

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
PUBLIC EXECUTIVE SESSION  
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS AND VOTE  
(NO PUBLIC COMMENT)  
Monday, February 27, 2023, 10:00 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 Executive Budget Session at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 27, 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 #3 2.27.2023.](#)

**FINAL MINUTES**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Police Chief Robert Kalamaras, Deputy Police Chief Keith Broderick, Parks and Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese, Fairfield School Superintendent Mike Testani, BOE Chairwoman Jennifer Jacobsen, 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 10:00 am.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

First Selectwoman Kupchick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) Follow-Up From 02/24/23 Hearing #2, If Necessary

123- Emergency Communications Center (ECC)-Police-Chief Robert Kalamaras, Deputy Chief Keith Broderick: CFO Jared Schmitt said the ECC was split into two parts - actuals and projections. There was a question pertaining to revenue loss and other revenue sources. It was noted that there was a reduction in a State grant; New Canaan is joining later than was proposed; and Easton is not joining the ECC this Fiscal Year. Westport Police/Fire will be joining as of March 1, 2023. Mr. Schmitt said the Town General Fund contribution will be less due to ECC expenditures not being as high. He said there will be a \$259,000 savings in the General Fund budget, but a loss in the ECC budget. There was a very detailed discussion about the financials for this regional ECC. Chief Kalamaras said the Control Board for the ECC will consist of the four Chiefs from Fairfield/Westport Police/Fire. He said any operational decision will be brought up to the Control Board.

He said other towns that join the regional ECC will be clients and not have roles in decision making. He said there have been structural and reorganizational changes as this is the first regional ECC in the State.

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to put Item 5 before Item 4. Selectman Flynn seconded the motion which carried unanimously. (this is now Item 4 below).

4) PUBLIC EXECUTIVE BUDGET SESSION (*no public comment*) (*requires BOF and RTM approval*)

To consider and act upon proposed revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$326,373 for the Fairfield Regional Fire Training School for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to approve the proposed budget of \$326,373 for the Fairfield Regional Fire Training School for FY 23/24. Selectman Flynn seconded the motion.

126-Regional Fire School-Chief Denis McCarthy, Deputy Chief Kyran Dunn: Selectman Flynn started a conversation about financials and rates charged for facility use to be sure they are appropriate and Fairfield taxpayers are not paying more than necessary. The Chief and Deputy Chief continued the financial discussion.

There was no public comment.

First Selectwoman Kupchick commented that this is a Self-Supporting Budget and will be voted on outside of the Town Budget.

The motion carried unanimously.

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to move Item 6 before Item 5. Selectman Flynn seconded the motion which carried unanimously. (Item 6 is now Item 5 below).

5) PUBLIC EXECUTIVE BUDGET SESSION (*no public comment*) (*requires BOF and RTM approval*)

To consider and act upon proposed revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$3,250,301 for the Emergency Communications Center for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to approve the proposed budget of \$3,250,301 for the ECC for FY 23/24. Selectman Flynn seconded the motion.

Selectman Flynn said he wanted to revert back to an earlier discussion and that he would like to see the appointment of a Captain for the ECC by the Control Board. Mr. Flynn said he would also like to make the budget work so Fairfield taxpayers would pay less. First Selectwoman Kupchick said response time is faster and the ECC is providing high quality services to the community. This is also a Self-Supporting Budget.

The motion carried unanimously.

6) PUBLIC EXECUTIVE BUDGET SESSION (*no public comment*) (*requires BOF and RTM approval*)

To consider and act upon proposed revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$8,676,432 for the Water Pollution Control Authority for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to approve the proposed WPCA budget in the amount of \$8,676,432. Selectman Flynn seconded the motion.

Selectwoman Lefkowitz stated that the WPCA is calling a Special Meeting for this budget and some operational issues. She said the information coming out of that meeting could be helpful. Selectwoman Lefkowitz said she doesn't feel comfortable supporting this budget today and wanted to move this Item to the next BOS meeting. Selectman Flynn also said he will not vote until he hears from the WPCA. First Selectwoman Kupchick said the budget must be sent to the BOF by end of business day on March 1<sup>st</sup>. There was a discussion regarding the WPCA budget and the special meeting. The WPCA is self-supporting and is voted on separately from the Town budget. The BOS will schedule a Special Meeting to Tuesday 2.28.23 to vote on this item.

Selectman Flynn made a motion to delay the WPCA Budget vote to a date certain of 2/28/23 at 5:00 pm after the WPCA Board meets. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

7) PUBLIC EXECUTIVE BUDGET SESSION (*no public comment*) (*requires BOF and RTM approval*)

To consider and act upon proposed revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$354,506,469 for the General Fund for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

Parks and Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese presented a Penfield Pavilion budget if they were to keep the building open. Selectwoman Lefkowitz asked to keep the budget for the BOF and RTM to see.

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made an amendment to reinstate \$500,000 to the BOE budget. Selectman Flynn seconded the amendment for discussion purposes.

BOE Chairwoman Jennifer Jacobsen and Fairfield Schools Superintendent Mike Testani discussed their budget. They said there are still areas of volatility and unknowns. They said health insurance rates have not been set and won't be until almost May. They said fuel and electricity have decreased, but nothing is confirmed. The discussion continued and SPED situations were discussed. First Selectwoman Kupchick talked about the Town budget, reductions made and the impact those reductions will have on the Town. She said this Town is an economically diverse community and many people live paycheck to paycheck. She said she is keeping the budget down where she can to help with the tax burden.

The motion to reinstate \$500,000 to the BOE failed 1-2-0 (Lefkowitz in favor).

The discussion about the budget continued.

Selectman Flynn made an amendment to reduce Police Department overtime, 51050, by \$54,000. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the amendment. First Selectwoman Kupchick said she did not support this amendment.

The amendment failed 1-2-0 (Flynn in favor).

Selectman Flynn made an amendment to increase Health Self Insurance 1320-52100 by \$265,045.00 to make it \$11,511,204. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the amendment which carried unanimously.

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to amend the budget to increase 10030-58610 Debt Service by \$8,980 to make it \$192,708. Selectman Flynn seconded the amendment which carried unanimously.

Selectman Flynn made an amendment to increase the Tax Collection rate from 98.90% to 98.99% based on a discussion with the Tax Collector. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the amendment which carried unanimously.

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to amend the Town budget to \$354,780,494 for the General Fund for Fiscal Year July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024. Selectman Flynn seconded the amendment which carried unanimously.

The main motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

8) Adjourn

Selectman Flynn made a motion to adjourn. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion which carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien  
Recording Secretary