

Board of Finance Budget Vote – Public Executive Session
Wednesday, April 3, 2024, 7:30 pm
Via Webex & In Person @
BOE Room 295A/B, 501 Kings Hwy E.
Fairfield, CT 06825

A recording of this meeting can be found here: [BOF Budget Vote - Public Executive Session 4/3/24.](#)

The backup for this meeting can be found here: [BOF Budget Vote Backup Packet.](#)

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairwoman Lori Charlton, Vice Chair John Mitola, Secretary Craig Curley, Mary LeClerc, Shane Pendley, Amy Ruggiero, Kevin Starke, Jack Testani, James Walsh
OTHERS PRESENT: First Selectman Bill Gerber, Interim CFO David Becker, Budget Director Frank Magneri, PT Investment and Treasury Advisor Ken Brachfeld, FairTV, members of the public

1) Call to Order
Chairwoman Lori Charlton called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

2) Pledge of Allegiance
John Mitola led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Lori Charlton thanked all involved with the budget for their work and time.

3) Public Executive Session - Budget Vote and WPCA Budget Vote (no public comment)
(requires RTM approval)

Lori Charlton made a motion to put Item 3 before the BOF for a vote. Shane Pendley seconded the motion.

REVENUE:

First Selectman Bill Gerber discussed changes to the Janney Portfolio. It will be split between Fidelity and Charles Schwab and will roll off overtime. PT Investment and Treasury Advisor Ken Brachfeld said the \$100 million that was in one account at a local bank was very irresponsible. There was a discussion about bonds and cash. Mr. Brachfeld will be working for approximately six months. This will offset the Janney fees.

- FINANCE: Kevin Starke made a motion to add \$230,000 to line item 44001 Dividend & Interest Income. Craig Curley seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- FINANCE: James Walsh made a motion to add an additional \$250,000 to 44001 Dividend & Investment Income. Amy Ruggiero seconded the motion which **carried** 5-4-0 (Charlton, Curley, Mitola, Pendley opposed).
- POLICE: Craig Curley made a motion to increase line 42369 – Misc. Police by \$141,338. Mr. Mitola seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- POLICE: Mr. Curley made a motion to decrease line 42323 Dog Warden Quarantine by \$127.00. Shane Pendley seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.

- RECREATION: Mr. Curley made a motion to increase line 42507 Burr Mansion by \$50,000. Mr. Mitola seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- WATERFRONT: Mr. Curley made a motion to increase line 42351 Beach Stickers by \$40,000. John Mitola seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- WATERFRONT: Mr. Curley made a motion to increase line 42352 Beach Parking by \$10,000. Mr. Walsh seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- H.SMITH RICHARDSON: Mr. Curley made a motion to increase line 42472 Driving Range by \$140,000. Mr. Mitola seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.

The adjustments to Revenue total \$861,211 and the new non-tax total is \$35,526,894.

Lori Charlton made a motion to accept the amended Revenue total of \$35,526,894. Amy Ruggiero seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Lori Charlton made a motion to put the BOE budget of \$220,221,484 before the BOF. Amy Ruggiero seconded the motion.

- Jack Testani made a motion to reduce the BOE budget by \$250,000. Mr. Walsh seconded the motion which **failed** 4-5-0 (Testani, Walsh, Ruggiero, LeClerc in favor).
- Shane Pendley made a motion to increase line 58900 Board of Education by \$238,157. Mr. Curley seconded the motion which **failed** 2-7-0 (Curley, Pendley in favor).

Lori Charlton made a motion to accept the BOE budget of \$220,221,484. John Mitola seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

EXPENSES:

- FIRST SELECTMAN'S OFFICE: Mr. Curley made a motion to reduce line 51010 Regular Payroll by \$7,867. Mr. Mitola seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- FIRST SELECTMAN'S OFFICE: Mr. Curley made a motion to reduce line 52200 Social Security by \$602.00. Mr. Mitola seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- FIRST SELECTMAN'S OFFICE: Mr. Walsh made a motion to reduce line 58010 Contingency by \$7,867 & \$602 as well as reduce line 51010 Regular Payroll by \$3,198 for a total reduction of \$11,667. Mr. Curley seconded the motion which **failed** 3-6-0 (Walsh, Testani, Ruggiero in favor).
- FIRST SELECTMAN'S OFFICE: Mr. Walsh made a motion to reduce line 51820 Travel & Meetings by \$3,000. Jack Testani seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- FIRST SELECTMAN'S OFFICE: Mr. Walsh made a motion to reduce line 55300 Communications by \$500. Mr. Testani seconded the motion which **failed** 3-6-0 (Testani, Walsh, Ruggiero in favor).
- FAIRTV: Ms. Ruggiero made a motion to reduce line 53205 Fees & Professional Services by \$30,000 for Broadcast Server. Mr. Walsh seconded the motion which **carried** 6-3-0 (Mitola, Charlton, Pendley opposed).
- ADMIN SERVICES: Mr. Walsh made motion to reduce line 51030 PT Payroll by \$93,600. Jack Testani seconded the motion which **failed** 3-6-0 (Walsh, Testani, Ruggiero in favor).
- TP&Z: Mr. Curley made a motion to reduce line 51010 Payroll by \$4,429. Mr. Mitola seconded the motion which **carried** 8-0-1 (Walsh abstained).

