

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

40 Old Farms Road
Willington, CT 06279
(860) 487-3100
(860) 487-3103 Fax
www.willingtonct.org

BOARD OF FINANCE

Budget Meeting
Hybrid- In Person and Online

March 2, 2023
7:00 PM

**Minutes are not official until approved at the next regular meeting*

Members Present (a quorum of 4 members is required to conduct business):

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|----------------------|-----------------------------|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Stephanie (Stef) Summers Chair | Geoffrey (Geoff) Prusak Vice Chairman | Christina Mailhos | Joseph (Joe) Sherrell | Peter (Pete) Tanaka Secretary | James (Jim) Marshall | Jim Gilligan (ALT) | Elisabeth (Lisa) Woolf (ALT) |
| In Person | In Person | Via Zoom | In person | In Person | In person | Via Zoom | Absent |

Also Present:

Troy Sposato, Department of Public Works – In person
Donna Latincsics, Business Manager – In person
Erika Wiecenski, First Selectwoman – In person
Members of the Public

Chair Stephanie Summers called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

SEATING OF ALTERNATES:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

None

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Budget request presentations

a. Selectmen's Budget

First Selectwoman Erika Wiecenski presented the Selectmen's budget and they requested \$4,295,028, an increase of 8.17%. The increase is attributed to services, salaries, and insurance. Erika and Stef discussed that we share the assessor with the town of Bolton. The revenue collector's salary increased 15.8% due to her receiving a certification. There is a one-time \$16,000 increase for a project to bring the

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

Senior Center computer systems up to date and be monitored by Novus. The Senior Center maintenance budget doubled from \$7,500 to \$15,000 because there are some repairs that need to be made. Public Works planned on having only half the amount of the catch basins pumped every year, alternating the other half in the off years, and the price to pump them out has gone up. They have decreased tree-cutting services by \$40k. They were able to cut it by working with a new contractor, dropping the trees and having locals take them, and leaving the brush for animal shelter. The gasoline line item is going up \$3,700 due to the new gasoline-based PW director's vehicle, which will be the only gas vehicle they have. The Public Work's lease vehicle payment principal is increasing \$22,512 due to the newly leased dump truck. The sand budget was reduced by \$14,000 because we have a surplus. We are running 4 buckets of salt to 1 bucket of sand for snow and ice removal. They requested \$350,000, a 23.6% increase in the road maintenance budget. Erika mentioned for comparison, the total road maintenance budget was the cost to redo a damaged mile of Moose Meadow Road. The total Public Works budget request is \$1,415,145. Stef questioned if there was going to be a plan to implement repairs for the data that was produced from the software we purchased to evaluate and rate our roads. Erika answered that not all of the roads that need repair will be able to be addressed with the current budget. Erika mentioned the timing of the data wasn't ideal, so they chose not to include the larger increase in this year's budget. They do have a plan to add projects to the Capital Improvements Plan and work it into the operating budget later on. Erika said the state gives us \$280,000 to use for road repairs, and comparing that to our total \$350,000 requested budget for road maintenance really shows that we are not investing in our roads. Erika said the DPW cracked down on checking for dump permits as well as charging for using bulky waste services. They noticed a significant decrease in tonnage since there was a good number of non-residents using our Transfer Station prior to the crackdown. Erika went over the transfers out in the budget. Stef and Troy discussed training available at UConn for best practices to economize on lower salt use during storms and reduce negative impacts on fresh water resources and residential wells in town. Troy said he and his crew have attended this training.

b. Capital Improvement Plan:

Christina went over the CIP budget. She explained that in FY22-23 they took \$245,000, and in FY23-24, the first year of the CIP plan, they are taking \$460,000 from the Capital Reserve fund, which is already embedded in the operating budget. The BOE section included a few repairs that need to be made to the schools. The SBC's section included the proposed new school and the bond. The Fire Departments' section included lease payments, requested projects for surveying and engineering services, equipment, replacing a rescue truck estimated to be \$850k, the bond for the addition on WFD1 and the WHFD firehouse replacement. The DPW section included multiple lease payments on vehicles, future requests include a street sweeper, new overhead doors, Village Hill drainage and paving, salt shed, other new equipment and their leases, other road improvements needing a bond, and a few other projects. The Library section included the bond for the library building ending in FY26-27 and a few requested projects for the library building. The selectmen section included a facilities study for all the municipal buildings, common room floors and building security for the town office building. The assessor section included the revaluation cost; we are required to do a reval every 5 years. The Conservation Commission section included the first step in a plan to replenish the Open Space fund. The land use section had the regulation and ordinance codification project. There are no other current requests in other departments.

2) Revenue Presentation

Donna shared her revenue projection. She is anticipating a 3.2% revenue increase with total revenue going from \$18,508,359 to \$19,099,025. Peter and the board discussed that the Grand List increased roughly 4%. Donna said it looks like we could apply about \$650,000 from the Fund Balance to bring it down to 12.2%, in compliance with the BOF maximum standard.

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

3) Budget season followup, as needed

Stef said next week we will begin deliberations. The board discussed the 5-year look back from the departments. The library and Parks and Rec have not gotten back to the board with their updates. Jim M. pointed out the large growths that have been occurring for a few departments. Erika clarified the timeframe for appropriations and the public hearing. The last BOF meeting is scheduled for March 23rd. If additional meetings are needed, they would have to occur before March 27.

CORRESPONDENCE:

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

Town Clerk Robin Campbell wanted to answer the question someone raised over the purchased services in her budget, and clarified it is a monthly charge.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

Peter moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 pm.

Geoff seconded

All in favor

Motion passed

Respectfully submitted,
Samantha Sperry

Samantha Sperry

Recording Secretary

RECEIVED
WILLINGTON, CT.

2023 MAR 22 A 10:33


TOWN CLERK