

APPROVED



**THE TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE  
JOINT BOARD OF FINANCE / BOARD OF  
SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021  
6:00 PM**

A Joint Board of Finance/Board of Selectmen Meeting for the Town of Woodbridge was via Webex on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 6:00 pm

**BOF PRESENT:** Chairman, Matthew Giglietti; Vice Chairman, Paul Kuriakose; Susan Jacobs Tom Handler; Tom Kenefick; Ellen Scalettar

**BOS PRESENT:** First Selectman, Beth Heller; Joseph Crisco; Dwight Rowland; Sandy Stein

**ALSO PRESENT:** Administrative Officer/Director of Finance, Anthony Genovese; Budget Analyst/Payroll & Benefits Administrator, Karen Crosby

**AUDIT REVIEW**

Scott Bassett from the auditing firm of RSM was present to review the FY20 CAFR.

Scott reported that consistent with prior years the condition records at Town Hall or Board of Education were excellent. No audit adjustments from either department. The State Department of Education during the summer added additional steps that were not anticipated. The report took a little longer than usual. The audit scope from RSM is to give an opinion of all the funds and statements. There were no difficulties with the audit and there were no disagreements with management, no internal control issues with either the Town or the Board of Education. It was a very clean audit. It worked pretty well in the remote environment. GASB has been busy and there are 8 or 9 standards that will be coming forward in the next few years. The Town has a strong fund balance and is managing debt. From a financial standpoint it is very consistent and there were no surprises in the audit.

**OPERATING BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

**Amity Regional School District (Presentation Attached)**

Superintendent Byars presented the Amity budget (presentation attached)

The total requested budget is \$53,196,896 of which \$16,758,682 is the Woodbridge portion. The Bethany and Orange enrollment have decreased while Woodbridge has increased. The administrative team met on January 20<sup>th</sup> and will present the additional reductions to the Board of Education on February 8, 2021 to reduce the increase.

Ellen asked about the stadium improvements. In December 2019, the Amity Board of Education put forward a referendum for Stadium Improvements for an all-weather field, new led lights, and a new scoreboard. This was approved by the voters.

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**Assessor**

Assessor, Marsha Benno presented a budget request of \$179,232 which is an increase of .48%. The 2020 Grand List increased .35%.

**Board of Assessment Appeals**

Assessor, Marsha Benno, presented the FY22 budget request of \$2,000 which is the same as FY21.

**Woodbridge Board of Education (Presentation Attached)**

Board Chairman, Lynn Piascyk, reported that at the January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting the Board unanimously supported and approved the proposed FY22 budget that Dr. Budd will be presenting. This budget meets the vision and goals of the district while remaining prudent and respectful of the community. Every detail of the budget has been carefully reviewed to achieve a balance of educational needs and fiscal responsibility. The budget reflects a 3.23% increase. It is her hope that both the BOS and BOF will support and approve the Woodbridge Board of Education budget.

Vice Chairman, Joyce Shavers stated that Dr. Jonathan Budd is new to the district and he started on December 14<sup>th</sup>. She appreciates his willingness to reach out and understand and address the budget concerns. Dr. Budd has been willing to dig deep and roll up his sleeves to find savings. She stated that they spent the most time on the discretionary expenses. Technology and Professional Development are the most vulnerable parts of a school budget. When technology is used along with curriculum development and professional development, they are the drivers of quality and innovation. The Board appreciates the support and investment made in Beecher Road School over the years. It is the investment in the school is what makes people wanting to move to Woodbridge. She thanked the Boards for all they do.

Dr. Budd then presented the FY22 requested budget OF \$15,692,447, an increase of 3.23 over FY21 (presentation attached). Dr. Budd thanked Al Pullo and Tony Genovese in their help in the time since he has arrived planning a presentation that the Board of Education has approved. He wants to acknowledge that the budget that is being proposed will be able to work if Covid-19 continues to affect the educational climate. There will not be additional Covid related staffing positions needed. Dr. Budd asked the Board members to reach out to him with any questions they may have.

**Public Works**

Warren Connors presented a FY22 requested budget of \$1,416,303 which is an increase of 1.69% over FY21. Overtime increased due to the contractual increases. Buy Back Sick has decreased due to a change in staffing. Contracted Services increased slightly due to tree work that is still needed to be done. Highway Maintenance increased due to increased pricing.

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**Waste Management**

Warren Connors presented a FY22 requested budget of \$555,648 which is a decrease of 3.29% over the FY21 budget. The salary and Buy Back Sick line decreased due to staffing changes. Tip Fees are not set until later in the year and Tony usually adjusts them once they are established. Estimated tonnage has decreased as some contractors are hauling to different locations. Bulky Waste had an increase due to more waste. Recycling has increased due to increased recyclables being brought to the Transfer Station.

Tony stated the revenue with this department is at \$20,000 which is lower than last year. Also, last year they included a charge for bulky waste which has not been implemented.

Sandy suggested that a bulky waste charge should be looked at.

**Board of Selectmen**

Beth Heller presented a FY22 budget request of \$626,211 which is the same as FY21. Beth's goal was to come in at a 0% increase and they were able to achieve that. Reduction in Other Purchased Services and a slight decrease in Printing and Binding (get the newsletter to be almost cost-neutral for the Town). General Professional Services was reduced by \$10,000.

**Probate**

This is a contractual amount.

**General Administration**

Tony stated that the main item in this budget is the Property, Auto, and Liability insurance. This still has to go out to bid and a final number will be available later in the budget process. The current carrier is Traveler's. Tony stated that he hopes that the health insurance increase can be refined later in the budget process. This is totally claim-driven.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

*Karen Crosby*

Karen Crosby  
Budget Analyst  
Payroll & Benefits Administrator