

Public Hearing
March 30, 2016 8:00 PM
Weston Middle School Cafeteria

Summaries of the budget are available at the Public Hearing and from the Town Clerk. A copy of the detailed budget is available for public inspection in the office of the Town Clerk. This meeting was videotaped and is available upon request. The Call of the Public Hearing, Weston Public Schools summary and the town budget summary is attached hereto. Comments are not direct quotes.

Present: Board of Finance Chmn Steve Ezzes, board members, Allan Grauberd, David Finkel, Dick Bochinski, Bob Ferguson and Melissa Koller. Donna Anastasia, clerk of the meeting.

Also present: First Selectman Nina Daniel, Selectman, Town Administrator Tom Landry, Dr. Colleen Palmer Superintendent of Schools; Town Hall employees and Department Heads; members of the Board of Education; several School Administrators, teachers and personnel. There were approximately 32 others present.

This Public Hearing was called to order by Chmn Ezzes at 8:00 PM

First Selectman Daniel briefly went over some points in the Town Operating Budget and turned the meeting over to Chmn Ezzes.

Chmn Ezzes opened the floor to public comment and questions.

Bob Machson, White Birch
commented on the hiring of an SRO for the schools and the reduction in art programs for 5th grade students which he read in a letter to the editor in the Weston Forum.

Colleen Palmer, Superintendent of Schools
explained that it was not a budgetary factor reducing art and gym programs but rather a decision made that instructional time for classes such as math and science were under half an hour and to fill that time adequately time had to be taken from art and gym programs.

Jess DiPasquale, Pheasant Hill
went over the process and the agreement with the schools regarding the SRO. He noted that the "board" (Police commission) has been discussing this position since 1999.

John Troxell, Chief of Police
explained that one of our own officers will be trained as an SRO for the schools, we are not hiring an outside SRO

Margaret Wirtenberg, Wilson Rd
noted that funds should be available to enhance our website.

Phil Schaefer, Board of Education commented on the original budget proposed being changed from 1.68% to 1.16%, a savings of approximately 150,000. Capital budget decreased slightly from 579,000 to 584,000.

Member Allan Grauberd asked Mr. Landry about the impact on the mill rate as a result of the increases. Mr. Landry explained that the budget remains basically flat. There are other factors to consider that can impact the mill rate such as State aid and OPEB requirements.

Chmn Ezzes asked if there were any further questions or comments, with no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.

Legal notice is hereby given of the Public Hearings of the Board of Finance of the Town of Weston on Wednesday, March 30, 2016 and Thursday March 31, 2016 (if necessary), at 8:00 p.m. at the Weston Middle School Cafeteria, 135 School Road, Weston, CT for the following purpose:

To discuss the proposed budgets for the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Education, Capital Improvements and Debt Service as submitted to the Board of Finance for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2016. Said budgets are as follows:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S BUDGET	
General Government	6,534,031
Public Safety	2,677,921
Public Works	1,916,989
Sanitation, Health & Environment	357,473
Human Services	721,887
Parks & Recreation	420,538
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S BUDGET	12,628,839
BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET	49,317,488
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET	1,266,689
DEBT SERVICE BUDGET	6,308,838
GROSS TOWN BUDGET	69,521,854
Less Estimated Revenues	(3,044,076)

NET TOWN BUDGET

66,477,778

Dated at Weston, Connecticut
this 21st day of March, 2016

Steve Ezzes
Board of Finance, Chairman

Respectfully submitted

Donna M Anastasia
Town Clerk