

**ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING OF THE
TOWN OF WESTON
Weston High School Auditorium
April 7th, 2010 8:00 PM**

Present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein, Town Counsel Patricia Sullivan, Town Administrator Tom Landry, Richard Troxell, Susan Moch, Board of Finance Chairman Michael O'Brien, Finance Director Rick Darling, Registrar of Voters Laura Smits and Susan Moran, Finance Director for the Schools Dr JoAnn Keating, Superintendent Jerry Belair.

Audience: Jerry Sargent, Walter Erikson, Frank Billone, Bob Machson. Don and Phyllis Gary, Roy Marsh, Sonya Stack, Eileen Buckley, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Major, Bill Brady, Hal Mathews, Margaret Wirtenberg and approximately 150 in attendance.

First Selectman Gayle Weinstein called the meeting to order at 8:12 PM.

Selectman Weinstein welcomed everyone and turned the meeting over to Rick Phillips, Chairman of the Police Commission to present the annual **Citizen of the Year award.**

Mr. Phillips announced the recipient for this year's award is Mr. Fred Schneider. Mr. Schneider has been very involved with the cubs scouts, boy scouts and the Eagle Scout program. Upon his retirement Mr. Schneider wanted to spend time on services for our youth. He is an active member of Kiwanis, the Republican Town Committee, the Historical Society and the Warm Up fund. He is a member and Trustee for the Norfield Congregational Church where he has volunteered many hours coordinating projects and planning future improvements.

Mr. Schneider thanked Mr. Phillips and the Police Commission for the award and said he was honored with so many people in town deserving of such an award. Mr. Schneider said he and his wife Shirley were attracted to the semi-rural ambiance of Weston and was very happy he made the decision to live in Weston. His interest in Weston was sparked much earlier when his father would talk about Weston and its unique character and charm. Mr. Schneider again thanked the Police Commission, the boy scouts of Troop 788 and the Kiwanis members.

First Selectman Weinstein congratulated Mr. Schneider and thanked everyone for coming together as a community for the Annual Town Budget meeting. She went on to say that a valid petition has been filed and a machine vote will be taken on April 15th. She thanked the Registrar of Voters Laura Smits and Susan Moran and Town Clerk Donna Anastasia for their hard work putting the Referendum together.

Ms. Weinstein then introduced the head table; Dr. Joann Keating Finance Director for the Schools, Jerry Belair Superintendent, Phil Schaefer Chairman of the Board of Education, Rick Darling Finance Director for the Town, Board of Finance Chairman Michael O'Brien, Legal Counsel Patricia Sullivan, Clerk of the meeting Donna M. Anastasia, Moderator of the meeting Susan Moch and Parliamentarian Dick Troxell.

Motion made to appoint Susan Moch as Moderator of the meeting; With no other nominations, motion is seconded and passes unanimously.

ATBM
April 7, 2010

Ms. Moch thanked the Board of Selectmen for her appointment as Moderator and appointed Dick Troxell as Parliamentarian of the meeting.

Motion: Ms. Moch made a motion to waive the reading of the Call; motion is seconded and with none opposed motion carries. Madam Moderator instructed the Clerk to enter the Call into the minutes of the meeting. So noted by the Clerk.

Ms. Moch then asked all non-voting attendees to sit in the designated section with the exception of the press who may sit in front.

Ms. Moch read the procedures for making motions and the rules for addressing the Town Meeting. Ms. Moch explained amendment procedures and methods of voting. Each of the following separate items of the Selectmen's budget will be moved by the Chairman of the Board of Finance.

She further explained that a petition has been filed with the Town Clerk and has been verified as a valid petition. A machine vote will take place at the Weston Middle School on April 15th, 2010 from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm for the total BOE and BOS Operating budgets.

All those voting will be voting on each item in the Selectmen's budget and the BOE budget can be discussed and/or amended. The total budget will be approved subject to the machine vote on April 15th, 2010. Should the machine vote result in a majority negative vote for either the BOS, BOE or both, the budgets will have to go back to the Board of Finance.

