



## THE TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 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 Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 6:00 pm

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

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

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

Matt updated the Board on the Country Club – the Board of Selectmen ceased negotiations and the proposal for the purchase of a portion of the Country Club property is off the table for now.

Matt stated that there are three reports in front of the members:

1. Sheet showing how a \$12,000 tax bill would support the different departments in Town (shows where the tax dollars go)
2. The changes made by the Board of Selectmen
3. Suggested topics for budget discussion

Tony reviewed the changes made by the Board of Selectmen which results in a 3.24% increase in expenditures.

A major item in the Police Department is the elimination of two vacant positions with some reductions in Holiday Pay, Overtime and training. Adjustments were also made in the Capital Budget by the Board of Selectmen:

Board of Selectmen – Wayfinding Signs

Building Maintenance – HVAC Repairs at Library

- Senior Center Remodel (hoping to apply for a STEAP Grant)

Fire Commission – Engine 3, put out a few years

Engine 9, put out a few years

Rescue Boat

Human Services – Put out to future the chairs for the cafeteria

Car for Senior Transportation Program – hope to obtain a car from another department

Parks – Irrigation Center Field

- Install new irrigation at West River Complex
- Bleachers at Center Field on Concrete
- Baseball Grooming Machine
- Vehicle Replacement

Police – Building Upgrade moved out a year

- Speed Awareness Monitoring Equipment (funding one instead of two as requested)
- Vehicles – funding one vehicle instead of two as requested
- Door Security / Surveillance Recording System – pushed out one year

Public Works- Truck Replacement Reserve – fund the mason truck and not the pick-up truck as requested

Those were the major items in the capital budget.

Matt reviewed the suggested topics for budget discussion.

Capital Budget – Fire Dept. -\$70,000 Car 201 in Fire Dept

\$18,000 Lucas Device, upgraded from current device

Recreation - \$12,000 treadmills

Operating Budget:

WBOE - \$115,569 (pathway to a 0% increase per Superintendent)

Fire - \$7,008 Chief's Stipend (would have the same increase as other employees)

\$14,655 Fire Marshal's Stipend (would have the same increase as other employees)

\$10,000 Volunteer Incentives (an additional plan that is requested)

\$5,000 Equipment Repair

Town Clerk - \$1,500 Election Supplies

\$1,000 Land Records

Police – \$2,500 Operating Capital (may be able to purchase in current year budget)

Public Works - \$31,200 Part Time Wages (with positions eliminated, department requested some part time workers)

\$10,000 Overtime

Recreation – \$25,000 Part Time Seasonal Wages

Parks - \$4,000 Operating Capital (mulch at Pease Place Playground – hoping to purchase in this years budget)

Amity - \$230,000

Program Cuts - \$30,000

Current Year Contingency - \$50,000

Matt stated that every department made requests that are reasonable and what they need.

Tony updated the Board on the number of positions that were either eliminated or reduced from full time to part time since 2018:

10 positions

Parks Director – eliminated

Senior Clerk for Building Department & Town Clerk's office – eliminated

Circulation Assistant in the Library went to part time

Lieutenant at the Police Department– eliminated  
Payroll Clerk in Finance was eliminated and work split among existing personnel  
Building Official to part time  
Grants Coordinator – eliminated  
Mechanic – eliminated (suggested for FY2021)  
Two Police Officers (suggested for FY2021)

Ellen stated that the Town is very well run and Tony does a great job. There is not a lot of fat in these budgets. The big expense is the school systems that are important. Some of the cuts are really hard to do. We have looked continuously to increase our revenues. The only way we found to increase revenue is some project at the country club. She commends Beth and the Board on doing the right thing and stopped the negotiations on the project. Ellen asked Tony to tell us if we had done the project, what effect it would have had on our taxes. Senior housing that would preserve open space and the character of the Town but would give some tax relief.

Tony stated that the proposal at the time (Toll Brothers) were for 80 units for \$5M and that would have paid the debt off. If half were built, we would be collecting \$600,000 - \$700,000 in taxes.

Contingency is doing well this year so we may be able to purchase some items requested in next year's budget with FY20 funds.

Matt stated that by the next meeting, he will get the possible deal at the JCC for members of the Town Fitness Center.

Tony may have a better handle on Contingency when the Board meets on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Board of Finance voted (Giglietti/Kenefick) unanimously to adjourn at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen Crosby*

Karen Crosby  
Budget Analyst  
Payroll & Benefits Administrator