



**THE TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE
JOINT BOARD OF FINANCE / BOARD OF
SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023
6:00 PM**

A Joint Board of Finance / Board of Selectmen Meeting for the Town of Woodbridge was held on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 6:00 pm

BOF PRESENT: Chairman, Matthew Giglietti; Vice Chair, Susan Jacobs; Tom Handler; Donavon Lofters; Dwight Rowland; Ellen Scalettar

BOS PRESENT: First Selectman, Beth Heller; Deputy Selectman, Sheila McCreven; Paul Kuriakose; David Lober; David Vogel

ALSO PRESENT: Administrative Officer / Director of Finance, Anthony Genovese; Assistant Administrative Officer, Karen Crosby

Tony Genovese reported that this is the first year with the on-line budget entry for our departments. He thanked the departments for their work. There are no cost of living adjustments for personnel as the two union contracts expire on June 30th and negotiations will be starting shortly. The upgraded Grand List information was given to Tony by Assessor, Marsha Benno and with that adjustment the mill rate increase with the budget requests would be 10.17%.

OPERATING BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collector, Pat Crisco presented an operating budget request of \$166,169 which is a .97% increase over FY23.

TAX ASSESSOR

Assessor, Marsha Benno presented an operating budget request of \$182,405 which is a .80% decrease from FY23.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Marsha Benno presented an operating budget request of \$2,450 which was an increase of 22.50% over FY23. Marsha reported the Grand List went up about 1%. Over the past three years the Grand List has increased about 3%.

HUMAN SERVICES

Director Jeanette Glicksman and Commission Chair, Susan Davidson presented an operating budget request of \$504,597 which is an increase of 1.35%

POLICE COMMISSION

Chief Cappiello and Deputy Chief Smith presented an operating budget request of \$3,524,174 which is 5.18% increase over FY23. There are a total of 1,095 shifts in a year. In 2022 there were 352 shifts with only two officers on the shift. There have been numerous calls per year that require a minimum of two officers to respond. The addition of one police officer would greatly enhance the ability to protect the residents and the officers that protect and serve the Town. Due to reduced staffing, they have stopped participating in regional collaborative policing efforts. Those regional task forces provides the department with additional police resources. It is important to start rebuilding the department back to where it had been.

The budget request includes adding an officer.

Ellen asked if an additional officer would allow them to rejoin the regional task forces and would it have an impact on the over time budget. Frank stated that one office probably wouldn't allow them to join the task force but would make an impact on the overtime.

RECREATION COMMISSION

Director John Adamovich and Office Manager Jim Franco presented an operating budget request of \$572,783 which is a 4.80% increase over FY23. The budget includes expenditures which would include the pool being open. There is an increase in minimum wage in the FY24 budget. The department employs many students for their programs,

They have changed the name of the Fitness Center to the Health and Wellness Center. There are 28 people signed up for that program.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Building Official Bob Dillon presented an operating budget request of \$128,859 which is a 1.53% decrease over the FY23. Bob reported that there are permits of approximately \$300,000 coming in.

PUBLIC WORKS

Warren Connors presented a budget request of \$1,462,617 which is an increase of 4.52% over FY23.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Warren Connors presented a budget request of \$671,492 which is a 17.35% increase over FY23. Significant increases in Tip Fees. Prices are not set yet for next year. Warren used historical trends of tonnage and the past increases in tip fees for this request. Recycling has increased significantly.

FORMER FIRE STATION

Tony Genovese presented a budget of \$21,192 which is an increase of 96.37%. The increase comes from the anticipated use starting in January 2024. The budget is basically utilities.

THOMAS DARLING HOUSE

Tony Genovese presented a budget request of \$8,500 which is an increase of \$20.57%. Tony explained that this is a pass through as the Historical Society reimburses the Town for the expenditures.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Tony presented a budget request of \$222,016 which is an increase of 26.03% over FY23. Tony reported that there were a lot of cost increases due to cybersecurity related items. We have cybersecurity insurance and the company is very diligent in making sure we have the proper safety precautions in place. Internet access is also included in this budget. He is currently working on reorganizing this by using the State provided service and reduce the cable internet service.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Tony presented a budget request of \$269,263 which is the same as FY23.

Matt stated that the next meeting on Thursday will include the Board of Education.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Crosby

Karen Crosby
Assistant Administrative Officer