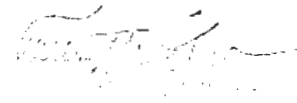


Board of Finance
Special Meeting
April 11, 2023 6:30 PM
Veteran's Meeting Room
Warren Memorial Town Hall

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1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairman Francis Moriarty.
2. Present were Chairman Moriarty, and members Steve Geryk, Matthew McKenney, Richard Shuck, Tony Pellegrino, and David Walsh. A quorum was established.

Also present were Board of Finance alternates Don Martinsen, Conrado Ulloa, and Shelley West, Interim Director of Finance Lynn Nenni, Board of Education Chair Laura Lybarger, Board of Education Director of Finance and Operations Charmaine Bradshaw-Hill, members of the Board of Education, and additional school administrators and staff.

3. Upon motion of Mr. McKenney and seconded by Mr. Geryk, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 3, 2023 and April 5, 2023 meetings.
4. Chairman Moriarty stated that the purpose of tonight's meeting is to discuss the approved Town of Stafford and Board of Education FY 2023-2024 budgets, and take possible action. Currently, the Board of Education proposed budget represents a \$1,883,138 (6.3%) increase over the FY 2022/2023 budget, and the Board of Selectmen proposed budget represents a \$870,420 (9.2%) increase over the FY 2022/2023 budget. The combined FY 2023/2024 proposed budgets represents an overall increase of \$2,753,558 (7.3%) over the FY 2022/2023 budget.

Should the Board of Finance choose to not reduce either budget prior to the Annual Town Budget Meeting, the mill rate will increase from 35.78 to 39.60.

Mr. Walsh distributed research he has been tracking on twelve area towns and the percentage of increases to their education budgets, stating that as of now the median increase is 4%. Many of these budgets are still under review from their respective Finance Boards.

Discussions with the Board and audience included what a realistic budget figure would be to pass at referendum, the current economy and inflation, Debt Service, WPCA payments towards WPCA bonded projects, and the Utility Fund.

In past recent years, the Board of Finance public hearings have seen a very low turn out from the public. All members of the Board are hopeful that the April 19th public hearing has high numbers of residents in attendance to voice their opinions, so the Board can make a more informed decision as to potential budget cuts.

Upon motion of Mr. Geryk and seconded by Mr. Pellegrino, the Board unanimously voted to eliminate the part-time vacant Library position, reducing the Library Budget by \$17,868.

There was no further action on the proposed FY 2023-2024 budgets.

5. Upon motion of Mr. McKenney and seconded by Mr. Pellegrino, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Erin Kirchhoffer
Recording Secretary

Attachment

<u>Town</u>	<u>% Education increase</u>	<u>Status</u>
1) Manchester	4.81%	Board of Directors w. "approve" on April 11.
2) South Windsor	7.95%	Town Council will set + budget on May 1.
3) Ellington	4.89%	BOE cut from 5.33%; BOE no cut by town manager
4) Vernon	3.75%	
5) East Windsor	3.98%	
6) Tolland	5.9% 3.0%	BOE approved; cut from 5.9% cut from original request (6.7%)
7) Suffield	5.96%	BOE
8) Somers	4.34%	under review approved by B.O. Finance
9) Bolton	6.33%	reduced from 3.8% originally +2% more to Grand List (revaluation takes effect)
10) East Hartford	3.2%	approved by BOE
11) Glastonbury	2.8%	
12) Stafford	6.3%	