

Board of Finance
Budget Hearing

Monday, March 21, 2022
Waterford Town Hall

Present: Chairman Glenn Patterson, Ronald R. Fedor, John Sheehan, Robert Tuneski, Joe Filippetti; Baird Welch-Collins (7:55 pm)

Absent: Kevin Petchark

Elected: Robert J. Brule, First Selectman; Jody Narzarchyk, Selectwoman; Paul Goldstein, RTM Moderator, Thomas Dembek, RTM; Susan Driscoll, RTM; Cheryl Larder, RTM

Staff: Chief Marc Balestracci, Police Department, Abby Piersall, Planning Director; Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works; Sandy Kenniston, Public Works; Christine Johnson, Library Director; Neftali Soto, Chief Engineer/Director Utility Commission; Michael Howley, Director Fire Services; Brian Flaherty, Director Recreation & Parks; Mark Geer, IT Board of Education; Joseph Mancini, Board of Education Director of Operations/Finance; Thomas Giard, Superintendent of Schools; 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 7:00 pm, March 21, 2022.
2. Public comment: Made by Thomas Dembek, see attached statement.
3. **Standing Motion:** was made by John Sheehan and seconded by Ronald Fedor to tentatively approve the budget requests for FY22/23 for the remainder of the budget meet.
4. **Building Maintenance Budget:**

Motion by John Sheehan and **seconded** by Ronald Fedor to approve the Building Maintenance budget request for FY22/23 in the total amount of \$842,389.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion: Passed

5. **Public Works Budget:**

Motion by John Sheehan and **seconded** by Ronald Fedor to approve the Public Works budget request for FY22/23 in the total amount of \$4,709,563.

Vote: 6-0-0

Motion: Passed

6. Capital Improvements Budget:

Opening statement by Robert Brule, First Selectman, see attached statement.

Motion by John Sheehan and **seconded** by Ronald Fedor to approve the Capital Improvements budget request for FY22/23 in the total amount of \$3,126,803.

Vote: 6-0-0

Motion: Passed

7. Debt Service:

Motion by John Sheehan and **seconded** by Ronald Fedor to approve the Debt Service budget request for FY22/23 in the total amount of \$7,197,640.

Vote: 6-0-0

Motion: Passed

8. Transfers to Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditure fund:

Motion by John Sheehan and **seconded** by Ronald Fedor to approve the Board of Selectmen budget request for FY22/23 in the total amount of \$1,588,824.

Vote: 6-0-0

Motion: Passed

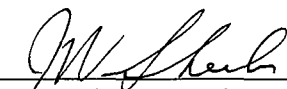
9. Adjournment:

Motion by John Sheehan and **seconded** by Baird Welch-Collins to adjourn the Budget Meeting of the Board of Finance at 9:52 p.m.

Vote: 6-0-0

Motion: Passed

Respectfully submitted,



John Sheehan, Clerk



Maryellen McConnell, Secretary

To: Chairman Glen Patterson ✓

March 29, 2020

Chairman Board of Finance

Dear Glen:

As I talk to residents around the town, the one concern everyone ask is "when is the town going to fix the Roads." My response: they are working on it.

I am writing to you to express my concern over the Board of Finance action on November 10, 2021, to transfer \$ 1.8 million dollars from the general operating fund balance into the Capital Non-Recurring Undesignated Fund Balance in anticipation of future paving projects and forward this to the RTM for approval. This was approved by the RTM on December 6, 2021. In the backup for this request, there were five roads listed: Butlertown Road, Niantic River Road, Oil Mill Road, Daniels Avenue, Lakes Pond Road. The intent I believe, was to accomplish these projects within 2022. The concern I have is by putting these funds in the Capital Non- Recurring account the Board of Selectman, Board of Finance and R.T. M. will have to vote on these funds again to appropriate the funds to allow a purchase order to be issued.

A lot of action must take place to make that happen. The specifications for the project must be drafted, the project must be advertised, bids received and reviewed, the Public Works Director than will have to come back to the three above boards for the release of the funds to be appropriated to go to the Board of Selectman to award the bids. Attempting to have all this work done before winter of 2022.

If you are a paving contractor with the proper milling equipment and trucks to complete this work, you are in big demand from municipalities all over the state. We, as a town need to give the Public Works Director the tools, he needs to get to do his job.

The Cross Road reclaiming project was in the 2019-2020 budget and the project just started March 1, 2022.

The other issue the town must face is the large increase in oil and fuel prices within the last month. This could affect the total cost of the paving. The Town normally has a requirement in the bidding process for contractors to hold their price for 90 days. What contractor can afford to hold a good price for 90 days?

I believe the Town must change the way we do business. Many of you have worked in the private sector. Did you ever take a capital request to your management six times for approval?

Please consider moving this request forward if received by the Board of Selectman. ASAP.

Thank You for your time.



Thomas Dembek

RTM 4 th District

CC: John Sheehan ✓

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First Selectman's Statement to the Board of Finance – Board of Selectmen Budget
March 18, 2022

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

I am excited to present the Board of Finance the Board of Selectmen's unanimously approved Capital Improvement Plan tonight.

As you all know, there has been a consistent amount of capital and debt service funding submitted over the past 10 years. Approximately \$4 million dollars for capital and while approximately \$7 million dollars has been routinely committed to Debt Service, due to new school construction projects over the past 15 years.

On February 9, 2022, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously in favor of the 2023 Current Year Capital Improvement request of \$2,714,792, 3-0.

The Transfers to Capital and Non-Recurring request in the amount of \$1,338,824 was approved unanimously in a bi-partisan manner, 3-0.

Finally, the Debt Service budget of \$7,197,640 was also approved, unanimously.

In a separate motion on February 9, 2022, the Board of Selectmen approved the Ratification of the Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal year 2023-2027, again, unanimous and with bipartisan support.

I have participated in Long Range Fiscal Planning Committee Meetings over the past year and have offered suggestions to the committee, all in hopes of creating a 10-year Strategic Plan for the Town. A long range strategic plan that focuses on Debt Service, Infrastructure, Information Technology, Personnel, Building Maintenance, Impacts of Revaluation and Fleet Management.

Over the past year, based on communications I have had with members of this board, the RTM and the Board of Selectmen, I hired a new Facilities Manager to

assess the town's buildings, as well as review all maintenance contracts and scheduled repairs.

I immediately asked the Facilities Manager for an assessment of "needed" maintenance, repairs and funding requests for projects in town that needed immediate attention. He is currently working on a full assessment.

Over the past year, I have made a commitment to building maintenance and capital planning. I understand that "additional" appropriation requests will come up. Through no fault of anyone's, things will break and need to be repaired, whether it's planned or not.

To assure you all, my priority is to plan for the worst and hope for the best. I do my best listening to our professional staff and following their guidance. I will assure you all, I will continue to take care of issues in a transparent manner while getting necessary issues resolved for the citizens of our town.

Finally, I will continue to develop a 10-year strategic plan based on the needs of the town and consistent with the Long Range Fiscal Planning Committee.

Thank you for your time and support of the Board of Selectmen's Capital Improvement Plan tonight.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Brule

Rob Brule

First Selectman