



THE TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022

A Board of Finance Meeting for the Town of Woodbridge was via WebEx

Link to video recording of this meeting: <https://youtu.be/w25Dtpwyl8>

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

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

Chairman Matthew Giglietti called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

FY23 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS / SET MILL RATE

Tony reviewed the State Grant Revenue impact on Woodbridge which was budgeted for in the FY23 budget except for the Municipal Transition Grant (property tax cap of 32.46 mills on motor vehicles, the grant would reimburse towns for revenue lost as a result of the cap) of \$1M.

Tony then reviewed the tax calculations that were reported at the Annual Town Meeting. The grant revenue of \$1M is not enough to cover the shortfall in the motor vehicle taxes. The State was supposed to reimburse the Town for the shortfall in the motor vehicle taxes, but they did not allocate enough for the Town. In turn, we have to increase the mill rate slightly for real estate taxes.

Tony gave an example of an average assessment of \$287,000 and two cars assessed at \$14,280, without the auto cap taxes on real estate would be \$12,482 and each car would be \$621 at a mill rate of 43.49. Taxes with the auto cap would be \$12,562 for real estate and \$464 for each car. The resident would be paying \$235 less in taxes.

The Board of Finance voted (Giglietti/Scalettar) unanimously to set a mill rate for FY23 of 43.77 mills for residential property and 32.46 mills for motor vehicles.

Ellen thanked Tony for the explanation and showing the savings.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER / DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT

Tony reported on expenditures through April 2022 with an estimated year-end budget surplus of \$725,255. As the current budget includes an allocation from fund balance of \$400,000, increase to fund balance at year end is projected to be \$325,255. Fund balance at 6/30/2022 is estimated to be \$7.0M or 13.66% of annual expenses.

Revenues

Intergovernmental Revenue – projected to generate a surplus of \$444,737. The Town received \$163,075 in FEMA funds for the reimbursement of expenses related to storm Isaias and \$15,017 in PILOT funds from the State of Connecticut. Both are not budgeted revenues in 2022. In addition, Tony anticipates a budget surplus of \$9,175 in education cost sharing grant funds and \$255,000 in special education excess cost grant funds.

Investment Income - projected to experience a deficit of \$80,000 at the end of the year due to continued low short term interest rates.

Charge for Services – projected to experience a surplus of \$205,641 due to a projected surplus of \$20,000 in transfer station fees, a surplus of \$200,000 in building permits, and a shortfall of \$14,000 in library fines and other department charges.

Expenses

Board of Finance – projected to generate a surplus of \$3,640 due to lower than anticipated cost for the Town audit.

Center – projected to generate a surplus of \$7,000 due to a savings in electricity.

Building Official – expected to experience a surplus of \$30,000 due to savings in part time wages.

Transfer Station – should experience a surplus of \$30,000. Tonnage is being tracked closely and it appears that a surplus in recycling due to reduced costs and demo/bulky waste due to reduced tonnage will offset a deficit in MSW due to increased tonnage.

Human Services – projected to experience a surplus of \$35,000 due to savings in part time wages.

Library – projected to generate a surplus of \$35,000 primarily due to savings in wages.

Ellen stated that a question has come up about Amity's budgeting. Can Amity come during next year's budget process if Amity could come in and explain their budgeting without having a fund balance.

Matt reported a surplus at Beecher of \$20-\$30,000.

The Board of Finance voted (Giglietti/Rowland) unanimously to appoint RMS as auditors for FY22.

PRELIMINARY SUSPENSE LIST

Per State Statute the accounts will be transferred to suspense and will be removed from consideration as assets of the Town but are not abated as tax liability against whom it was levied. Personal property, motor vehicle and real estate suspense taxes can and will be collected whenever possible.

Matt explained that these accounts are removed from the balance sheet, but the tax collector continues to pursue these on an ongoing basis.

The Suspense List will be voted on at the June meeting.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

Beth reported the following:

Late last month, Governor Lamont, following an approved proposal from the State Legislature, signed new legislation into law, allowing the continuation of remote meetings past the original deadline of April 30. Boards and Commissions may choose to meet in-person, or remotely. Beth is pleased that, especially now, when the COVID-19 positivity rate is very high, we have the ability to be flexible and meet virtually when it is prudent to do so.

Beth gave an update on the two new building committees. Getting the state grants for projects has been wonderful, but it also requires new committees to move forward.

First, the membership of the *Woodbridge Community Center Building Committee* shall be:

Architect Bob Tucker, Former Selectman Sandy Stein, who will serve as chair of this committee, and current Recreation Commission Chair Andrea Weinstein. Tony Genovese or his designee will serve as the Staff Representative.

Secondly, as a reminder, the membership of the Center Building Renovation Committee, which Beth announced last month, is Police Chief Frank Cappiello, Police Commissioner Andy Esposito, Human Services Director Jeanette Glicksman, Selectman Paul Kuriakose, and Board of Finance member Dwight Rowland, who will also serve as Chair.

Beth reported that Woodbridge Superintendent Dr. Jonathan Budd has accepted another position in another district and will be leaving Beecher Road School as of June 30th. We wish him all the best in his new role.

LIAISON REPORTS

Amity – Matt reported that the Amity budget was voted down by all three towns. The current budget surplus is about \$1M. Matt stated that the Amity meeting was very contentious. The public comment speakers were highly critical, and that the superintendent should resign. The principal of the high school has resigned and is taking a position in another district. It looks like they cut about \$200,000 from the FY23 budget.

Police Commission – Ellen reported that they did not meet. Ellen reminded everyone of the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Department “Spring Fling” on Saturday night.

Human Services - Dwight reported that Ava Shanbrom is the FY22 recipient of the First Selectman’s Youth Award. This will be presented at the Volunteer Tea in June. Youth Services held a Home Alone Class in April and 12-14 students attended. Youth Services also held an event in April for 8th grade students going into the high school. Senior Center Spring Luncheon was held on April 19th. The Senior Center has hired a new driver. On June 9th there will be an “Ask the Pharmacist” session.

\$275,000 ARPA funding was approved for the renovations at the senior center.

WBOE – Tom was not in attendance to report.

Fire Commission – Donavon was unable to attend due to the Annual Town Meeting.

Library – Susan was not in attendance to report.

Matt mentioned his concerns about Beecher Road School. We approved an increase of 7.5% for Beecher next year. The Superintendent who created this budget will be leaving on June 30th, as well as the interim business manager and the special services administrator. Matt wanted to go on record about his concern of the lack of leadership at Beecher.

Ellen stated that she has heard that the interim superintendent is someone who has been here before and is well respected.

The Board of Finance voted (Giglietti/Rowland) to adjourn at 6:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Crosby

Karen Crosby
Budget Analyst
Payroll & Benefits Administrator