneau of Parks & Recreation, Police Comm.Chair Rick Phillips, Communications Director John Ojarovsky and several others in attendance.

Mr. Sargent called the meeting to order at 8:06 PM

First Selectman Gayle Weinstein gave a presentation on the town Budget proposal which is part hereof. See attachment.

There was general discussion on salary increases, funds set aside in anticipation of under-budgeted salary/part time costs, health care expenses to rise and the increased pension parameters set by the State of Connecticut.

Section	Account Number	Department
1	100	<b>Administration and Finance</b> – The Treasurer’s position has been incorporated into the Finance Director’s responsibilities. The payroll clerk has absorbed some additional tasks. There was discussion regarding the merging of Town pay roll into the school but because of temporary summer help and overtime this would be problematic.
2	110	<b>General Administration</b> There was general discussion regarding health insurance costs. Ms. Weinstein slightly increased the budget for the Food Pantry.
3	115	<b>Information Systems</b> No discussion
4	120	<b>Probate Court</b> There was a slight reduction in this budget to reflect a more realistic amount.
5	130	<b>Elections/Registrars</b> This account had to be increased because the State of Connecticut no longer provides funding for ballot materials.

6	141	<b>Board of Finance</b>
7	142	<b>Town Treasurer</b>
8	143	<b>Assessor</b> Currently there are approximately 17 - 18 appeals pending with possibly more to come in; this account was conservatively budgeted.
9	144	<b>Tax Collector</b>
10	145	<b>Board of Assessment Appeals</b>
11	150	<b>Legal Counsel</b> This account was increased 10K for litigation although most past claims have been closed.
12	160	<b>Town Clerk</b>
13	165	<b>Historic District Commission</b> Secretarial services have been reduced.
14	170	<b>Planning and Zoning</b>
15	180	<b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b>
16	185	<b>Conservation Commission</b>
17	191	<b>Building Inspector</b>
18	195	<b>Building Committee</b> Secretarial services have been reduced
19	220	<b>Volunteer Fire Department</b> There was general discussion regarding the Fire Department software and security. The new firehouse is complete with some minor items to be done.

Section	Account Number	Department
20	240	<b>Fire Marshal</b> The Fire Marshal's hours were slightly increased by 2 hours.
21	250	<b>Animal Control</b> – The part time Animal Control position hours have been reduced.
22	260	<b>Communications Center</b> There was some discussion regarding code red coverage. Ms. Weinstein has considered regionalizing this department. More research is needed.
23	263	<b>Southwest Ct. Emergency Medical Services</b>
24	264	<b>Emergency Medical Communications Services</b>
25	266	<b>Regional Paramedic</b> This is an ongoing contract until 2013
26	280	<b>Police Services</b> - Ms. Weinstein has reduced tuition reimbursement which was not being used. There was discussion regarding additional officers vs overtime pay. Mr. Landry explained that it is the benefit package more than salary that increases the budget. Rick Phillips addressed the overtime necessity with rotation and shifts making it impossible to eliminate overtime completely.
27	300	<b>Public Works/Highway-</b> There was discussion regarding the high costs of asphalt which has spiked within the last two years; only 2.4 miles were completed last year instead of the planned 4 miles.
28	410	<b>Solid Waste Disposal</b> There was discussion regarding the revenue now received for recyclables. Director Joe Lametta is currently working on accurate tonnage tipping fees. There was also discussion regarding the option of charging for bulky items. Ms. Weinstein has proposed increasing garbage stickers from \$1.00 to \$1.50.

29	510	<b>Westport Weston Health District</b> There was discussion regarding the regionalization of this department however the State mandates a 3 town unit or a population of at least 50K to be eligible for grant funding. There is ongoing discussions with Redding and possibly Easton.
30	515	<b>Southwest Regional Mental Health Board</b>
31	530	<b>Weston Water Utility</b>
32	550	<b>School/Town Water Supply</b>
33	600	<b>Human Services</b> There was discussion regarding the increases in cases handled by our Social Services department. There are approximately 90 households in financial need and 190 households in many different areas of need. There is a much greater case load and more complicated cases as previously experienced in the past. Social Services was granted a part time assistant on a temporary basis to help with the workload. There was some discussion regarding the Kids in Crisis program which was not funded due to the program not working well for Weston as it did in other towns. There was also discussion regarding the need for a Social Worker for the schools.
34	700	<b>Youth Services</b> Nancy McCormick, Chair for Children and Youth explained that there is more subsidizing for students as compared with previous years.
35	750	<b>Commission on Aging</b> 2K was added to this account for senior lunches. The back up driver position for DialARide was eliminated. There should be a grant coming through from the State but Ms. Weinstein explained that should the grant not come through the town may utilize the Heady fund.
36	810	<b>Library</b> -Ms. Weinstein has reduced the line item for books that is not being spent. Equipment expense for 3 computers has been taken out however these computers could be purchased with private library funds. The board requested a follow up on the specifics of Bibliomation software and its usage.
37	910	<b>Parks and Recreation</b> The board would like to see a usage and revenue breakdown
38	912	<b>Parks &amp; Fields</b> The board would like to see a usage and revenue breakdown

39	913	<b>Middle School Pool</b> The board would like to see a usage and revenue breakdown
	930	<b>Municipal Debt (Interest)</b>
	950	<b>Municipal Debt (Principal)</b>
	970	<b>Town/School Capital Budget</b>

### **TOWN/SCHOOL CAPITAL BUDGET**

Ms. Weinstein discussed the boilers for the schools with regard to the new bond refinancing/issue plan; should the bonding not go through the boilers will not be replaced.

Fire/Police Radios. There was discussion regarding digital radios for the Police dept. The Fire department would like Motorola (analogue) radios which they have always used. There will be a digital (3-4 year) conversion for the Police department. There is a possibility that funding could come from the Communications (Tower) funds.

Discussion regarding the cooperation with another town in purchasing the equipment. Motorola is a State bid price so piggy-backing with another town would not work with Motorola, however that is what the Fire department would like to have.

Wetlands mitigation update. Final proposal is now submitted. (School property)

Mr. Sargent adjourned the meeting at 11:13 PM

Respectfully submitted  
Donna M. Anastasia, Secretary