She explained that Chairman O'Brien will be presenting the Board of Selectmen's budget line by line, BOE budget, Capital Improvement Budget for each of the (11) items, Debt Interest and Debt Principal.

After each main motion, one may oppose by another motion. The alternative amount may not exceed the original amount and every other amount thereafter. Ms. Moch also stated that a reasonable amount will be voted on, not fractional adjustments. For example a 300K item lowered to 250K would not be entertained and it is at the discretion of the Moderator to determine the acceptance or rejection of a motion.

Motion: Ms. Moch made a motion to limit comments to three minutes in duration as has been done in the past, motion seconded. –With one opposed and one abstention, motion carries.

There were some questions and comments from the floor regarding discussion of anything outside of the Call; the cost of the machine vote (Referendum); whether the Selectmen’s budget can be lowered at this meeting and some discussion regarding the petition.

Chairman O’Brien began with the Selectmen’s budget

Motions will precede a voice vote from all eligible voters

<u>BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S BUDGET</u>	<u>Voice Votes</u>	
Administration & Finance	All	\$654,414
General Administration	One opposed	3,703,023
Information Systems	All	230,137
Probate Court	All	4,000
Elections/Registrars	One opposed	41,758
Board of Finance	All	50,000
Assessor	All	116,845
Tax Collection	All	112,467
Board of Assessment Appeals	All	295
Legal Counsel	All	234,600
Town Clerk	All	122,630
Historic District Commission	All	300
Planning and Zoning Commission	All	103,918
Zoning Board of Appeals	All	2,500
Conservation Commission	All	55,944
Building Inspector	All	116,584
Building Committee	All	600
Volunteer Fire Department	All	212,174
Fire Marshal	All	41,819
Animal Control	All	60,093
Communications Center	All	271,588
SW Conn. Emerg. Med. Serv.	All	1,340
Emerg. Med. Commun. Serv.	All	12,105
Regional Paramedic	All	130,392
Police Services	All	1,628,967

Public Works- Highway	All	1,761,375
Solid Waste Disposal	All	106,920
Westport/Weston Health Dist.	All	183,748
Weston Water Utility	All	16,020
School/Town Water Supply	All	39,650
Human Services	All	81,540
Youth Services	All	26,057
Commission on Aging	All	86,026
Public Library	All	383,797
Recreation Department	All	185,756
Parks & Fields	All	112,475
Middle School Pool	One opposed	<u>88,574</u>
TOTAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S BUDGET	All	\$10,980,431

TOTAL BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET

Bob McDonald, Godfrey E- Commented on an apparent discrepancy with regard to the BOE salaries and benefits package.

Dick Bochinski and Dr. JoAnn Keating stated that the number is correct (pie chart) and the higher debt load number includes health, life, pension and related costs.

Jim Mindling, Buttonball Lane – Made a motion to **amend** the BOE operating budget and hold the total to last year's number. The amended total for the BOE is **43,975,601; motion seconded.**

Jeff Sears, Norfield Rd- Seconds the motion to hold the BOE budget to what it was last year. During these times we should find a way to freeze these costs.

Voice vote taken on motion to hold the BOE budget at FY 2009-2010 (43,975,601.) amount. With the majority opposed, motion failed.

Dave Muller, Weston Rd; The BOE was extremely responsible in building their budget and I challenge anyone to find any waste. Mr. Muller also reminded everyone that there is arbitration. Each item has been justified.

Carolyn Mulcahey, Godfrey Rd- Using the Grand list growth Ms. Mulcahey proposed a reduction to 44,696,728. Ms. Moch rejected the adjustment – Amount was restated by Ms. Mulcahey to 43,901,712. Motion seconded.

Harvey Bellin, Maple St -, Made a motion to request a paper ballot on the adjusted BOE amount. With no second, motion is defeated.

Sonya Stack, Treadwell Lane- Commented on the BOE salaries, benefits, administration costs reflect a tight budget.

Frank Billone, Curiosity Lane commented on money that does not have to be spent in the BOE budget.

Moderator Moch made a motion to approve the BOE Operating budget in the amount of \$44,697,023. Motion will be decided by voice vote.

With majority in favor, approximately 6-7 opposed and one abstention motion carries.

