

Board of Finance
Special Meeting Minutes
Budget Hearing

Tuesday, April 9, 2020

Present: Chairman Ronald R. Fedor, Mark Geer, John Sheehan, Kevin Petchark, Glenn Patterson and Tali Maidelis

Absent: None.

Elected: Robert J. Brule, First Selectman

RTM: Sue Driscoll, Ted Olinciw

Staff: Kim Allen, Finance Director, Gary Schneider, Public Works Director, Dave Campo Town Clerk, Brian Flaherty, Director Public Works, Paige Walton, Assessor, Abby Piersall, Planning Director, Thomas Girard, Superintendent Board of Education, Tali Soto, Director Utility Commission Roslyn Rubinstein, Library Director, Chief Brett Mahoney, Police Department, Abbas Danash, Treasurer, Alan Wilensky, Tax Collector, Joyce Sauchuk, Director of Human Resources, Ed Crane, IT Director, Bruce Miller, Director Fire Services, Steve Singara, Director Emergency Management, and Maryellen McConnell, Secretary.

1. Establishment of a quorum and call to order:
A quorum was established and a call to order was established at 3:00 pm, April 9, 2020.
2. Public comment: no public comment
3. **Standing Motion:** was made by Glenn Patterson and seconded by Kevin Petchark to tentatively approve the below budget requests for FY20/21.

Vote: 6-0

Motion: Passed

4. Statement Read by Robert Brule, First Selectman:

Please see attached statement

5. **10130 Public Works Budget:**

Motion by Glenn Patterson and **seconded** by Kevin Petchark to approve the Public Works budget request for FY20/21 in the total amount of \$4,689,207.

Vote: 6-0

Motion: Passed

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2020 APR 15 PM 2:13
TOWN CLERK

6. 10138 Capital Improvement Budget:

Motion by Bill Sheehan to reduce Line Item #55738 Fleet management Plan from \$1,000,000 to \$900,000, a reduction of \$100,000, **seconded** by Mark Geer.

Vote: 6-0

Motion: Passed

Motion by Bill Sheehan to reduce Line Item #55869 Town Hall Parking Lot Lights from \$28,500 to \$0, a reduction of \$28,500, **seconded** by Tali Maidelis

Vote: 6-0

Motion: Passed

Motion by Bill Sheehan to reduce Line Item #55852 Town Hall Bathrooms from \$112,500 to \$25,000, a reduction of \$87,500, **seconded** by Tali Maidelis

Vote: 6-0

Motion: Passed

Motion by Bill Sheehan to reduce Line Item #55853 Auditorium Seating Upgrade from \$97,240 to \$0, a reduction of \$97,240, **seconded** by Tali Maidelis

Vote: 6-0

Motion: Passed

Motion by Bill Sheehan to reduce the Capital Improvement Budget from \$2,529,920 to \$2,216,680, a reduction of \$313,240, **seconded** by Tali Maidelis.

Vote: 6-0

Motion: Passed

Motion by Glenn Patterson and **seconded** by Kevin Petchark to approve the Capital Improvement budget request for FY20/21 in the total amount of \$2,216,680.

Vote: 6-0

Motion: Passed

7. 10140-Transfers to Capital and Non-Recurring Budget:

Motion by Bill Sheehan to reduce Line Item #57847 Town Wide Camera System from \$97,200 to \$0 and move to next year, a reduction of \$97,240, **seconded** by Glenn Patterson

Vote: 6-0

Motion: Passed

Motion by Bill Sheehan to reduce Line Item #57848 Library HVAC Upgrade from \$250,000 to \$200,000, a reduction of \$50,000, **seconded** by Tali Maidelis.

Vote: 6-0

Motion: Passed

Motion by Bill Sheehan to reduce Line Item #57841 Board of Education Bus Lot Office from \$75,000 to \$0, a reduction of \$75,000, **seconded** by Tali Maidelis.

Vote: 5-1

Abstain: Mark Geer, Jr.

Motion: Passed

Motion by Bill Sheehan to reduce Line Item #57842 Board of Education School Security from \$50,000 to \$0, a reduction of \$50,000, **seconded** by Glenn Patterson.

Vote: 5-1

Abstain: Mark Geer, Jr.

Motion: Passed

Motion by Bill Sheehan to reduce Line Item #57820 Board of Education WHS Turf Field and Track from \$75,000 to \$0, a reduction of \$75,000, **seconded** by Tali Maidelis.

Vote: 5-1

Abstain: Mark Geer, Jr.

Motion: Passed

Motion by Bill Sheehan to reduce Line Item #57822 Board of Education IT Learning Boards – End of Life from \$200,000 to \$0, a reduction of \$200,000, **seconded** by Tali Maidelis.

