

Board of Finance
Budget Hearing

Monday, March 1, 2021
Zoom Recording

Present: Chairman Ronald R. Fedor, John Sheehan, Kevin Petchark,
Glenn Patterson, Tali Maidelis, Robert Tuneski, Mark Geer (7:03pm)

Absent: None

Elected: Robert J. Brule, First Selectman

RTM: Thomas Dembek, RTM Moderator

Staff: Christine Johnston, Library Director; Brett Mahoney, Chief of Police; Steven
Sinagra, Emergency Management Director; Kimberly Allen, Finance Director;
Maryellen McConnell, Secretary

1. Establishment of a quorum and call to order:
A quorum was established and a call to order was established at 7:01 pm,
March 1, 2021.
2. Public comment: Letter from Helen Kwasniewski of Quaker Hill was read into
the minutes.
3. **Standing Motion:** was made by Kevin Petchark and seconded by Glenn
Patterson to tentatively approve the budget requests for FY22/22.

Vote: 7-0

Motion: Passed

4. **Library Budget:**

Motion by Kevin Petchark and **seconded** by Glenn Patterson to tentatively
approve the budget requests for FY21/22 in the total amount of
\$999,475.00.

Vote: 7-0

Motion: Passed

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5. Police Department Budget:

Statement by Chairman Ron Fedor: I have always abided by a previous advisory opinion by the Ethics Board on how I vote on different budgets. At the meeting in January, John Sheehan brought up the fact that there was a new Code of Ethics passed by the RTM. I have sent a letter to the Chairman of the Ethics Commission asking for another advisory opinion based on the new code. In light of that, I will not vote on the Police Department and Board of Education budgets until I hear an advisory opinion from the board.

Motion by Kevin Petchark and **seconded** by Glenn Patterson to approve the Police Department budget request for FY21/22 in the total amount of \$6,421,688.00.

Vote: 6-1 Abstain: 1 (Ronald Fedor) Motion: Passed

6. Emergency Management Budget:

Motion by Kevin Petchark and **seconded** by Glenn Patterson to approve the Emergency Management budget request for FY21/22 in the total amount of \$1,062,665.

Vote: 7-0 Motion: Passed

7. Information Technology Budget:

Motion by Kevin Petchark and **seconded** by Glenn Patterson to approve the Information Technology budget request for FY21/22 in the total amount of \$846,642.

Vote: 6-1 Abstain: 1 (Mark Geer) Motion: Passed

8. Board of Finance Budget:

Motion by Kevin Petchark and **seconded** by Glenn Patterson to approve the Board of Finance budget request for FY21/22 in the total amount of \$65,547.

Vote: 7-0 Motion: Passed

9. Contingency Budget:

Motion by Kevin Petchark and **seconded** by Glenn Patterson to approve the Contingency budget request for FY21/22 in the total amount of \$265,000.

Vote: 7-0

Motion: Passed

10. Adjournment:

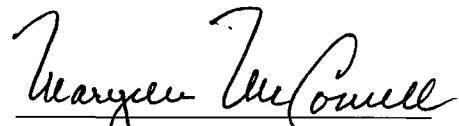
Motion by Tali Maidelis and **seconded** by John Sheehan to adjourn the Budget Meeting of the Board of Finance at 8:37 p.m.

Vote: 7-0

Motion: Passed

Respectfully submitted,


Mark Geer, Jr., Clerk


Maryellen McConnell, Secretary

To the Board of Finance

From: Helen Kwasniewski

Once again we are in "Budget Season".

Hearing rumors around town that to keep department budgets at "ZERO". I urge the members to keep to that mission. If and we know some departments will adhere to that. The others who don't, please send the back to re-work their budget. This is a must to have a "ZERO" increase to the mill rate. Due to the fact we are in the "pandemic mode".

Many of the resident have to make sacrifices, especially the "Senior Citizens" which is approximately 52%. Seniors who have the most difficult choices of their "golden years" pay taxes, food, medication, heat, rent/mortgage or the lifestyle of town employees (many who do not live in town) at the expense of taxpayers.

As a Quaker Hill resident for 65+ years, we only have one yes one fire personal just on the weekends. My taxes pay for coverage just like the rest of the town get. It is about time that the "fire service director" be "fired" for jeopardizing the lives of the resident of Quaker Hill.

I am not a fan of town employees who work for the town that do not live in the Town of Waterford. Also not a fan of town employees who bully or disrespect "senior citizens" and department director who do nothing about it.

In closing my comments I request ALL of you Board of Finance member to "VOTE" with "ALL" residents in mind.