

Approved 4/8/2014

Board of Finance

Board of Finance reviews Board of Selectmen Budget FY 2014-2015
Monday March 10, 2014 7:30 PM
Town Hall Meeting Room

*This meeting was videotaped and is available upon request
Comments and discussions are not direct quotes of the speakers*

Present: Board of Finance members; Chmn. Steve Ezzes, Michael Carter, V Chmn. Jerry Sargent, Dick Bochinski, Melissa Koller, David Finkel and Allan Grauberd; Town Administrator Tom Landry; Finance Director Rick Darling; First Selectman Gayle Weinstein; Secretary Donna M. Anastasia; Karen Tatarka Library Director; Amy Sanborn; Laura Smits (D) Registrar of Voters, Charity Nichols Tax Collector; John Ojarovsky Director of Communications; Joe Lametta, Director of Public Works; Tracy Kulikowski Land Use Director; John Troxell Chief of Police and Sgt. Mike Ferullo; Fire Chief John Pokorny; Wendy Petty Senior Center; Sharon Shattuck Information Systems; and approximately 20 others in attendance.

Chmn. Ezzes called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

The meeting was turned over to Michael Carter. Mr. Carter presented honorary gifts to Patty Kopas and Michael O'Brien for their many years of service on the Board of Finance. Their hard work and dedication is appreciated by the board as well as the community.

Chmn. Ezzes then turned the meeting over to First Selectman Weinstein.

First Selectman Gayle Weinstein

A complete copy of the Power Point presentation is made part of these minutes.

Recommended Operating budget \$12,067,068.

Ms. Weinstein presented the board with a state of the town summary, outlook for 2014-2015 and budget proposal request.

The board and the First Selectmen agreed to make an exception for this meeting and discuss items 1 and 2 of General Administration followed by the Senior Center item due to many interested residents in attendance.

Board of Finance reviews First Selectman's Budget Request

Administration and Finance

General Administration

Increase in health insurance. Mr. Landry stated that we have not received the rates but the anticipated jump is about 18%. For the first time we will have to use our Insurance Reserve Fund (330,000 balance). There was discussion regarding alternatives to the current insurance plan; merging the school and town employees however this option would cost more. Also discussed was post retirement insurance for employees. Currently only the police and highway department have this benefit not the town employees unit.

We are waiting for the full OPEB report including our projections. Mr. Landry gave an overview of both the town and school liability and he will have the details once the final report comes in.

Senior Center

Helen deKeijzer, Chairman for the Commission on Aging spoke to the board regarding more space for the Senior Center and some additional hours for staff. In addition she emphasized the current difficulty regarding the limited amount of space for parking (13 spaces)

There was a lengthy discussion regarding associated costs in addition to the part time staffing request. Temporary and permanent space will require more discussion.

There will be further discussions with regard to the center including recommendations/suggestions from Dr. Palmer and all parties involved.

Information Systems

Increase to give town email addresses to all elected and appointed officials.

Probate Court

Elections/Registrars

Increase for the state election this year and new unfunded mandates.

Board of Finance

Assessor

Board of Assessment Appeals

52 Appeals have been filed

Tax Collector

Legal Counsel

Town Clerk

Land Use

Increase in Land Use Director and Building Inspector hours.

Planning & Zoning

Zoning Board of Appeals

Conservation Commission

Building Inspector

Building Committee

Public Safety

Volunteer Fire Department

55K was budgeted, any repairs or equipment above that would be the town's responsibility. Chief Pokorny explained that the department pays for much of the budget each year. He also went over some aging of the fire vehicles.

Fire Marshal

Animal Control

Communications Center

Mr. Landry went over some of the costs, expenses and revenue associated with the tower account.

Some discussion regarding dispatch services and overtime.

SW Connecticut Emergency Med Services

Emergency Med Communication Services

Regional Paramedic

Police Services

Overtime costs were recalculated after FEMA reimbursements and the anticipation of our new officer which will offset some of that expense.

Chief Troxell gave an overview of all the areas that affected the projected overtime request. *(The initial request was made prior to the recent larceny case for example)*

He also went over some overtime cost variables i.e. sick time, vacation time, storm duty and unforeseen events.

Public Works – Highway

Singing Oaks area will be re-milled as well as paved. Mr. Lametta considered the damage from the storms this year did not impact maintenance to any significant degree.

Solid Waste

Mr. Landry went over the cost offsets for solid waste.

Sanitarian – Health

Westport Weston Health District

Westport will be adding one staff person.

Weston Water Utility

Mr. Carter asked about the Enterprise fund. This fund carries year to year and is designed for repairs.

Regarding the Ravenwood/Godfrey water supply we are approximately 35 years into the (50) year agreement.

School/Town Water Supply

Human Resources and Development

Human Services

Increase in cost for meals-on-wheels program.

Youth Services

Senior Services

Public Library

Karen Tatarka gave an overview of the Ebooks system and how it works. They account for 10-12% of the market.

When asked where Ms. Tatarka sees the library in 5-10 years she said print will still be available and the challenge will be for more space.

There was a lengthy discussion on the various aspects of the library budget including expansion initiatives and plans regarding the bequest from Franc Vitale.

Parks and Recreation

Parks and Fields

Middle School Pool

Debt Service

Municipal Debt- Interest
\$2,097,869.

Municipal Debt - Principal
\$4,390,000.

Capital Budget

chool Capital Budget Items
\$1,261,745.

With no further discussion to come before this board, meeting adjourned at 10:19 PM

Respectfully submitted
Donna M. Anastasia, Town Clerk