

**Board of Finance Public Budget Hearing #3**  
**Thursday, March 14, 2024, 7:30 pm**  
**Via Webex And In Person at the**  
**BOE Offices, Room 295 A/B**  
**501 Kings Highway East, Fairfield, CT**

A recording of this meeting can be found here: [BOF Public Budget Meeting #3 3/14/24](#).

The backup documents are located here: [BOF Budget Meeting #3 Backup Packet](#).

**DRAFT MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairwoman Lori Charlton, Vice Chair John Mitola, Secretary Craig Curley, Shane Pendley, Mary LeClerc, Amy Ruggiero, Kevin Starke, Jack Testani, James Walsh

OTHERS PRESENT: First Selectman Bill Gerber, Interim CFO David Becker, Budget Director Frank Magneri, Conservation Director Tim Bishop, Building Manager Pat Mahoney, Interim DPW Director John Marsilio, Assistant DPW Director John Cottell, Engineering Manager Bill Hurley, WPCF Superintendent John Bodie, Parks & Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese, FairTV, members of the public.

- 1) Call to Order  
Chairwoman Lori Charlton called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance  
Vice-Chairman John Mitola led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3) Discussion on the Following Budgets:

General Government – Administrative

1230 Conservation - pages 67-72 - \$969,840 - Conservation Director Tim Bishop

James Walsh recused himself from the Conservation budget review.

- Revenue - Increase Regulations and Fee Schedule increased July 1, exceeding expectations. Increased revenue for 2025.
- Expenses – Adding a full-time member in the office, Natural Resource Specialist.
- Capital Outlay is zero because a truck was purchased last year.

There was a discussion about positions and duties.

Public Works

James Walsh recused himself from the Public Works budget review.

5050 Building – pages 175-179 - \$786,335 – Building Official Pat Mahoney

- Revenue – down from last year. Some larger projects are not scheduled. The universities had building projects last year and interest rates are up. There are no bid projects scheduled at this time.

- Expense – Overtime slightly increased but a position was filled and now the OT will be reduced.
- Special Dept. Supplies dropped due to remodeling and used other line items for supplies.

There was a discussion about the Building budget's variations from last year, but Mr. Mahoney is confident he will meet his goals.

Mr. Walsh returned to the meeting.

6070 Solid Waste and Recycling – pages 198-202 - \$5,213,648 – Interim DPW Director John Marsilio, Assistant DPW Director John Cottell

- Revenue – 3 increases: Scale Weighing-increase of tipping fees in July, Bulky Waste-demolition debris increased, Facility use reflects a \$1 increase per automobile – about 50K vehicles/year.

There was a discussion about fees and dumping as well as an audit report. There was also a discussion about adding a position.

5011 Public Works Administration -pages 163-166 - \$402,962 Interim DPW Director John Marsilio, Assistant DPW Director John Cottell

- Payroll increases due to contractual union increases.

5030 Public Works Operations -pages 167-174 - \$13,394,698 Interim DPW Director John Marsilio, Assistant DPW Director John Cottell

- Paving and Sidewalk programs fully funded and that is the overall increase in budget.
- Capital Outlay down due to high expenditures in the last few years but now keeping the budget lower and only asking for needs.

5070 Engineering – pages 181-185 \$1,080,350 - Interim DPW Director John Marsilio, Engineering Manager Bill Hurley

- Expenses increased by payroll and a reorganized position for a full-time administrative secretary. Much needed support for the volume of projects. Longevity pay came with this position. Other payroll increases are due to contractual obligations.
- Capital Outlay to purchase instruments or the survey crew to document survey data in a more modern way.

4070 Street Lighting-pages 155-156 - \$530,068 - Interim DPW Director John Marsilio, Assistant DPW Director John Cottell

- Expense – UI rates are going up. Street lights have a different fee structure than regular electricity.

13013010 WPCA – pages 250-257 - \$10,232,994 - Interim DPW Director John Marsilio, WPCA Superintendent John Bodie

This department is self sufficient and will be voted on separately from the Town Budget.

- This budget is increased and reflective of newly identified needs. There are recommendations for more personnel, software and it identifies other shortcomings.

- There are normal increases in commodities.
- Inflow and Infiltration – this year is \$750,000 for design phase and construction
- Revenue has an increase of 11.25% due to sewer usage rate increase.

There was a discussion about projects and funding. This discussion also led to another discussion about potential additional personnel.

Culture and Recreation – All categories presented by Parks & Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese

7030 Penfield Pavilion Complex-pages 214-217 - \$193,301

- Revenue – Pavilion projected to be finished January/February 2025
- Expenses – increased seasonal/PT payroll, parking, locker room and venue attendants.

7050 Parks and Recreation-pages 218-223 - \$976,950

- Increase in revenue – new waterfront director, advertising and marketing swimming
- Increase in programs – getting back to pre-COVID
- Increase in tennis concession
- Burr Mansion bookings up from last year but revenue is cut drastically after expenses.

Discussion about the use of Burr Mansion and use of the building going forward. The BOF gave Mr. Calabrese direction to book more events that previously had not been considered.

- Expenses- increases in payroll due to contractual obligations.
- Fees and Professional Services-increased due to Fireworks barge – marine increases

7070 Waterfront-pages 224-226 - \$574,896

- Revenue flat- beach stickers and Jennings Concession
- Beach parking weather dependent
- Not anticipating drop in parking for nonresidents

7080 Parks-pages 127-130 - \$2,165,169

- No revenue
- Expenses-regular salary – increases in contractual obligations in THEA and PETA unions. There are savings in retirement and hiring at a lower amount.
- Contract increases – two mowing islands and athletic fields. One for irrigation services. All contracts are through public bids.
- Capital Outlay – increased to replace 2 trucks.

7090 Marina-pages 231-234 - \$299,273

- Revenue – flat – only so many slips and they are full. Rates haven't increased.
- Carrying funds to replace Marina in-kind \$1.8 million, once decided what will be done.

7111 Carl Dickman Golf Course-235-238 - \$339,641

- Rates raised \$1 in most categories
- Expenses steady-FT employee at top of step, PT staff increased due to increase in minimum wage.

7113 H. Smith Richardson Golf Course-pages 239-244 - \$1,942,757

- Revenue up – rates increased
- Upgrades at driving range passed BOS & BOF, waiting for RTM approval. Only increased revenue by 10% in case the RTM doesn't approve.

There was a discussion about fees, software and equipment replacement.

4) Adjourn

Amy Ruggiero made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Walsh seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien  
Recording Secretary