

**BOARD OF FINANCE
PUBLIC EXECUTIVE BUDGET
VOTE SESSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 3, 2014**

******DRAFT******

Pursuant to the call and written notice, the Public Executive Budget Hearing of the Board of Finance was held on Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 7:30 pm in the Board of Education Administrative Offices, Seminar Room 300, and 501 Kings Highway East, Fairfield, Connecticut.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Thomas Flynn, James Brown, Catherine Albin, Robert Stone, Mary LeClerc, David Becker, James Walsh , Christopher DeWitt

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ken Brachfeld

Chairman Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

CFO Robert Mayer and Budget Director Linda Gardiner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Flynn thanks everyone for all their hard work on putting this budget together, on reviewing the budget during these meetings and also thanks the public for all their comments.

A motion to put the entire budget before the Board of Finance was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Stone.

TRANSFERS REQUESTS

The Board reviewed a list of transfer requests; motion to adjust the budget to include these transfers was made by Mrs. LeClerc, seconded by Mr. Becker.

Motion carries 8-0-0.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

\$156,718,051

At the Board's request, First Selectman Tetreau addressed the Board and commented on the Board of Selectmen's suggestion to the BOE to move the \$160,000 allocated in the school security budget line to the Internal Service Fund, to help offset the negative outlook in this fund. It is the BOS thinking that the projects that these monies were earmarked for will be included in capital lines for the new school security safety program funding in future budgets.

A motion for the sense of the Body of the Board of Finance to suggest the Board of Education transfer the \$160,000 out of the school security line and into the Internal Service fund was made by Chairman Flynn, seconded by Mr. Dewitt.

Motion carried 8-0-0.

First Selectmen Tetreau also mentioned that the BOS increased the BOE budget by \$500,000; although the BOS has no authority to allocate these funds, they are highly suggesting that the BOE uses these funds to strengthen the Internal Service Fund.

Motion to transfer \$500,000 from the Board of Education Budget back into the Town Budget, specifically into Risk Management/Worker’s Comp accounts was made by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Dewitt.

Mr. Walsh feels this money should be used to help the BOE Internal Service Fund, however the Town should have control of these funds as we cannot control where this money is spent within the BOE budget and also that this addition would increase the BOE entire budget which would be concerning in next year’s budget process.

The Board noted that this item is a “non-tax” issue-will not affect tax rate as it is simply a transfer from accounts.

Motion passes 6 (Walsh, Flynn, LeClerc, Becker, DeWitt, Brown)-2 (Albin, Stone)-0.

Motion to reduce the BOE budget by \$250,000 was made by Mr. Walsh; no second.

Board votes on new adjusted BOE budget of **\$156,218,051**

Approved 7 (Flynn, Brown, LeClerc, DeWitt, Albin, Stone, Becker), -1 (Walsh)-0.

REVENUE

Motion to increase Police Alarm Ordinance line by \$4,800 (to \$24,800-same as last year) was made by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Brown.

Motion carries 8-0-0.

FIRST SELECTMAN OFFICE	\$458,236
TOWN CLERK	\$527,263
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	\$100,610
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS	\$226,346

All budget approved unanimously: 8-0-0.

Mr. Walsh recuses himself from the departments listed below siting conflict as his firm works closely with these departments.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	\$4,938
TOWN PLANNING AND ZONING	\$578,721
PROBATE COURT	\$31,200
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION	\$11,863

All budgets approved 7-0-1 (Walsh)

CONSERVATION **\$932,328**

Motion to remove \$16,200 from Capital (cut purchase for new vehicle) made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Dewitt.

Motion carries 5 (Brown, DeWitt, Flynn, LeClerc, Becker) – 2-(Albin, Stone) – 1- (Walsh).

Board votes on new Conservation Budget **of \$916,128**

Approved 5 (Flynn, Brown, LeClerc, DeWitt, Becker) - 2 (Albin, Stone) -1 (Walsh)

SHELLFISH COMMISSION **\$8,315**
LEGAL SERVICES **\$500,000**

All budgets approved 7 - (Flynn, Brown, Becker, DeWitt, LeClerc, Albin, Stone)-0-1 (Walsh)

Mr. Walsh returns to the Board.

MISCELLANEOUS CONTIGENIES **\$45,000**

Approved unanimously 8-0-0.

HUMAN RESOURCES **\$15,262,593**

(Reflects \$500,000 adjustment taken from BOE budget)

Approved unanimously 8-0-0.

