

**BOARD OF FINANCE
PUBLIC BUDGET VOTING SESSION
MINUTES OF MEETING-DRAFT
MARCH 29, 2012**

Pursuant to the call and written notice, the Public Executive Budget Hearing of the Board of Finance was held on Thursday, March 30, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the Board of Education Administrative Offices, Seminar Room 300, 501 Kings Highway East, Fairfield, CT.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Thomas Flynn, Robert Bellitto, Jr. , James Brown, Mary LeClerc, Christopher Dewitt, Kevin Kiley, Elaine Gaffney, Ken Brachfeld, Robert Stone

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ALSO PRESENT

Michael Tetreau, Cristin McCarthy-Vahey, Jim Walsh, Town of Fairfield Board of Selectmen

Paul Hiller, Chief Fiscal Officer and Clerk of the Board of Finance

Linda Gardiner, Budget Director, Town of Fairfield

Dr. David Title, Superintendent, Fairfield Public Schools-BOE

Pamela Iacono, Chairman, Board of Education, Town of Fairfield

Chairman Tom Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Mr. Flynn outlined the procedures and schedule for the Boards voting on budgets tonight.

First Selectman Tetreau asked to address the Board. Mr. Tetreau informed the Board that after various discussions and more research throughout the day that he can confirm that the surplus estimate of 1.5 mil that Mr. Hiller gave to the Board the preceding evening is a true and good figure, and thus knowing this today, requests that this Board re-instate the \$250,000 cut to the BOE budget that the BOS enacted on Monday.

Ensuing discussion reveals that revenue from the Town Clerk's Office is higher than anticipated, and also tax collections have exceed expectations. Also Private School Bus budget is projected to come in under budget by \$100,000 and BOE is projecting a return of \$100,000-\$250,000 for older Purchase Orders being completed under budget.

Board members voiced concern on the timing of this information becoming available.

BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET

Mr. Tetreau made a motion to restore the BOE budget by the \$250, 00 cut made by the BOS, seconded by Mr. Stone; however after discussion Board was uncomfortable with the procedures therefore Mr. Tetreau withdrew his motion.

Mr. Kiley made a motion; seconded by Mr. Stone, to restore the \$250,000 to the BOE budget that was cut by the BOS.

Yea 8 (Flynn, Brown, LeClerc, DeWitt, Kiley, Gaffney, Brachfeld, Stone)

Nea 1 (Bellitto)

Motion Passed.

Mr. Brachfeld made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brown, to increase the BOE budget by \$334,048 with a specific request that these funds be used to increase the pension contribution line item so to restore funding in this account to last year's level. The Board is aware that they have no jurisdiction to earmark funds, however Dr. Title and Ms. Iacono told the Board that they will request that the BOE earmark these funds for this reason and will notify the Board upon their decision.

Motion passed unanimously.

Board vote on Board of Education as amended-\$149,186,464

Yea 8 (Flynn, Brown, LeClerc, DeWitt, Kiley, Gaffney, Brachfeld, Stone)

Nea 1 (Bellitto)

Motion Passed.

PRIVATE BUSSING

No motions

Board vote on Private Bus budget \$1,293,500

Motion Passed unanimously.

HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES

No motions

Board vote on Health & Welfare Services Budget \$158,046

Motion Passed unanimously.

TOWN SIDE BUDGET

REVENUE

Motion made by Mr. Brachfeld, seconded by Mr. Flynn, to decrease Interest and Dividends line item by \$100,000 to \$750,000

Motion Passed unanimously.

Board vote on Revenue Section of Town Budget, as amended

Motion Passes unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL SERVICES

FIRST SELECTMAN'S OFFICE

No motions made.

TOWN CLERK OFFICE

No motions made.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

No motions made.

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Discussion on setting new salaries for the Registrars, as required before new term begins. Motion made by Mr. Dewitt, seconded by Mr. Brachfeld, for a 0 % increase for the first two years (commencing 1/9/2013); 3% increase for the third year; 0% increase for the last year.

