

**BOARD OF FINANCE
Public Budget Hearing
March 4, 2013**

Members Present:

PRESENT

Elaine Hammers, Chairman
Paul Lavoie, Vice Chairman
Cindy Penkoff, Alternate
Dave Rutigliano
Tom Tesoro
Andrew Palo
Susan LaFrance, Alternate
Vincent DeGennaro, Alternate

ABSENT

Steven Lupien

The First Public Hearing on the First Selectman's Proposed Budget for 2013-2014 was called to order at 7:00 PM at Madison Middle School. All those present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairman welcomed all to the first Board of Finance Public Budget Hearing.

Name/Address/Comment

Steve Castro
Bull Frog Lane

- Does not favor use of capital budget for costs that he feels should be part of operating expenses.
- Taxes should be used for maintaining roads.
- Infrastructure now being taken care of by bonding; therefore, not really being taken care of.

D. Scot Kerr
12 Lynnwood Road

- Recycling Coordinator position should be restored; doesn't feel that enough time has lapsed to make that decision; position created in May, 2013.
- By cutting the job we are being short-sighted and ignoring the complexity of the recycling issue; we need someone to manage the recycling process.
- Submitted letter to Board of Finance requesting position be restored.

Lannie McHugh
132 Fresh Meadow Drive

- Bonding outside of the operating budget for technology, insurance, security and playing fields still leaves a shortfall of \$1.8 million dollars.
- \$875,000 is not part of the operating budget; concerned about funding cliff.
- No mention of bonding to complete repairs to school buildings that are desperately needed.
- If items are truly needed, then we should fund them in the fiscal year spent.

Tony D'Aguila
29 Valley View Road

- Need to provide more services to citizens, including sidewalks, crosswalks and signs; bike trails; traffic lights at Church Hill Rd and Edison Rd, Quality Street, and Middlebrook Rd. and should also install digital timers.
- Identify and remove trees in close proximity to wires.
- Provide adequate transportation within town independent of GBTA.

- Provide free broadband and internet access for all.
- Provide affordable housing for town employees and seniors; small, single family detached on individual lots.
- Get rid of senior center and build community center for Town.
- None of these items should impact on operating expenses.

Cindy Katske
129 Meadowview Drive

- Feels that budget contains so many moving parts that it is very difficult to grasp what is going on and the issues at hand.
- Questions the self-insured model; does not feel we will save anything in the first year.
- Safety and security is a big issue; is the \$875,000 fund is going to be made available for this.
- Is concerned that funds won't be available for high school guidance counselor.

Monica Welch
30 Ken Lane

- Budget feels different this year; there is now a state mandate that we spend next year at least what we spend this year. Not logical given possible drop in enrollment, etc.
- Not just dealing with the operating budget; also dealing with the state mandate.
- Understands that we need to balance what we leave in the operating budget with what we bond outside of the budget when considering the state mandate.
- Are there items that could be funded with a supplemental; do we want to go into the general fund.
- Realizes that we don't want a budget this year that is too high that we would need a referendum.

Steve Castro
Bull Frog Lane

- Have salaries to pave the roads in the budget, but did not include road paving supplies in the budget.
- Attorneys are getting 4%; reference to 2.9% increase based on existing contracts; what about those not negotiated.
- Need more overtime help to collect taxes; why not have payment on-line.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Phyllis Collier, Board of Finance Clerk