The February 16, 2016, Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen to determine the Board's recommendations to the Board of Finance for the FY2017 Budget was convened at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Central Meeting Room by First Selectman Ellen Scalettar.

Present: Ms. Heller, Ms. Jacobs, Ms. Kane, Ms. Scalettar, Mr. Anastasio, Mr. Dey
Present for Staff: Anthony Genovese, Administrative Officer/Director of Finance; Ms. Crosby, Budget Analyst; and Mrs. Shaw, Clerk.

TAX REFUNDS

Pursuant to Section 12-124 thru 129 of the Connecticut General Statutes and the recommendation of the Tax Collector, the Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Heller, Anastasio) to refund taxes in the amount of $8,261.85.

BUDGET SUMMARY & TAX CALCULATION

Ms. Scalettar said that the Board was meeting to review the budget proposals received from the boards and commissions and make recommendations to the Board of Finance. She thanked all the Town boards, commissions and department heads for the many hours of work that went into the budgets and proposals. She also thanked Mr. Genovese and Ms. Crosby for their outstanding work organizing and presenting the budget.

After review of each segment of the budget, department requests, and staff recommendations Ms. Scalettar asked if there were any questions or remarks.

The Board reviewed five documents: budget summary, mill rate calculation sheet, detailed line item budgets, revised revenue estimates, and capital improvement program six year summary.

The budget summary lists the departments' requested budget for FY2017 with staff recommendation of $48,466,812. Non-tax Revenues – estimated by the departments and the Finance Office equals $2,986,509. The difference is the amount to be raised by taxes which is $45,480,303. Mr. Genovese noted that the significant budgets are Amity Regional @ $14,432,818 (Woodbridge portion) an increase of close to $1M from the 2016 budget due to a shift in enrollment. Woodbridge Board of Education @ $13,829,036; Capital Expenditures @ $1,501,007. Grand List – Real Estate is increased 0.38%; Personnel Property is a 3.13% reduction; Motor Vehicle is a slight increase of 1%; Regional Water Authority's Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) is increased 2.72%; Reserve for uncollected taxes is increased .02% and Reserve for Elderly Tax Stabilization is reduced by 13.41% resulting in the net adjusted Grand List increased by 0.29%.

Reserved for Uncollected Taxes – Mr. Genovese explained that this line item reduces the grand list so there is a reserve for taxes that are not paid. He noted that the average tax collection for Woodbridge was 99.55%.

OPERATING BUDGET

The Board reviewed the 2017 budget as presented. The Board agreed to two changes to the presented budget:

#1510-00 - Recreation Department Line Item #50114 – Recreation Director Compensation Restore to the Department Request of $42,000.

#1530-00 – Country Club Pool – Mr. Genovese said that the CCW Pool Director under budgeted expenses by $23,500 due to conflicting information as to where some expenses should be budgeted. Mr. Genovese recommends modifying the CCW pool budget to reflect Revenues of $88,000 and expenditures of $128,000.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Board reviewed the Capital Budget requests as presented and made the following recommendations:

Board of Selectmen – $2,000,000 bonded items - Radio Upgrade (study underway) and Fire House Restoration put forward to 2018.

Park - $50,000 Irrigation for Center Field put forward to 2018

Waste Management - $70,000 above ground scale put forward to 2018

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF FINANCE FOR FY2017 BUDGET

The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Jacobs – Heller) to recommend to the Board of Finance the Operating and Capital Improvement Budget for FY2017 as presented with the following revisions: Recreation Director's compensation $42,000; adding $23,500 to the Country Club Pool budget resulting in a department total of $128,000.

REVENUE ESTIMATES

The Board of Selectmen **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** (Anastasio – Heller) to adopt the revenue estimates as presented.

OTHER

Mr. Anastasio, Mr. Dey, and Ms. Kayne said that they would like a conversation about zero based budgeting, a process of giving directives to the departments before they begin the working on their budgets. Mr. Anastasio said he would like an earlier start to the budget process and the Board's involvement.

Ms. Scalettar said that the Town is fortunate to have Mr. Genovese as Finance Director, and a competent Finance Department that spends many hours working with the departments and results in the proposals received by the Board. She said that the system works very well, however she will follow-up if the Board wants more involvement. The members agreed to schedule a workshop prior to the start of work on the 2018 budget.

ADJOURNMENT

On a non-debatable motion by Ms. Heller, seconded by Mr. Anastasio, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Geraldine S. Shaw, Clerk