

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886



PHONE: 860-442-0553
www.waterfordct.org

Board of Finance
Public Hearing/Special Hearing Minutes

Wednesday, March 26, 2025
Town Hall Auditorium – 7:00 pm

Present: Chairman Glenn Patterson, Bill Sheehan, Michael Rocchetti, Ronald Fedor, Joseph Filippetti, Josh Kelly and Robert Tuneski

Elected: First Selectman Robert Brule; David Campo, Town Clerk; Tom Dembeck, RTM; Susan Driscoll, RTM; Pat Fedor, Chair Board of Education

Staff: Jeffrey Robillard, IT Manager; Thomas Giard, Superintendent of Schools; Joseph Mancini, Director of Operations Board of Education; Christine Walters, Director of Human Resources; Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works; Sandra Kenniston, Office Coordinator, Public Works; Mike Howley, Interim Director of Fire Services; Stephen Dubicki, Fire Marshall; Steven Sinagra, Director of Emergency Management; Marc Balestracci, Chief of Police; David Ferland, Lieutenant Police Department; Jonathan Mullen, Planning Director; Ryan McNamara, Director Recreation & Parks; Tim Cleplik, Program Coordinator, Recreation & Parks; Christine Johnson, Library Director; Jill Stevens, Director Utility Commission; Rebecca Hall, Admin Assistant Finance Office/BOF Recording Secretary

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2025
MAY 1 10 22 AM

1. **Establishment of a quorum and call to order:**

A quorum was established and the Public Hearing of all Town budgets for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 of the Board of Finance was called to order at 7:00 pm on March 26, 2025.

An opening statement regarding the final action budget process was made by Glenn Patterson, Chairman.

2. **Public Comment:**

- Marcia Benvenuti, RTM member and Waterford resident, read a letter to the Board regarding the Board of Education Budget – letter attached
- Robert Kyne, Jr. Ph.D., Dimmock Road, thanks the Board of Finance, specifically Michael Rocchetti, Town Clerk Dave Campo, First Selectman Rob Brule and the Director of Recreation & Parks, Ryan McNamara, for their assistance in finding ways to keep the morning swim program at Waterford High School.

Motion by Bill Sheehan and **seconded** by Joseph Filippetti to adjourn the public hearing at 7:06pm.

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion: Passed

Bill Sheehan advised the public and the Board of Finance that he will be voting “no” on both the Youth and Family Services and Senior Services Budgets. His vote reflects his belief that the change made to head the two departments with one director was not made in accordance to an ordinance or the Town’s charter.

Josh Kelly advised the public and the Board of Finance the he will abstain from the Social Services budget vote as well as any discussion that may arise regarding that budget.

3. Final Budgetary Action:

Motion by Bill Sheehan and **seconded** by Michael Rocchetti to consider the budget requests as designated by the series subtotals above without individual motions for each series and department to expedite the meeting. Bill Sheehan will make the motion on all budgets and Ron Fedor will second the motion.

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion: Passed

- Board of Selectmen (10101) in the amount of \$206,402

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion: Passed

- Registrar of Voters (10102) in the amount of \$121,255

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion: Passed

- Board of Finance (10103) in the amount of \$83,608

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion: Passed

- Assessor (10104) in the amount of \$319,641

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion: Passed

- Board of Assessment Appeals (10105) in the amount of \$1,829

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion: Passed

- Tax Collector (10106) in the amount of \$227,817

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion: Passed

- Finance Department (10107) in the amount of \$784,326

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion: Passed

- Legal Department (10108) in the amount of \$295,000

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion: Passed

- Town Clerk (10109) in the amount of \$272,301

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion: Passed

- Planning & Zoning Department (10110) in the amount of \$695,016

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion: Passed

- Building Maintenance (10111) in the amount of \$1,020,000
Vote: 7-0-0 Motion: Passed
- Insurance (10112) in the amount of \$5,604,561
Vote: 7-0-0 Motion: Passed
- Economic Development Commission (10113) in the amount of \$25,352
Vote: 7-0-0 Motion: Passed
- Conservation Commission (10114) in the amount of \$18,250
Vote: 7-0-0 Motion: Passed
- Zoning Board of Appeals (10115) in the amount of \$4,310
Vote: 7-0-0 Motion: Passed
- Retirement Commission (10116) in the amount of \$7,760,257
Vote: 7-0-0 Motion: Passed
- Representative Town Meeting (10117) in the amount of \$18,903
Vote: 7-0-0 Motion: Passed
- Building Department (10118) in the amount of \$321,515
Vote: 7-0-0 Motion: Passed
- Youth & Family Services (10119) in the amount of \$307,435
Vote: 6-1-0 No: Sheehan Motion: Passed
- Social Service Grants/Misc. (10120) in the amount of \$103,510
Vote: 6-0-1 Abstain: Josh Kelly Motion: Passed
- Contingency (10121) in the amount of \$265,000
Vote: 7-0-0 Motion: Passed

