

Board of Finance Public Budget Hearing
Monday, March 28, 2022
7:30 pm
Via Webex

A recording of this meeting can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1T2Nm93VsJg>.

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lori Charlton-Chair, John Mitola-Vice Chair, Sheila Marmion-Secretary, Craig Curley, Christopher DeWitt, Mary LeClerc, Kevin Starke, Jack Testani, James Walsh
OTHERS PRESENT: CFO Jared Schmitt, Police Chief Robert Kalamaras, Deputy Police Chief Keith Broderick, Director of Operations and Business Systems FPS Courtney Leborious, BOE Chair Christine Vitale, BOE Liaison to BOF Jeff Peterson, Director of Transportation Steven Schneider, First Selectwoman Brenda L. Kupchick, FairTV, members of the public

1. Call to Order

Chair Lori Charlton called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Jack Testani led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Response to emails, 10 minutes by Chairperson

Chair Charlton acknowledged receipt of emails regarding the budget and encouraged the public to continue to send comments.

4. Executive Session

Chair Charlton made a motion to change the agenda to move the discussion of 4150, Emergency Communications Center, to the first topic under Item 4 to be discussed in Executive Session followed by 4030 Police and to add departments, BOE 8010 and 2531, Private School Transportation, as the last topics under item four after Dividend / Interest Income.

Mr. DeWitt seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Mr. DeWitt made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:38 pm for discussion on Item 4, Public Safety, 4150-Emergency Communications Center. John Mitola seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Mr. DeWitt made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:10 pm. Craig Curley seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

No votes were taken.

5. Board of Finance – Follow-up with Departments:

Public Safety:

4030 Police

There was a discussion with Chief Kalamaras and Deputy Chief Broderick about overtime hours and the different situations that require overtime. Chief Kalamaras said the demand for police service has increased, but the number of officers has not. He said FOIA requests take time and there is not a designated officer for that. He said it is shared by officers due to the sensitivity of and access to case management. He said it also becomes labor intensive with redaction mandated for every report.

Finance:

44001 Dividend / Interest Income

Chair Charlton said the Board has a revenue estimate question. CFO Jared Schmitt said he sent out a revised calculation prior to the meeting. Budget Director Frank Magneri presented additional information from the investment advisors. Mr. Magneri went through the Town's portfolio and took questions from Board members.

BOE:

8010

James Walsh had questions about the ARPA funding for FY23 and learning loss from the pandemic. Fairfield Public Schools (FPS) Executive Director of Operations Courtney Leborious said the ARPA and ESSER funds are being used to help with learning loss and afterschool programs. There was a discussion about an increase in the Health Insurance expense. Ms. Leborious said that last year, there was a positive turn in the Health Insurance and the BOE budgeted around that number this year.

2531 Private School Transportation

FPS Director of Transportation, Steven Schneider, explained that last year's proposal included cutting bus service and \$700,000 was saved. He said several schools have now increased enrollment and several bus runs take more than an hour. He said the BOE has to add buses to lower the amount of time students are on the bus. He said there are no specific locations or districts as students enrolled in private schools live in all geographical locations in Town. He said last year, gas was \$1.337/gallon; this year, gas is \$4.29/gallon.

6. BOF Public Executive Session - Budget Deliberations

Board members gave their overall comments on the FY23 budget including the BOE budget.

Chair Charlton thanked everyone for all their time and effort and for working together so diligently. She shared her comments regarding the BOE budget.

First Selectwoman Kupchick thanked everyone and also shared her comments on the BOE budget.

7. Adjourn

Mr. Walsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:28 pm. Mr. Curley seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien
Recording Secretary