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TOWN CLERK

**Town of Stafford, Board of Finance  
Stafford Community Center  
3 Buckley Highway, Stafford Connecticut  
April 19, 2023  
Special Meeting in Person and via Zoom  
Immediately Following the 6:30 PM Public Hearing  
Zoom Meeting ID: 859 9031 8480**

1. Chairman Moriarty called the meeting to order at 8:30 pm.
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 First Selectman Sal Titus, Selectmen Rick Hartenstein and Kurt Vail, Interim Director of Finance Lynn Nenni, Board of Finance alternates Don Martinsen, Conrado Ulloa, and Shelley West, Superintendent of Schools Steve Moccio, 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. Pellegrino, the Board unanimously approved the minutes from the April 11, 2023 meeting.
4. The Board discussed the FY2023-2024 budgets of the Water Pollution Control Authority and Service District Commission. Both budgets had previously been presented at prior Public Hearings conducted by their respective commissions and approved by each board.

***Upon motion of Mr. Pellegrino and seconded by Mr. McKenney, the Board by unanimous vote approved sending the FY 2023/2024 Water Pollution Control Authority budget of \$1,994,326 to Town Meeting for approval.***

***Upon motion of Mr. Walsh and seconded by Mr. McKenney, the Board by unanimous vote approved sending the FY 2023/2024 Service District budget of \$460,450 to Town Meeting for approval.***

5. The Board reviewed the FY 2023-2024 Town of Stafford budget.

Mr. Walsh stated that he was in favor of adding a Recreation Director to the Selectmen's budget, saying the impact on the proposed mill rate would be minimal and would positively impact Stafford residents. Also discussed was First Selectman Titus' plan of forming a commission to

explore the needs of a Recreation Director in Stafford, and to have it presented in the next fiscal year budget.

Mr. Shuck stated a 10% tax increase will be a heavy burden on taxpayers, especially those on fixed incomes. He noted the federal government is predicting a recession and feels right now is not the time to have a large mill rate increase. Mr. Pellegrino echoed Mr. Shuck's statement, saying the Board was elected to act fiscally responsible on behalf of the taxpayers of Stafford.

Mr. Walsh suggested using cash surplus to lower the mill rate. Mr. Geryk opposed using cash reserves, as the fund numbers have been going down. Mr. Geryk asked Ms. Nenni her opinion on using cash reserves. Ms. Nenni said she would not recommend using cash funds, and reminded the Board that there is no money set aside for Capital Projects.

*Following discussion of potential budget cuts, Mr. Pellegrino moved to reduce the Board of Education Budget by \$335,000, seconded by Mr. McKenney. The motion was approved 5 [YES] Pellegrino, McKenney, Geryk, Moriarty, Walsh to 1 [NO] Shuck.*

- 6. Upon motion of Mr. Geryk and seconded by Mr. Pellegrino, the Board voted 5 [YES] Geryk, McKenney, Moriarty, Pellegrino, and Walsh to 1 [NO] Shuck to approve sending the FY 2023/2024 Town of Stafford budget of \$47,151,285 to Town Meeting for approval.**
7. Upon motion of Mr. Pellegrino and seconded by Mr. Geryk, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Erin Kirchhoffer, Recording Secretary

***Video recording of the meeting is posted to the Town Website [www.staffordct.org](http://www.staffordct.org)***