



THE TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020

A Board of Finance Meeting for the Town of Woodbridge was held in the Central Meeting Room at the Town Hall, Woodbridge, Connecticut on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 6:00 pm,

BOF PRESENT: Chairman, Matthew Giglietti; Vice Chairman, Susan Jacobs Tom Handler; Tom Kenefick; Ellen Scalettar (6:20)

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

UPDATE ON FISCAL YEAR 220-2021 BUDGET

Matt stated that the Grand List has gone down \$40,000,000 or roughly 4% and if we come in at a zero per cent increase, the mill rate will still go up. Residential real estate in Connecticut is not doing well. If we don't figure out a way to increase the Grand List, Matt stated he doesn't know how we will ever lower taxes.

Matt has met with Tony and asked him to put together a list of items to get the budget under a 1% increase. It will be painful. On March 4th we will talk about it. Matt asked Tony to go through the number of staff reductions over the past few years.

Tony stated that over the last three to four years the following have been eliminated or reduced from full time to part time positions:

- Parks Director - eliminated
 - Senior Clerk in Building Department & Town Clerk – eliminated
 - Lieutenant at Police Department - eliminated
 - Circulation Assistant at the Library
 - Payroll Clerk in Finance
- In the requested budget:
- Building Official – to Part Time
 - Grants Coordinator - eliminated
 - Mechanic - eliminated

On March 4th Matt would like to get the budget below a 1% increase. He has Tony looking for items to reduce. Also, Amity has been told that the Towns will not support the current proposal.

Administrative Officer / Director of Finance Report

Tony reported through January 2020. The projected surplus is \$154,000 for the end of the fiscal year. The fund balance at 6/30/2020 is projected to be \$6.1M or 12.14% of annual projected expenses.

Revenues

Charge for Services – projected to experience a surplus of \$54,000 primarily due to a projected surplus in building permit fees and conveyance taxes.

Other Revenues – Although the Town received \$671,459.64 in surplus Amity funds, Tony did not include the funds in the projected year end surplus in anticipation of all or a portion of the funds being used in the FY21 budget process.

Expenses

Board of Selectmen – projected to generate a surplus of approximately \$45,000 due to a vacant Communications Director and Grants Writer position.

Building Official – expected to generate a surplus of \$30,000 due to the hiring of a part time building official.

Waste Management – primarily due to increased recycling and bulky waste costs, waste management is expected to experience a deficit of \$45,000.

Benefits – expected to generate a surplus of \$70,000 due to a reduced workers compensation premium and healthcare savings due to vacant positions.

REVALUATION UPDATE

Tony and Betsy Quist reviewed the revaluation at the last Board of Selectmen meeting. Tony pointed out the highlights. The last revaluation was October 2014. This was for October 2019. The Grand List is down about \$40,000,000. The comparison by style showed: Multi-family homes increased 29%, raised ranches increased 4%. The rest are either zero or in the negative. The comparison by size shows: homes over 5,000 sf reduced by 12.6% and under 1,000sf increased by 4.1%. Clearly the larger the home is where the largest decrease lies.

The tax impact shows that to get to the revenue collected at 40.23 mills (FY20) an additional 1.61 mills or \$1,804,826 will be needed in tax revenue for the same budget amount.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

Beth reported on the following since the last meeting:

- Lengthy BOS meeting with four Executive Sessions
 - a. Safety & Security at Beecher Road School
 - b. Contract for CCW
 - c. Farm Leases minus the Darling House
 - d. Contract with AMR (extended contract through December 31, 2020)

The Sustainability Committee recommended that the name of the Transfer Station be changed to the Transfer and Recycling Center. The Board of Selection agreed to that change.

LIAISON REPORTS

Amity - Amity came in at a 3.95% increase for FY21. Jim Zeoli spoke and told them that education budgets are unsustainable. Amity was told to get the budget down to 2% or 2.2%. They meet next Monday. The current budget surplus is \$418,000.

Paul Kuriakose sent something that he wanted Matt to read:

"The EMS commission feels strongly that AMR is doing an excellent job at providing emergency services. They have established a strong track record over many years of good service. The commission is very concerned about making any changes. Additionally, getting the licensing for the town back from AMR is not at all trivial. Ray Stuart reported to the commission that in discussions with other towns it took a full time effort for almost a full year for a senior fire official to accomplish this."

Human Services – Tom Kenefick was unable to attend but Jeanette Glicksman is the interim director.

WBOE – Tom stated that the last meeting was the night of our budget meeting.

Recreation – Ellen did not attend the meeting but there is nothing new besides what John Adamovich has reported.

Fire – Susan reported that a good portion of the meeting was executive session.

Library – Susan was unable to attend but she spoke with Eric and they are plugging along.

Matt reminded everyone that Wednesday, March 4, 2020 is the budget recommendation meeting.

Monday night Amity meets and we will see what happens with their proposed budget.

Matt stated that Jim Zeoli is very happy with Fieldstone Village in Orange; it is a "cash cow" for them.

The Board of Finance voted (Giglietti/Kenefick) unanimously to adjourn at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Crosby

Karen Crosby
Budget Analyst
Payroll & Benefits Administrator