Yea- 6 (Brown, LeClerc, Bellitto, Gaffney, Brachfeld, Stone)

Nea-3 Flynn, Kiley, DeWitt)

Motion passed.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

No motions made.

TOWN PLANNING AND ZONING

No motions made.

PROBATE COURT

No motions made.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

No motions made.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

No motions made.

SHELLFISH COMMISSION

No motions made.

LEGAL SERVICES

Mr. Bellitto made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeWitt, to decrease the Legal Services budget by \$63,000.

Yea-6 (Flynn, Kiley, Brown, LeClerc, DeWitt, Bellitto)

Nea-3 (Gaffney, Brachfeld, Stone)

Motion passed.

Board vote on Legal Services budget as amended-\$540,000

Yea-6 (Flynn, Kiley, Brown, LeClerc, DeWitt, Bellitto)

Nea-3 (Gaffney, Brachfeld, Stone)

Motion passed.

MISCELLANEOUS CONTINGENCIES

No motions made.

HUMAN RESOURCES

No motions made.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

No motions made.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

No motions made.

LAND ACQUISITION COMMISSION

Motion made by Mr. DeWitt, seconded by Mr. Bellitto to zero out this budget line this year.

Yea-6 (Flynn, Brown, LeClerc, DeWitt, Bellitto, Brachfeld)

Nea-2 (Kiley, Stone)

Abstain-1 (Gaffney)

Motion passed.

Board vote on Administrative and General Services Budget as amended-\$12,064,278

Motion passed unanimously.

CONTINGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Flynn, seconded by Mr. Bellitto, to reduce this account to cover payroll line item costs to the Fire Department Budget, due to the recent contract settlement.

Motion passed unanimously.

Board vote on contingency budget as amended-\$1,088,517

Motion passed unanimously.

NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Motion made by Mr. Bellitto, seconded by Mr. DeWitt, decrease line item to RYASAP to 0.

Discussion ensue regarding all Not For Profit Organizational donations-general sentiment is to let the sub-committee working on these line items finish their work assignment before making any drastic changes/cuts.

Yea-2 (DeWitt, Bellitto)

Nea-7 (Flynn, Brown, LeClerc, Kiley, Gaffney, Stone, Brachfeld)

Motion fails.

Mr. Bellitto noted that he will not make any further motions for reductions in any other Not for Profit Line Items-having heard the sentiments of the Board.

Motion made by Mr. Flynn, seconded by Mr. Bellitto, to remove the Fairfield Theatre Company out of Private Agencies and place the expenditures for Electric (\$28,000) and Heating Fuel (\$11,000) into separate line items within the Public Works Budget.

Motion passed unanimously.

Board vote on Not For Profit Budget as amended-\$846,435

Yea-7 (Flynn, Brown, LeClerc, Kiley, Gaffney, Stone, Brachfeld)

Nea-2 (DeWitt, Bellitto)

Motion passed.

FINANCE

FINANCE

Motion made by Mr. Kiley, seconded Mr. Stone, to reduce the supplemental contribution to surplus account by \$250,000.

Motion passes unanimously.

Board vote on Finance Department Budget as amended-\$1,476,712

Motion passed unanimously.

PURCHASING

No motions made.

ASSESSOR

No motions made.

TAX COLLECTOR

No motions made.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

No motions made.

BOARD OF FINANCE

Motion made by Ms. LeClerc, seconded by Mr. DeWitt, to reduce fees and professional services by \$2,000.

Yea-8 (Flynn, Brown, LeClerc, DeWitt, Bellitto, Kiley, Gaffney, Brachfeld)

Nea-1 (Stone)

Motion passed.

Board vote on Board of Finance Budget as amended-\$99,313

Motion passed unanimously.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

No motions made.