COMMUNITY/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT **\$198,600**

HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION **\$24,260**

Approved unanimously 8-0-0.

CONTINGENCY **\$2,307,483**

Motion to reduce by \$286,000 made by Mr. Flynn, seconded by Mr. Walsh.

Motion made to go into Private Executive session by Mrs. Albin, seconded by Mr. Stone.

Motion approved unanimously-Board goes into Private Executive session 8:30 pm.

Motion to returns from Private Executive Session made by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mrs. Albin-passes unanimously Board returns at 8:37 pm.

Chairman Flynn suggests this cut in order to reduce tax increase on residents.

Mr. Stone notes that he is against this cut as this line item is smaller than previous years.

Mr. Becker states his support of this cut.

Mr. Walsh supports cut to help taxpayers with lowering the tax increase.

Motion passes 6 (Flynn, Brown, DeWitt, LeClerc, Becker, Walsh)-2 (Albin, Stone) -0.

Contingency budget is increased by \$486,000

(Refer to motions and adjustments made to the Assessor's budget)

Board approves new Contingency budget of **\$2,481,963** 6 (Flynn, Brown, DeWitt, LeClerc, Becker, Walsh) -2 (Albin, Stone) -0.

CONTRIBUTION TO SURPLUS **\$500,000**

REGIONAL YOUTH ADULT SOCIAL ACTION PSHY **\$15,000**

Budgets approved unanimously 8-0-0.

PEQUOT LIBRARY **\$325,000**

Motion to increase budget by \$25,000 (cut by Selectman) made by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Becker.

Mr. Walsh notes that no other Not for Profit Organization had their budget reduced and states that it is unjust to single one out.

First Selectman Tetreau informs the Board, upon their request for information to this cut) that he met with each Not For Profit Organization and expressed that he did not single this organization out but felt that since budgets have been cut for our Public Libraries that Pequot should share in the cuts, and states he does not agree with a cut across the board to all NFP budgets.

Mr. Stone voiced support for this budget cut.

Mr. DeWitt stated the need for a better process in reviewing Not for Profits budget requests especially after last year's actions.

Mr. Becker notes that Town library budget requests consistently increase whereas Pequot Library's request is consistently flat.

Mrs. Albin asks if we restore this cut how we the Board reduce the tax increase to which Mr. Walsh mentions he has more cuts to present tonight.

Motion and new Pequot Budget of **\$350,000** passes/approved: 6 (Walsh, Flynn, Brown, Becker, DeWitt, LeClerc) -2 (Albin, Stone) -0.

FAIRFIELD COUNSELING SERVICES	\$175,000
THE DISCOVERY MUSEUM	\$24,000
GREATER BRIDGEPORT REGIONAL COUNCIL	\$18,053
AUDUBON SOCIETY	\$15,000
GREATER BRIDGEPORT TRANSIT AUTHORITY	\$30,000
FAIRFIELD MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER	\$50,000
FAIRFIELD VETERAN'S ADVISORY & INFO SVC	\$3,420
S.W. CT EMS COUNCIL	\$3,000
S.W. REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH BOARD	\$9,475
S.W. REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS CTR	\$0
COUNCIL OF CHURCHES JANUS CENTER	\$5,000
GRASMERE BY THE SEA	\$65,000
FAIRFIELD ARTS CENTER	\$0
THE KENNEDY CENTER	\$7,000
MILL RIVER WETLAND COMMITTEE	\$5,000
THE PILOT HOUSE	\$8,000
THE CENTER FOR FAMILY JUSTICE	\$6,100

All budgets approved unanimously 8-0-0.

SULLIVAN-MCKINNEY ELDER HOUSING	\$11,783
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Budget approved 7-0-1 (Becker)

PRIVATE SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION	\$1,401,805
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Budget approved unanimously 8-0-0.

HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES	\$136,647
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Budget approved unanimously 8-0-0.

FINANCE	\$857,730
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Motion to decrease this budget by \$35,507 (new part time position request) was made by Mrs. LeClerc, seconded by Mr. DeWitt.

Mr. Stone asks for some background from Mr. Mayer as to what jobs this position would actually be doing.

Mr. Mayer replies that this is not an actual additional position, but block of time to be used to: freeing up the Internal Auditor by taking some projects away; will relieve long hours currently being worked by finance employees –especially during budget season and assists Finance Department employees with projects.

Mr. Stone states his objection to this cut.

Motion passes 6 (Flynn, Brown, Walsh, LeClerc, DeWitt, Becker)-2 (Albin, Stone) -0.

