



**THE TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2016  
6:00 PM**

A Special Board of Finance Meeting for the Town of Woodbridge was held in the Central Meeting Room at the Town Hall, Woodbridge, Connecticut on Wednesday, March 30, 2016

**PRESENT:** Chairman, Matthew Giglietti; Vice Chairman, Sandy Stein; Karen Cusick; Andrew Esposito; David King; Paul Kuriakose

**ALSO PRESENT:** First Selectman, Ellen Scalettar; Administrative Officer/Director of Finance, Anthony Genovese; Budget Analyst, Karen Crosby

Chairman Matthew Giglietti called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Amey Marella,- 184 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge. Amey noted that she is a former First Selectman of the Town and former Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection of the State, which is also known as the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Amey has been helping a concerned resident about environmental contamination at the Country Club of Woodbridge. Under a state law known as the Transfer Act the Town assumed responsibility to investigate the contamination and to clean it up. The focus is on the maintenance area of the Country Club of Woodbridge. Amey requested that the Town put funds \$200,000 plus contingency into the FY16-FY17 Capital Budget for the environmental remediation near the maintenance area at the Country Club of Woodbridge so that work can be done in the twelve months of that time period.

Bob Hill – 68 Acorn Hill Road, Vice Chairman of Recreation Commission. He is looking to improve the communication flow between the Board of Finance and the Recreation Commission. Bob watches these meetings and sees the reports that Sandy provides on the Library Commission and some of the issues at the Library and hires that have taken place have been helped by the reports given at these meetings. The liaison updates help prepare the Board of Finance for the things that are being dealt with. When the Recreation Commission took up the responsibility for the pool, the number of meetings increased.

Bob reported that there were thirty meeting of the Recreation Commission in 2011, 2012, and 2013. Of those thirty meetings, there were sixteen Board of Finance liaison visits and twenty-one Board of Selectmen liaison visits. Then the commission took over the responsibility of the pool there were more meetings. In the last 2 ½ years they had thirty-one meetings and unfortunately, there was only one meeting when the Board of Finance liaison attended and twenty-seven meetings have been attended by the Board of Selectmen liaison.

Bob stated that there needs to be more communications between this board and the Recreation Commission. He stated that he understands that David has a conflict and can't attend. That played out with the John Adamovich situation. The Commission made a recommendation last year when he informed the commission that he was working more hours than he was getting paid. Bob stated that the Board was given a survey of area Recreation Directors and a synopsis of how John's job has changed over the years

.Bob stated that they hope in the future, that they will have a liaison to help with the communication. Bob thanked the Board for their effort and support.

Tom Weil 70 Woodfield Road – He stated that he has read about the issues with the JCC Pool and their pool hours, maybe the WCC can have a solution that would be good for the people of Woodbridge. He voiced his concern regarding the contamination and any affect it may have on his property or drinking water. Hopes the Town is doing anything necessary to address the issue of contamination and the migration of contamination. He also concurs with Ms. Marella’s suggestion to the Board of Finance.

Lynn Piaczyk – She also received a letter from HRP, she is concerned and wants it put on record that she is concerned about the impact on the abutting properties of the contamination and concurs to have money put in the budget for whatever remediation needs to be done. She appreciates the Board’s good word and would hope that they consider the concerns of her and her neighbors.

### **REVIEW OF BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS**

Matt stated that as of tonight we are still waiting for some major items such as labor negotiations and benefits.

Matt stated that since the remediation issue was not discussed for the budget, if it is critical the Board should talk about it.

Ellen stated that the Board of Selectmen had a presentation by HRP and the contamination apparently has been there for 30-40 years. She understands the concern of the neighbors. She was told that there was no concern about migration. These are the kinds of products that would stay in the soil and affect the turf of the country club. HRP came to assure us that there is no immediate threat. The pesticides that they found were banned in the 70’s or 80’s.

Matt reviewed what was discussed at the March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The next meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>, the Board revisited and made adjustments to the March 2<sup>nd</sup> cuts. Tony had reached out to the departments and the changes are what the department stated that they could deal with. Since the last meeting, Amity met and reduced their budget to 2.9%. The Woodbridge portion of the budget is now 5.8%.

Matt stated that this is what we would present to the hearing on April 25<sup>th</sup>. We will meet after the meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup> and right up until the Town Meeting in May, changes can be made. We will have a better idea of where the Contingency for this year will be then as well.

Sandy wanted to make sure that these recommendations are on top of what the Board of Selectmen made as their recommendations.

Andy wants to know what the goal is and where does the Board want to go with this budget. A lot of other Towns are cutting their budgets. The people of this Town do not deserve a 5% increase. Tony stated that they are at 3.17% right now.

Matt stated that we might be able to get to 2.5% after the labor negotiations and benefits. Tony stated that to get to 2.5% we need to cut \$300,000.

