

**Board of Finance
Public Hearing Minutes
April 4, 2017**

Acting Chairman Michael Dougherty called the Public Hearing meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Board of Finance members in attendance were Ronald Cabana, Frederick Chmura, Michael Dougherty, Glen Lessig, David Fortin, Roy Bradrick and Jeffrey Kelleher. Members absent were David Hosmer and David Richardson. There were approximately 35 members of the public in attendance.

David Fortin, seconded by Ronald Cabana, made a motion to seat Roy Bradrick for tonight's meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Michael Dougherty read the notice for the Public Hearing, than asked for nominations for moderator. David Fortin, seconded by Glen Lessig, made a motion to elect Edwin Higgins for moderator. **Motion passed unanimously.**

First Selectman Allan D. Walker Jr presented the General Government budget. He explained that the budget proposed was \$5,391,891.00. \$386,268,000.00 of that number was for redemption of debt, leaving an operating budget of \$5,005,623.00.

The Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan is \$6,419,050.00. This plan is for future projects that the Town would like to do in the future, such as road improvements and transfer station projects. This plan must be in place in order to possibly receive reimbursement funds from the State of Connecticut.

Viktor Toth, Superintendent of Schools presented the Board of Education's budget. The Proposition 46 Allowable budget is \$17,282,923.00, or a reduction of \$281,253.00 from the originally proposed budget of \$17,564,176.00 which was presented to the Board of Finance on March 7th. Some of the cuts in the budget will come from the loss of 4 certified positions, 8 paraprofessionals, WES music, WMS band, a 1st grade teacher, a 6th grade teacher, and a full-time custodian at WES. Full-day kindergarten and class sizes have been retained.

After the presentation of the budget Moderator Higgins opened the floor for discussion.

It was the consensus of those present that while they appreciated the Board of Finance agreeing to fund a budget to the Proposition 46 limit, they are disheartened that the Board of Education is being faced with cutting music. The speakers felt it was very important that the arts are important to the overall wellbeing of students.

Megan Bard Morse had questions about the funding of the Town Beach, and the zero dollar amount in the field maintenance and elderly programs line item. Karen Fitzpatrick, acting Treasurer explained that the beach would be staffed with constables, teenage life guards and that the bathrooms would be open on the weekends. She believed that swim lessons would be offered through the YMCA or the Red Cross. Allan Walker explained that the money in the field maintenance account was moved to the Highway department's budget, and that the elderly programs were moved to the Recreation department's budget.

Being no further discussion Michael Dougherty announced that the Final Budget meeting would be held on April 18th, with the Annual Town Meeting on May 9th. The budget referendum would be held on May 16, from noon to 8:00pm.

Glen Lessig, seconded by Ron Cabana made a motion to adjourn at 7:37pm. **Motion passed unanimously.**