Board approves new Finance budget of **\$822,223** – 6 (Flynn, Brown, Walsh, DeWitt, Becker, LeClerc)-2 (Albin, Stone) -0.

PURCHASING

\$246,620

Board approves unanimously 8-0-0.

ASSESSOR

\$1,014,805

Motion to decrease the fees and professional service line by \$50,000 was made by Mrs. LeClerc, seconded by Mr. Becker.

Mrs. LeClerc states that she is decreasing the “estimated costs” for the Town wide revaluation program until there is more information on the program and a firmer idea of actual cost.

Motion passes 6 (LeClerc, Becker, Walsh, DeWitt, Brown, Flynn) – 2 (Albin, Stone) -0.

Motion to move \$315,200 from fees and professional services to the Town’s contingency account was made by Mrs. LeClerc, seconded by Mr. Becker.

Mrs. LeClerc states that this motion is to move the entire cost appropriated for the Town wide revaluation program to contingency until more information on the program and a firmer idea of actual cost is available.

Mr. Walsh states that this Board need a better presentation, more information on the Revaluation plan and the role this Board has in this program and the Board is awaiting a written opinion form the Town Attorney as to the Board’s role in the revaluation process. Also notes that the estimates vary greatly and that there was a great many concerns from residents in regards to the last revaluation.

Mr. Mayer notes that they are likely to do a full data revaluation and these funds are needed to get started with the project.

First Selectman Tetreau states he is aware of the concerns from previous revaluations and therefore wants to do a full data revaluation and be thorough.

Mrs. Albin states that if Mrs. LeClerc would reverse the prior motion (\$50,000) cut than she would more be in support of moving the entire funding into the contingency account.

Chairman Flynn calls for a 5 minute recess.

Back from recess, a motion to reverse the prior motion of reducing the fees and professional services line by \$50,000 is made by Mrs. LeClerc, seconded by Mr. DeWitt.

Motion passes 7 (LeClerc, DeWitt, Flynn, Brown, Becker, Walsh, Albin) -0 -1 (Stone)

Motion to transfer \$428,000 from fees and professional services to the Town's Contingency account was made by Mrs. LeClerc, seconded by Mr. DeWitt.

Motion passes 7 (LeClerc, DeWitt, Flynn, Walsh, Brown, Becker, Albin) -0 – 1 (Stone).

Board approves Assessor's new budget of **\$586,576** ---7 (Flynn, Brown, Walsh, Becker, LeClerc, DeWitt, Albin) -0-1 (Stone).

TAX COLLECTOR **\$581,018**

Board approves unanimously 8-0-0

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY **\$1,640,981**

Motion to reduce fees and professional services line by \$30,000 and the special departmental supplies line by \$30,000 was made by Mr. Becker, seconded by Mr. Brown.

Mr. Becker expressed frustration with this department and how the department is being run.

Motion passes -6 (Becker, DeWitt, Flynn, Brown, Walsh, LeClerc)-2 (Albin, Stone) – 0.

Board approves new Information Technology budget of **\$ 1,580,981**—6 (Becker, Brown, DeWitt, LeClerc, Walsh, Flynn) -2 (Albin, Stone) -0.

FIRE **\$11,829,902**

Motion to reduce regular payroll by \$15,000 was made by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mr. DeWitt.

Mr. Walsh explains that due to the recent action of not renewing the Deputy Chief's contract that bringing in a new Deputy would save money and he is being very conservative in this request.

In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Mayer and First Selectman Tetreau noted that there is no severance package associated with the departure of the Deputy, just unused vacation days.

Mr. Becker comments that he has heard from many constituents on this issue and hopes answers come forth on why the Deputy's contract was not renewed and hopes to see this action reversed.

Motion passes 7 (Walsh, Flynn, Brown, Albin, Stone, DeWitt, LeClerc) – 1 (Becker) – 0.

Board approves new Fire Budget of **\$11,814,902** – 7 (Walsh, Flynn, Brown, Albin, Stone, DeWitt, LeClerc) – 1 (Becker) – 0.

POLICE **\$13,438,568**

Board members support the new school security initiative, offers thanks to all who were involved in coordinating this plan and asked for an update next year on the progress of this initiative.

Board approves budget unanimously – 8-0-0.

ANIMAL CONTROL **\$408,948**

STREET LIGHTING **\$675,483**

HYDRANT AND WATER **\$1,690,232**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT **\$56,541**

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION CTR **\$1,511,247**

Board approves all budgets unanimously 8-0-0.

PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION

\$489,684

Boar approves budget unanimously 8-0-0.

PUBLIC WORKS OPERATIONS

\$14,104,343

Motion to reduce capital expenses by \$53,000 made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Dewitt.

\$27,500 –SUV

\$18,000-Bush Bucket

\$7,500-Tire Balance machine

Mr. Brown indicated that he had conversations with Director Michelangelo and Mr. Bartlett and that they both indicated that their department can handle these cuts.

Mr. Michelangelo and Mr. Bartlett addressed the Board and agreed with Mr. Brown’s statements.

Mr. Stone indicates that he is against cutting vehicles and equipment. Also questions why these cuts are now available when they were not offered earlier in the budget process.

Mr. Bartlett indicated that this department is cooperating with the Board in their request to help keep taxes down.

Motion passes unanimously 8-0-0.

The following motions to reduce following line items were made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Walsh:

1.) \$15,000-Fees & Prof. services (53200)

Motion passes 6 (Walsh, Brown, Becker, DeWitt, LeClerc, Flynn) -2 (Albin, Stone) -0.

2.) \$10,000-Maint. & Repairs (54330)

Motion passes 6 (Walsh, Brown, Becker, DeWitt, LeClerc, Flynn) -2 (Albin, Stone) -0.

3.) \$4,000-Communication (55300)

Motion passes 7 (Brown, Walsh, Flynn, Brown, DeWitt, LeClerc, Becker, Albin) – 1 (Stone)-0.

4.) \$1,000- laundry & linen (55600)

Motion passes unanimously 8-0-0.

Board approves new Public Works Operation Budget of **\$14,021,343** 7 (Walsh, Flynn, Brown, DeWitt, LeClerc, Becker, Albin) -1 (Stone) -0.

BUILDING

\$607,022

ENGINEERING

\$650,363

Board approves all budgets unanimously 8-0-0.

HEALTH

\$2,741,940

Motion to reduce payroll (\$58,276) & FICA (\$845) to eliminate 3 new requested part time positions made by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mrs. LeClerc.

At the Board’s request, Health Director Sands Cleary addresses the Board to explain the request, and after further questions from board members mentions they could do with cutting one position.

Motion fails 1 (Walsh), 7 (Flynn, Brown, DeWitt, LeClerc, Stone, Becker, Albin) -0.

Motion to reduce payroll (\$15,233) and FICA (\$211) to eliminate 1 new part time health aide position is made by Mr. DeWitt, seconded by Mr. Brown.

Motion passes 6 (DeWitt, Brown, Walsh, Flynn, Becker, LeClerc) -2 (Albin, Stone)-0.

Board approves new Health budget of **\$2,726,486** – 6 (Flynn, Brown, Walsh, DeWitt, Becker, LeClerc) -2 (Albin, Stone) -0.

HUMAN AND SOCIAL SERVICES

\$554,598

Motion to reduce payroll budget by \$30,435 to eliminate the part time senior center director was made by Mr. Walsh-no second.

Board approves budget 7 (Flynn, Brown, Becker, Albin, Stone, DeWitt, LeClerc) -1 (Walsh) -0.

SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING

\$3,644,579

LIBRARY

\$3,649,039

Board approves all budgets unanimously 8-0-0.

PENFIELD PAVILION

\$67,396

Motion to reduce salary by \$8,000 made by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mrs. LeClerc.
Motion passes unanimously 8-0-0.

Board approves new Penfield Pavilion budget of **\$59,936** unanimously 8-0-0.

PARKS AND RECREATION

\$679,310

WATERFRONT AND MARINA

\$401,578

CARL J. DICKMAN GOLF COURSE

\$259,144

H. SMITH RICHARDSON GOLF COURSE

\$1,444,837

RETIREE BENEFITS

\$16,803,205

Board approves all budgets unanimously 8-0-0.

DEBT SERVICES

\$26,109,686

Motion to reduce budget by \$256,100 made by Mr. DeWitt, seconded by Mr. Walsh.
Motion passes unanimously 8-0-0.

Board approves new Debt Services budget of **\$25,853.586** unanimously 8-0-0.

FINAL TOWN BUDGET

\$286,015,872

(Represents 2.71 budget increase)

Board approves new final town budget unanimously 8-0-0.
As adjusted this budget would require a 2.38% tax increase.

Motion to adjourn made by Mrs. Albin, seconded by Mr. DeWitt.

Meeting adjourned at 10:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine S. Boccamazzo
Recording secretary