- Emergency Management (10122) in the amount of \$1,230,035

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion: Passed

- Fire Services (10123) in the amount of \$3,958,130

Ron Fedor opened discussion of the Fire Services budget by asking for further, more in-depth explanation from Interim Director Howley regarding overtime. The Interim Director (ID) said some overtime is scheduled and built into the contract. Training mandates increase fire fighter overtime. He indicated that Fire Services will fall short this year to cover their budget. ID Howley added that with new Firefighters coming on board this year there will be more training, etc. Mr. Fedor pointed out that the budget reflects an increase of 50% in overtime [approximately \$50,000]. Josh Kelly asked how Fire Services plans to cover that overage. ID Howley said they will likely close the entire 54000 series. Mr. Kelly pointed out that the entire series only totals \$45,000. Michael Rocchetti asked how much money Fire Services returned to the Town at the end of FY24/25. ID Howley responded approximately \$32,000.

Motion by Ron Fedor and seconded by Robert Tuneski to decrease line #10123-51820 Overtime by \$50,000.

Vote: 3-4-0

No: Patterson, Sheehan, Filippetti, Kelly

Motion: Failed

Vote: 6-1-0

No: Ronald Fedor

Motion: Passed

- Police Commission (10129) in the amount of \$7,250,097

Vote: 6-0-1

Abstain: Ronald Fedor Motion: Passed

- Public Works (10130) in the amount of \$5,154,902

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion: Passed

- Conservation of Health (10132) in the amount of \$155,063

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion: Passed

- Public Health Nursing Service (10133) in the amount of \$21,600

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion: Passed

- Senior Services Commission (10135) in the amount of \$523,586

Vote: 6-1-0

No: Bill Sheehan

Motion: Passed

- Waterford Public Library (10136) in the amount of \$1,012,780

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion: Passed

- Motion: Passed**

- Motion: Passed**

- Motion: Passed**

- Motion: Passed**

- Motion: Passed**

- Abstain:** Ronald Fedor **Motion:** Passed

- Motion: Passed**

- Motion: Passed**

- Motion: Passed**

- Motion: Passed**

- Motion: Passed**

- Total of General Government Operations + Capital & Debt Service in the amount of \$50,597,671

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion: Passed

- Total General Fund Budget in the amount of \$110,963,979, and forward on to the RTM.

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion: Passed

Chairman Glenn Patterson thanked all of the department heads and elected officials for the time and effort put into assembling data for their budgets and presenting to the Board of Finance. Mr. Patterson told the Department Heads that the budgets presented this year were the best formats and reports he has reviewed since his membership began on the Board of Finance.

4. Adjournment:

Motion by Ron Fedor and seconded by Robert Tuneski to adjourn the Budget Meeting of the Board of Finance at 7:26pm.

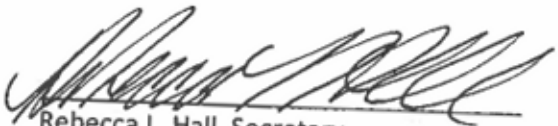
Vote: 7-0-0

Motion: Passed

Respectively Submitted,



Bill Sheehan, Clerk



Rebecca L. Hall, Secretary

Enclosure: Resident Letter, Marcia Benvenuti

I would like to make a public comment as a citizen, tax payer and individual member of the BOE and the finance committee chair.

I wish to remind you that the BOE does rigorously debate and research all goals, philosophies, and methods of pedagogy in order to provide every Waterford student with the very best education possible while still keeping in mind the financial costs of every expenditure.

We constantly have lengthily presentations on student progress, absenteeism, goals, policies, class size, new opportunities and projects, and are constantly looking for ways to save every penny we can. We are given explicit explanations of the merits and financial fidelity of everything we strive to achieve.

I invite you to attend our meetings or watch our video recordings to further understand what goes on.

Your job as BOF members is to look out for every dollar in every line item of every budget. JUST LIKE THE BOE!!!

In the best interest of every Waterford taxpayer you must trust BOE intentions and presentations. I think we have earned that trust, because

We do have several subcommittee meetings to preview the budget.

We do deliberate every line item fully.

We do cut out anything that is not absolutely essential and even some things some of us think are essential.

We do give back any left over money at the end of the year.

We do care about our taxpayers and our citizens.

You have before you a budget that is probably the lowest percent increase of any town in the state, and some of you think there might be room for further cuts.

I am telling you there is nothing left to cut, and still maintain the quality we demand and expect. I hope you agree, and vote for this budget as presented.

Marcia Benveniste.
1 Raymond Ln.