TOTAL DEBT SERVICE BUDGET 6,832,768	All	6,924,936
Lyons Plains Fire House Authorization	All	300,000
TOTAL TOWN BUDGET	All	\$63,634,590
Less: Estimated Budget Revenue		2,473,166
Net to be Raised by Taxation		\$61,161,424
Total		\$63,542,422

Ms. Moch made a Motion to approve the total budget of \$63,542,422. as amended (less 92,168 in Debt interest expense) from the original budget. Motion seconded.

Ms. Moch asked for any questions or any further discussion; hearing none motion passes unanimously.

Madam moderator made a motion to adjourn this meeting which will be dissolved after the Referendum if both questions pass. Motion seconded, with none opposed motion carries unanimously.

With no further business to come before this meeting Moderator Moch made a motion to adjourn, motion seconded and meeting adjourned at 10:32 PM.

ATBM
April 7, 2010

Call of the Meeting

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 07, 2010 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 7.13 (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, 2010. Individual appropriations listed in this Notice and Call may be reduced to an amount less than that recommended by the Board of Finance by an affirmative vote of a majority or more present and voting at this Town Meeting. No motion shall be entertained by the Moderator to reduce the sum of any appropriation in the Board of Selectmen's Budget or of all appropriations recommended by the Board of Finance, or as amended, unless such motion specifies the individual line item in the Notice and Call proposed to be reduced accompanied by the amount of such proposed reduction.

The aforementioned appropriations are summarized as follows:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S BUDGET

Administration & Finance	\$654,414
General Administration	3,703,023
Information Systems	230,137
Probate Court	4,000
Elections/Registrars	41,758
Board of Finance	50,000
Assessor	116,845
Tax Collection	112,467
Board of Assessment Appeals	295
Legal Counsel	234,600
Town Clerk	122,630
Historic District Commission	300
Planning and Zoning Commission	103,918
Zoning Board of Appeals	2,500
Conservation Commission	55,944
Building Inspector	116,584
Building Committee	600
Volunteer Fire Department	212,174
Fire Marshal	41,819
Animal Control	60,093
Communications Center	271,588
SW Conn. Emerg. Med. Serv.	1,340
Emerg. Med. Commun. Serv.	12,105
Regional Paramedic	130,392
Police Services	1,628,967
Public Works- Highway	1,761,375
Solid Waste Disposal	106,920
Westport/Weston Health Dist.	183,748

Weston Water Utility	16,020
School/Town Water Supply	39,650
Human Services	81,540
Youth Services	26,057
Commission on Aging	86,026
Public Library	383,797
Recreation Department	185,756
Parks & Fields	112,475
Middle School Pool	<u>88,574</u>

TOTAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S BUDGET \$10,980,431

TOTAL BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET \$44,697,023

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET

11. Administration Vehicle	20,000
15. Police Vehicles	47,700
21. Police Digital Radios	155,000
43. Fire Portable Radios	77,000
58. Town Bridge Repair	150,000
59. DPW Small Dump Truck	45,000
60. Town Buildings Capital Improvements	50,000
61. Middle School Wetlands Mitigation	120,000
62. BOE/P&R Turf Replacement Fund	20,000
63. BOE/P&R Revson Infield	20,000
64. BOE/P&R High School Track Seal	27,500

TOTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET \$732,200

DEBT SERVICE BUDGET

Debt Interest	2,479,936
Debt Principal	<u>4,445,000</u>
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE BUDGET	6,924,936

Lyons Plains Fire House Authorization 300,000
TOTAL TOWN BUDGET \$63,634,590

Less: Estimated Budget Revenue 2,473,166

Net to be Raised by Taxation \$61,161,424

Proposed Mill Rate @ 97.6% Collection = 23.88

Mills for Uncollectible Taxes = .57

Estimated Amount for Uncollectible Taxes = \$1,503,969

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

FOR THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Gayle Weinstein, First Selectman
David Muller, Selectman
Dan Gilbert, Selectman

Attachments:

Annual Town Budget Meeting Summary
Weston Forum article April 8, 2010

Respectfully submitted

Donna M. Anastasia, Town Clerk