

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING #2  
Friday, February 24, 2023, 11:00 am  
Via Webex And  
In-Person in 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road, Fairfield, CT**

The Board of Selectmen held a Public Budget Hearing at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, February 24, 2023 in person in the First Floor Conference Room in Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road, and via Webex in Fairfield, CT. A recording of this meeting can be found here: [BOS Budget #2 2.24.2023](#).

**FINAL MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** First Selectwoman Brenda L. Kupchick, Selectman Thomas Flynn, Selectwoman Nancy E. Lefkowitz

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Audubon Director Fairfield Region Amy Barnouw, Audubon Director of Development Joyce Leiz, Audubon Assistant Director Fairfield Region Trisha Lombardi-Kevalis, Parks and Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese, Fairfield Schools Superintendent Mike Testani, BOE Vice-Chair Nick Aysseh, BOE Secretary Carol Guernsey, CFO-FPS Courtney LeBorious, Executive Director of Special Education-FPS Rob Mancusi, Community and Economic Development Director Mark Barnhart, CFO Jared Schmitt, Budget Director Frank Magneri, FairTV, members of the public

1) Call to Order

First Selectwoman Kupchick called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

First Selectwoman Kupchick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) Budget Hearings – Town-Side

2210-Audubon Society-page 99

First Selectwoman Kupchick introduced three woman from the CT Audubon Society whom she had asked to attend the meeting. Representatives from the CT Audubon said they are requesting an extra \$45,000 in addition to the Town contribution of \$30,000 for a total of \$75,000. Audubon Director for the Fairfield Region, Amy Barnouw, explained the Audubon is starting a rehabilitation project to improve accessibility of pathways, signage and more in the Aviary. She said Audubon has many educational programs it offers to the Fairfield schools and have birds of prey in the Aviary. Ms. Barnouw stated this is a one-time request. The project and outside funding was discussed in detail.

4) Budget Hearings – BOE

First Selectwoman Kupchick asked for the presenters to go over highlights of their proposed budgets.

Parks and Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese presented items from his budget:

7030-Penfield Pavilion Complex-pages 194-195: He said there's a decrease due to the closure of the Penfield Pavilion building, but he had an increase in the Jacky Durrell Pavilion due to increased events there. There was a discussion about part-time seasonal payroll and the addition of Burr Homestead.

7080-Parks: He said services were contracted through Greenway Property Services and irrigation repairs were needed. There was a discussion about bringing field maintenance back to the Parks Department.

7113-H. Smith Richardson page 214: He said there is a new vehicle for Course Superintendent, a Bedknife Grinder, which is a multi-seat shuttle cart. He said there is a slight increase in revenue due to rate increases.

There was a discussion about the Marina redesign project which is on hold.

The BOS paused for lunch.

8010-BOE – Superintendent Mike Testani, BOE Vice-Chair Nick Aysseh, CFO Courtney LeBorious, BOE Secretary Carol Guernsey, Director of Special Education Rob Mancusi:

Superintendent Testani presented his budget. The full presentation and discussion can be accessed here: [BOS Budget #2 2.24.2023](#).

1350-Community and Economic Development pages 91-92: Mark Barnhart said there's an addition of a line item for the newly formed Arts Commission. There were positive comments regarding forming this commission and a discussion followed.

- 5) Follow-up from 02/22/23 Hearing #1, If Necessary  
Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to go into Executive Session at 1:47 pm. Selectman Flynn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 2:05 pm.  
Selectman Flynn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

No votes were taken.

3010-Finance - page 100-CFO Jared Schmitt: He said there was an increase in education and memberships and payroll increased due to union contracts being approved. There was a discussion about the increases. Mr. Schmitt also went over Revenue, Debt Service and Retiree Benefits.

- 6) Public Comment  
There was no public comment.

Selectwoman Lefkowitz went over some questions she had and a discussion followed which can be found on the recording link.

7) Adjourn

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to adjourn. Selectman Flynn seconded the motion which carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien  
Recording Secretary