Tony reviewed the mill rate with the car tax cap. The State has capped the Motor Vehicle mill rate at 32.00. There is a motor vehicle grant of \$276,815. There will be two mill rates one for cars and the other for real estate and personal property. The personal property and real estate mill rate will be 39.34.

Sandy asked that the State won't give us the money by the time we complete the budget, will they even commit to it?

Woodbridge Bd of Ed Technology – we removed all technology from all departments. The original request was \$125,000. Dr. Stella stated that he could work with \$95,000.

Sandy spoke with Dr. Stella and this is for the expansion of the iPads to other grades. This will impact the curriculum and the programing. The curriculum was developed around having this. Dr. Stella will make cuts in other administrative computers but not what was for the children. The \$95,000 is for the iPads and for computer replacement.

Matt stated that this is why he has said before – this should not be in capital budget -- it should be in his budget. Matt doubts there are many schools in the state that have gotten as much money for computers as Beecher has.

Matt thinks it is the wrong message to send to other departments when Beecher will get \$95,000. David stated he has two granddaughters at Beecher Road School. He is not so sure they need the money. He is concerned that they planned for the curriculum not knowing if they would get the money. It is not like they don't have the curriculum, they can continue to use the curriculum that they are using now. He read a column written by a teacher who said that students who do a lot of their work on their computer do not perform as well as students who don't use their computer for their work.

Fire Department Technology is being cut by \$12,000. The original cut was \$30,000. Matt stated that Sean and Elia Alexiades made a strong case on the Assistant Chief's vehicle. The vehicle is on the verge of falling apart.

Sandy stated that we have to request a formal review of the IT and the different consultants that are being used throughout the Town.

Matt stated that he heard a lot of remarks about the Road Construction Reserve and Warren is concerned. Should funds be reinstated there. Sandy stated that we had a mild winter and we should keep the cut.

Andy stated that the \$65,000 for iPads at Beecher is a reasonable range for their Technology.

Matt stated that the Board should put back all the cuts to where they were at the March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Those items were as follows: **Capital Budget** - WBOE Technology – reduced to zero; Library HVAC Repairs – reduced to zero; Darling House Improvements – reduced to zero; Fire Department Technology – reduced to zero; Fire Department Airpacks – reduced by \$46,000; Police Dept. Vehicles – reduced zero; Fire Dept Assistant Chief's Vehicle – reduced to zero; Public Works Truck Replacement – reduced to zero; Police technology – reduced to zero; Road Construction – reduced by \$200,000. **Operating Budget** – Youth Services General Fund Contribution - reduce by \$20,000; Recreation Director Salary – reduce by \$5,395; Town Clerk computer – reduce to zero; Information Systems Computers – reduce to zero; Police Department computers –

reduce to zero; Library computer –reduce to zero; Fire Dept. Computer – reduce to zero; Amity Bd of Ed – reduce by \$142,765.

Since the Fire Dept. Assistant Chief's Vehicle is much needed, the \$35,000 was reinstated (\$35,000)

Sandy reported that the Technology request breakdown in the Capital budget for Beecher was \$51,550 for students, \$30,000 for laptops for faculty, office replacement \$3,000, classrooms for document cameras and projectors for smartboards was \$10,000, and infrastructure \$30,000. So the \$65,000 will get the students, their iPads.

Sandy stated that the other items that were talked about that aren't on the list are the printing costs. The copier consolidation in Town Hall – what is really needed. The town-wide technology program has to be looked at.

Paul Kuriakose stated that he could help with the Technology Plan.

Tony Genovese computed the budget cuts and it resulted in an increase of 2.82%

Matt stated that he thinks there will be opportunity for reductions. Tony will present at the hearing, what is in the document and the last few slides will have any changes that have come up since this meeting.

Sandy also stated that there is the remediation issue that the Board should take into consideration. It would be important to provide any funds for the remediation. She also thinks the Recreation Director issue is a personnel issue and should be considered by the Board of Selectmen.

Ellen stated that the Board of Selectmen made their recommendation which was about a 30% increase. Sandy stated that we should accept what the Board of Selectmen recommended. Those adjustments are a personnel committee decisions. Matt suggested that the Personnel Committee meet and make a recommendation on this issue.

Tony stated that there are two steps to this. There is the actual funding of the position and then the Personnel Committee authorizes the increase. The Personnel Committee will meet and make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen regarding the Recreation Director salary.

The Board of Finance voted (Giglietti/Esposito) unanimously to recommend to the Preliminary budget Hearing FY17 budget with expenses of \$47,684,052, to be funded by non-tax revenue of \$3,270,082 and the amount to be raised by taxes of \$44,413,970. This results in a 2.82% increase with a mill rate for motor vehicles of 32 and a mill rate of Real Estate and Personal Property of 39.20 with a combined mill rate of 38.61.

The Board of Finance voted (Giglietti/Cusick) unanimously to adjourn at 7:20 pm

Respectfully,

*Karen Crosby*

Karen Crosby  
Budget Analyst