Board vote on entire Finance Budget as amended-\$5,306,107

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

FIRE

Motion made by Mr. Flynn, seconded by Mr. Kiley, to adjust payroll line items in lieu of recent contract settlement as follows:

#51010---increase \$374,262

#51061---increase \$78,551

#51062---increase \$21,656

#51063---increase \$3,608

#51064---increase \$15,120

#51065---increase \$9,343

#51066---increase \$22,577

#51090---increase \$14,310

#51110---increase \$12,845

#52120---increase \$1,912

#52200---increase \$7,299

Total increase of \$561,483

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Kiley, seconded by Mr. Bellitto, to reduce the Maintenance & Repairs Materials line by \$10,000.

Motion passed unanimously.

Board vote on Fire Budget as amended-\$14,117,755

Motion passed unanimously.

POLICE

No motions made.

ANIMAL CONTROL

No motions made.

STREET LIGHTING

No motions made.

HYDRANT AND WATER SERVICE

No motions made.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

No motions made.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION CENTER

No motions made.

Board vote on Public Safety Budget as amended-\$33,205,345

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS

PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION

No motions made.

PUBLIC WORKS OPERATIONS

Motion made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Bellitto, to reduce capital request by \$170,000 – to eliminate the tree bucket.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Bellitto, to decrease funding in the sidewalk replacement fund by \$20,000.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. DeWitt, to reduce capital request by \$20,500- to eliminate 1 of 2 requested maintenance vans.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Bellitto, to reduce capital request by \$31,000- to eliminate replacement bobcat.

Motion passed unanimously.

Board vote on Public Works Operation Budget as amended-\$16,162.834

Motion passed unanimously.

BUILDING

No motions made.

ENGINEERING

No motions made.

Board vote on entire Public Works Budget as amended-\$17,236,025

Motion passed unanimously.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

HEALTH

No motions made.

HUMAN SERVICES

No motions made.

SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

No motions made.

Board vote on Health and Welfare Budget -7,501,922

Motion passed unanimously.

CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARY

Motion made by Mr. Bellitto, seconded by Ms. LeClerc, to reduce library materials line item by \$27,501.

Yea-6 (Brown, LeClerc, Bellitto, Flynn, Brachfeld, Stone)

Nea-3 (DeWitt, Kiley, Gaffney)

Motion passed.

Board vote on Library Budget as amended-\$4,402,734

Motion passed unanimously.

PENFIELD PAVILION COMPLEX

No motions made.

PARKS AND RECREATION

No motions made.

WATERFRONT AND MARINA

No motions made.

CARL DICKMAN GOLF COURSE

No motions made.

H. SMITH RICHARDSON GOLD COURSE

Motion made by Mr. DeWitt, seconded by Mr. Bellitto, to reduce capital request by \$49,420 –to eliminate fairway mower.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. DeWitt, seconded by Mr. Bellitto, to reduce capital request by \$19,240-to eliminate Heavy Duty Utility Vehicle.

Yea-6 (Brown, LeClerc, DeWitt, Bellitto, Gaffney, Stone)

Nea-3 (Flynn, Kiley, Brachfeld)

Motion passed.

Board vote on H. Smith Richardson Golf Course Budget as amended-\$1,562,545

Motion passed unanimously.

Board vote on Culture and Recreation Budget as amended-\$7,628,467

Motion passed unanimously.

RETIREE BENEFITS

Motion made by Mr. Brachfeld, seconded by Mr. Bellitto, to increase by \$451,220 pension contributions (to restore to last year level)

Motion passed unanimously.

Board vote on Retiree Benefits Budget as amended-\$11,898,693

Motion passed unanimously.

DEBT SERVICES

Motion passed unanimously to approve as stated.

WPCA

Motion made by Mr. Brachfeld, seconded by Mr. Bellitto, to increase by \$19,819 pension contributions (to restore to last year's level).

Motion passed unanimously.

Board vote on WPCA Budget as amended-\$5,036,356

Motion passed unanimously.

**BOARD VOTE ON ENTIRE SPENDING BUDGET TOTAL AS AMENDED-
\$273,343,694
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The passage of this budget represents a 3.9% spending increase.
Mr. Flynn asked for a new major budget driver's outline

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Bellitto, seconded by Mr. Brachfeld.
Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Christine S. Boccamazzo