Vote: 5-1

Abstain: Mark Geer, Jr.

Motion: Passed

Motion by Glenn Patterson and **seconded** by Kevin Petchark to approve the Transfers to Capital and Non-Recurring Budget request for FY20/21 in the total amount of \$1,401,280.

Vote: 6-0

Motion: Passed

8. Review of Projected Revenue, Grand List and Tax Collection Rate:

Discussion ensued.

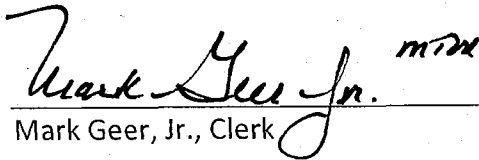
9. Adjournment:

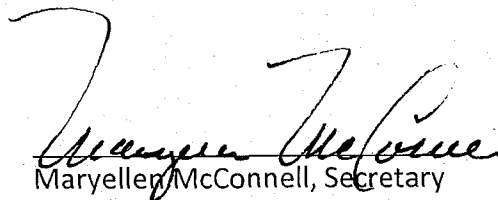
Motion by Bill Sheehan and **seconded** by Tali Maidelis to adjourn the Budget Meeting of the Board of Finance at 4:41 p.m.

Vote: 6-0

Motion: Passed

Respectfully submitted,


Mark Geer, Jr., Clerk


Maryellen McConnell, Secretary

First Selectman Statement to Board of Finance 4.9.20

Recommendations to reduce budget due to impact of COVID-19

Good Afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Board of Finance.

Back in December, I presented a town budget with a respectable 2.1% increase or about a \$900,000 increase from the previous year.

I was able to accomplish this with the hard work of my department heads who came together as a team and collectively reduced their original budgets submitted to me by \$550,000.

6 of the 7 largest town budgets, came in at 0% increases

The largest increase in the Town budgets under my review was the retirement commission budget due to increases in MERS retirement and OPEB funding which amount to just over \$800,000

Although, proud of the budget I submitted in December, those days three months ago seem so long ago.

Since that time, life changed for our community, our employees and our taxpayers.

Friends have lost jobs, neighbors have lost much of their retirement and owners of small businesses in Waterford are praying they can stay afloat, hoping they can provide for their children and send them to college, and for some, just be able to make the next mortgage payment.

This pandemic has changed the way we look at "priorities" within municipal government and spending.

My goal of presenting you today, a level-funded capital plan and modest 2.1% increase, is no longer my goal. It is no longer a feather in the cap, nor is it good enough now.

COVID-19 has forced me to re-assess, re-evaluate and change course.

Today, my goal is to provide you with a 0% town operating budget.

In order to accomplish this new goal, I am recommending tonight, the reduction of \$860,440 in Capital and Capital Non-Recurring and a reduction of \$100,000 in Fleet Management from my originally proposed capital budget.

This historic \$960,440 recommended cut today, was a difficult decision, but not nearly as difficult, as the path to recovery for our residents and taxpayers.

If these recommended cuts in the amount of \$960,000 are approved today to the Capital Budget, it will amount to a -.7% reduction in the Town operating from last year.

I will also be recommending additional cuts, for your consideration, on the 21st during final action.

I am proud to say, that with the support of amazing Department Heads, who willingly deferred capital projects to keep the town operating budget at 0%, I appreciate you and thank you for working with me.

I also want to thank Tom Giard, the Superintendent of Schools, for acknowledging the need to sacrifice some today, for the Waterford taxpayer tomorrow.

I appreciate your support.

By everyone working together and cutting these capital projects, all departmental operating budgets will not be negatively impacted.

Valuable employees will continue to come to work each day.

Senior Services will receive the funding for additional Meals on Wheels Drivers and the Respite Program,

Police, Dispatchers and Firefighters will remain trained and safe,

Our Library will continue to be the very best,

Recreation & Parks will continue to produce the best youth sports programs in the state,

Public Works will be able to pave and plow the roads, pick up trash weekly and Recyclables bi-weekly,

Youth & Family Services will continue to impact the lives of thousands,

Our Utility Commission will continue to fix multi-million dollar pumping stations and keep 140 miles of piping underground in good order,

While our Building Maintenance and IT needs will continue to be met.

Since March 19, 2020, the day I signed the State of Emergency, life in our town, and towns across Connecticut, has changed forever.

Sacrifice is the new normal.

Ironically, by sacrificing \$960,440 in capital spending today, Waterford taxpayers will continue to have a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Thank you for taking the time to listen and thank you for your support.

My staff and I are available to answer your questions.

Respectfully,

Rob Brule, First Selectman

Town of Waterford