

**Board of Finance Public Budget Hearing #4**  
**Wednesday, March 15, 2023 7:30 pm**  
**Via Webex & In Person @ BOE Conference Room 295 A/B**  
**501 Kings Highway East, Fairfield, CT 06825**

A recording of this meeting can be found here: [BOF Budget Hearing #4 3.15.2023](#).

FINAL MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairwoman Lori Charlton, Vice-Chair John Mitola, Secretary Sheila Marmion, Craig Curley, Christopher DeWitt, Mary LeClerc, Kevin Starke, Jack Testani, James Walsh

OTHERS PRESENT: Tax Collector Dave Kluczowski, Police Chief Robert Kalamaras, Deputy Chief Keith Broderick, Animal Control Officer Paul Miller, Fire Chief Denis McCarthy, Deputy Chief Kyran Dunn, CFO Jared Schmitt, Budget Director Frank Magneri, Town Attorney James Baldwin

1. Call to Order  
Chairwoman Lori Charlton called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance  
Chairwoman Charlton led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Comment: 2 minutes per comment  
There was no public comment.
4. Discussion on the Following Budgets:

Finance:

3090 Tax Collector- Dave Kluczowski

The schedule of the current tax levy is on page 8. Mr. Kluczowski said the proposed collection rate in the budget book is 98.90, but was changed to 98.99. He said the BOS made that change to reflect the current rate for tax projection. Mr. Kluczowski said expenses are due to an increase in payroll due to the PETA/THEA settled contracts as well as a new sewer tax clerk. He said printing increased due to more printing and a higher estimate for services. He said bills must be mailed out statutorily and the IT/Software increased due to a contractual increase.

Public Safety:

4030 Police- Chief Robert Kalamaras, Deputy Chief Keith Broderick

Expenses are on page 132. Chief Kalamaras said there is a conservative increase due to contractual salaries, training new officers, and technology. He said full staffing would be 110 officers and there are 109 currently. He said Police is asking for one additional officer to account for the increase in work due to the Police Accountability Act. Chief Kalamaras said Police added a social worker which has been very successful and is also included in this budget. He said the outside jobs fund has been used to purchase police vehicles. He said there are reporting requirements so it will still be transparent. There was a discussion about using this account to purchase the vehicles for \$689,455 (10 cars).

4050 Animal Control-Animal Control Officer Paul Miller

Revenue is on page 16. Mr. Miller said quarantine fees are down as are redemption fees since the department is picking up less dogs. Expenses are on page 139. Mr. Miller said personnel changes are due to the reorganization of the department. He said the full-time secretary was eliminated and a full-time Animal Control Officer was created as well as a part-time secretary. Mr. Miller said OT is up, even with a new officer due to training and other unexpected situations.

4150 Emergency Communications Center- Chief Robert Kalamaras, Deputy Chief Keith Broderick

ECC is in Self Supporting on page 236. Chief Kalamaras said Westport joined the ECC (Fairfield County Regional Dispatch – FCRD) on March 1<sup>st</sup>. He said there were tech issues, but that was expected with training. He said vacancies will need to be filled and there will be a test out soon. Chief Kalamaras said both Police and Fire are on NextGen software which is what most towns use. He said New Canaan EMS is interested in joining. He said every time a new district joins, grant money is received for the merger. He said there are currently 22 employees, but 26 are needed. Chief Kalamaras said the budget is going into OT to support vacancies. He said ll salaries for staff including Captain come out of the ECC budget.

4030 Police Revenue- Chief Robert Kalamaras, Deputy Chief Keith Broderick

Chief Kalamaras said revenue comes from parking violations (new plate reader), funeral escorts which is also related to outside jobs, and gun permits that increased by the hundreds in the last two years, but is slowing down now.

4010 Fire-Chief Denis McCarthy, Deputy Chief Kyran Dunn

Revenue is on page 14. Chief McCarthy said the Fire Marshal fees for construction projects are hard to determine. He said the construction market has hampered some commercial projects. He said there are projects coming, but there are challenges with 8-30g and opposition to projects. Chief McCarthy said fire consults with Community and Economic Development as well as Planning and Zoning. He said there is a project for a dorm pending at Sacred Heart University, but discussions have not started yet. There was a discussion among the Board about permit fees for construction. Expenses are on page 126 and include the ISO (Insurance/Services/Office) re-rating. Chief McCarthy said 32 new employees were hired in the last six years. He said he is anticipating 4-6 retirements and an arbitration award this year. He said a full-time training coordinator was added as there was a demand in the department. Chief McCarthy said pay will be split between Fairfield Fire and the Regional Training Center. He said OT is up due to vacations, sick leave, injury, training relief and vacancy.

Finance:

3010 Finance-CFO Jared Schmitt, Budget Director Frank Magneri

Revenue is on page 13. Mr. Schmitt said there are no major changes. He said there was an increase in dividend income. Expenses are on page 101. Mr. Schmitt said the increase is due to education/membership for training and software programs. He said there is one position that remains vacant which was the DPW Finance position. Mr. Schmitt said there is no space at this time, but they are making room in the Finance Department to add this position. He said this will be a PETA union position.

Admin & General: 1270 Legal - Town Attorney James Baldwin – page 76

Mr. Baldwin discussed pending litigation, collective bargaining agreements and other matters. He said expenses are down 20% due to reduced tax appeals and the Charter Revision not taking place.

Mr. Baldwin said Internal Services fees are down as the new HR Director is an attorney and can handle the labor discussions/deliberations. He said that if needed, the HR Director can seek outside counsel. There was a discussion among the Board about internal service funds.

2010 Contingency – This was discussed in Executive Session.

Chairwoman Charlton made a motion to move to Executive Session to discuss Legal & Contingency at 11:00 pm. Craig Curley seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Chairwoman Charlton made a motion to move out of Executive Session at 12:10 am. Mr. Curley seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

No votes were taken.

#### 5. Adjourn

Chairwoman Charlton adjourned the meeting at 12:12 am.

The full departmental budget discussions can be accessed here: [BOF Budget Hearing #4 3.15.2023.](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien  
Recording Secretary