- TP&Z: Mr. Curley made a motion to reduce line 52200 Social Security by \$339. Mr. Mitola seconded the motion which **carried** 8-0-1 (Walsh abstained).
- PROBATE: Mr. Testani made a motion to reduce line 53310 Rental & Storage by \$4,000. Ms. Ruggiero seconded the motion. Mr. Testani withdrew his motion after hearing that this item is mandated by the state.
- LEGAL SERVICES: Ms. Ruggiero made a motion to reduce line 53200 by \$100,000 for the Charter Revision. Mr. Testani seconded the motion which **carried** 5-4-0 (Charlton, Curley, Mitola, Pendley opposed).
- CONTINGENCY: Ms. Ruggiero made a motion to reduce line 58010 Misc. Contingency by \$15,000. Mr. Testani seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- RETIREE BENEFITS: Mr. Mitola made a motion to reduce line 52311 Police & Fire by \$29,594. Ms. Ruggiero seconded the motion which **carried** 8-0-0 (Starke was out of the room at the time of the vote).
- RETIREE BENEFITS: Mr. Mitola made a motion to reduce line 52310 Retirement Contributions by \$313,369. Mr. Walsh seconded the motion which **carried** 8-0-0. (Starke was out of the room at the time of the vote).
- ACTIVE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: Mr. Mitola made a motion to increase line 52100 by \$63,847. Ms. Ruggiero seconded the motion which **carried** 8-0-0 (Starke was out of the room at the time of the vote).
- HR OPERATIONS: Ms. Ruggiero made a motion to reduce line 54310 Maint/Repair by \$1,000 to bring that line to zero. Mr. Testani seconded the motion which **carried** 7-2-0 (Curley, Pendley opposed).
- HR OPERATIONS: Ms. Ruggiero made a motion to reduce line 55400 Advertising by \$3,400. Mr. Testani seconded the motion which **failed** 4-5-0 (Walsh, Ruggiero, Testani, LeClerc opposed).
- HR OPERATIONS: Ms. Ruggiero made a motion to reduce line 58120 Travel & Meetings by \$2,600 to bring that line to zero. Mr. Testani seconded the motion which **failed** 3-6-0 (Testani, Ruggiero, Walsh in favor).
- HR INSURANCE & CLAIMS: Mr. Mitola made a motion to reduce line 55210 Property Insurance by \$43,110. Mr. Walsh seconded the motion which **carried** 8-0-0 (Pendley was out of the room at the time of the vote).
- HR INSURANCE & CLAIMS: John Mitola made a motion to reduce line 55200 Errors & Omissions by \$2,360. James Walsh seconded the motion which **carried** 8-0-0 (Pendley was out of the room at the time of the vote).
- HR INSURANCE & CLAIMS: Mr. Mitola made a motion to reduce line 55240 Liability Insurance by \$6,867. Mr. Walsh seconded the motion which **carried** 8-0-0 (Pendley was out of the room at the time of the vote).

Chairwoman Charlton called for a 5-minute recess. Recess started at 11:22 pm. Chairwoman Charlton called the meeting back. The meeting resumed at 11:28 pm.

- COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Mr. Curley made a motion to reduce line 51010 Regular Payroll by \$14,090. Mr. Mitola seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Curley made a motion to reduce line 52200 Social Security by \$1,078. Ms. Ruggiero seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.

- COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Mr. Testani made a motion to reduce line 52300 Fees & Professional Serv. by \$15,000. Mr. Walsh seconded the motion. After a discussion clarifying the need for the funds due to new commissions that fall under Community & Economic Development, Mr. Testani withdrew his motion.
- CONTINGENCY: Mr. Curley made a motion to increase line 58010 Contingency by \$66,834 (to bring all reductions to net zero). Kevin Starke seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- FINANCE: Mr. Starke made a motion to increase line 51030 PT Payroll by \$30,000. Ms. Ruggiero seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- FINANCE: Mr. Starke made a motion to increase line 52200 Social Security by \$2,295. Mr. Testani seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- FINANCE: Mr. Walsh made a motion to reduce line 51010 Regular Payroll by \$25,000. Ms. Ruggiero seconded the motion which **failed** 3-6-0 (Walsh, Ruggiero, Testani in favor).
- ASSESSOR: Mr. Curley made a motion to reduce line 51010 Regular Payroll by \$4,215. Mr. Mitola seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- ASSESSOR: Mr. Curley made a motion to reduce line 52200 Social Security by \$322. Mr. Pendley seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Mr. Testani made a motion to reduce line 57000 Capital Outlay by \$17,000. Ms. Ruggiero seconded the motion which **carried** 5-4-0 (Charlton, Pendley, Mitola, Curley opposed).
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Mr. Curley made a motion to reduce line 51010 Regular Payroll by \$4,181. John Mitola seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Craig Curley made a motion to reduce line 52200 Social Security by \$320. Mr. Mitola seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- FIRE: Mr. Curley made a motion to reduce line 57000 Capital Outlay by \$75,000. Mr. Mitola seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- FIRE: Mr. Walsh made a motion to reduce line 51010 Regular Payroll by \$80,000. Mr. Pendley seconded the motion which **failed** 3-5-1 (Testani abstained).
- FIRE: Mr. Walsh made a motion to reduce line 58110 Training by \$38,750. Mr. Testani seconded the motion which **failed** 4-5-0 (Walsh, Ruggiero, Testani, LeClerc in favor).
- POLICE: Mr. Curley made a motion to reduce line 54330 Maint./Repair-Automotive by \$200,000. Mr. Testani seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- ECC: Mr. Pendley made a motion to increase line 58950 Pension/Retirement/Insurance by \$80,991. Mr. Testani seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- HEALTH: Mr. Curley made a motion to reduce line 51010 Regular Payroll by \$8,600. Mr. Testani seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- HEALTH: Mr. Curley made a motion to reduce line 52200 Social Security by \$658. Mr. Starke seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- HUMAN & SOCIAL SERVICES: Mr. Curley made a motion to reduce line 51010 Regular Payroll by \$3,697. Mr. Testani seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- HUMAN & SOCIAL SERVICES: Mr. Curley made a motion to reduce line 52200 Social Security by \$283. Mr. Mitola seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- MAIN LIBRARY: Ms. Ruggiero made a motion to reduce line 51010 Regular Payroll by \$70,000. Mr. Testani seconded the motion which **failed** 4-5-0 (Walsh, Ruggiero, Testani, LeClerc in favor).
- RECREATION: Mr. Curley made a motion to reduce line 51010 Regular Payroll by \$4,112. Ms. Charlton seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.

- RECREATION: Mr. Curley made a motion to reduce line 52200 Social Security by \$315. Ms. Charlton seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- H. SMITH RICHARDSON: Mr. Curley made a motion to reduce line 51010 Regular Payroll by \$10,893. Mr. Mitola seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- H. SMITH RICHARDSON: Mr. Curley made a motion to reduce line 52200 Social Security by \$833. Ms. Charlton seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.

The adjustments to Expenses total \$659,167.

Change in dollar year Tax Levy: \$1,520,378

New Tax Levy: \$328,902,302

New Mill Rate increase based on these numbers: 1.42% = .02790

Ms. Charlton made a motion to recommend the amended FY24-25 budget appropriation in the amount of \$369,709,303. Mr. Mitola seconded the motion which carried 5-4-0 (Walsh, Ruggiero, Testani, LeClerc).

WPCA BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

- Ms. Charlton made a motion to increase line 44001 Investment Income by \$251,600. Mr. Mitola seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- Mr. Curley made a motion to reduce line 58610 Interest Expense by \$167,098 based on updated calculations. Mr. Testani seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- Mr. Pendley made a motion to reduce line 58010 Contingency by \$210,000. Mr. Mitola seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- Mr. Pendley made a motion to increase line 51010 Regular Payroll by \$159,936. Mr. Curley seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- Mr. Pendley made a motion to increase line 52100 Health Insurance by \$31,089. Mr. Mitola seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- Mr. Pendley made a motion to increase line 52200 Social Security by \$11,475. Mr. Mitola seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- Mr. Pendley made a motion to increase line 52312 Retirement Contribution (401a) by \$7,500. Mr. Mitola seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- Mr. Mitola made a motion to increase line 52310 Retirement Contribution-Town by \$146,607 due to update Milliman projections. Ms. Charlton seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- Mr. Mitola made a motion to reduce line 55210 Property Insurance by \$4,629. Ms. Charlton seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- Mr. Mitola made a motion to reduce line 55240 Liability Insurance by \$181 due to Assured Partners estimate. Ms. Ruggiero seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.
- Ms. Charlton made a motion to increase line 59500 Authorized Appropriations by \$276,901. Mr. Walsh seconded the motion which **carried** unanimously.

Ms. Charlton said the total appropriation for the WPCA FY24-25 Budget is \$10,484,594.

Ms. Charlton made a motion to approve the WPCA budget in the amount of \$10,484,594, as amended. Ms. Ruggiero seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

4. Adjourn

Mr. Mitola made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Ruggiero seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:01 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien
Recording Secretary