

Board of Finance
Budget Hearing

March 16, 2009

PRESENT Chairman John W. Sheehan, Cheryl Larder, George Peteros, Ronald Fedor, Alan Wilensky,
Rosalynd Dupuis

ABSENT Kenneth Brown

OFFICIALS First Selectman Daniel Steward

RTM Andrea Kanfer

ALSO Dr. Randall Collins, Superintendent of Schools; Assistant Superintendent Craig Powers,
Bernard Pisacich, Town Treasurer

STAFF Ruth Beers, Finance Director; Yvette M. Pier, Secretary

Chairman Sheehan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

He generally described the budget process and asked if any members of the public had comments regarding the budget process. John Occhionero, Pepperbox Road, addressed the board and thanked Mr. Sheehan for inviting public input, as well as the Board of Finance for creating a budget that will be fair to the community. He felt that money should not be spent unless necessary. He felt that the high school provides a good education and that the administration and parent participation is the best.

ITEM 1 Miscellaneous Social Grants

MOTION To tentatively approve the Miscellaneous Social Grants budget in the amount of \$111,020 as designated by the series sub-totals.
Fedor, Dupuis

Discussion: LI 58593, Community Health Center financial records indicate a substantial surplus. This request of \$2,500 was reduced to \$2,000 by the Social Service Grants Review Committee. The Board was informed through follow up correspondence that this state-wide organization and the New London branch is operating at a loss and that grants are being sought.

Discussion continued regarding LI 52590, Waterford Shellfish Commission. Treasurer Thomas Francoleno was present and explained enforcement costs, a proposed GIS system and related hardware, expansion of recreational area and cost of restocking more shellfish that would generate more permits.

Mr. Fedor felt that the Town can't continue to fund outside agencies in the 58000 series, that they are not mandated. Mr. Peteros felt that contributions do go to the community and support Town citizens.

MOTION To tentatively reduce the 58000 series to \$0
Fedor, Wilensky
Yes: Fedor, Wilensky
No: Peteros, Larder, Dupuis, Sheehan
Motion failed

Final Total: \$111,020

Yes: Peteros, Larder, Dupuis, Sheehan

No: Fedor, Wilensky

ITEM 2 Library

MOTION To tentatively approve the Library budget in the amount of \$1,014,328 as designated by the series sub-totals.
Fedor, Dupuis

Total for LI 52050 Dues, Conferences and Education: \$2,607
Sheehan, Larder Unanimous

Discussion continued regarding LI 52380 Programs. It was felt that history does not support the amount of \$92,000.

MOTION To tentatively reduce LI 52380 Programs to \$85,000.
Larder, Fedor Unanimous

Discussion of LI 52420 Maintenance of Properties included all nutrient fertilization at the duck pond area, grounds at Public Safety Complex, field maintenance (striping and stone dust costs), \$700 regarding ADA compliance bathroom, electricity at Jordan Park House and the Community Center.

MOTION To tentatively reduce Electricity in LI 52420 from \$33,370 to \$30,000 in the Community Center to reflect same as Senior Citizens.
Wilensky, Peteros Unanimous

Total for 52420, Maintenance of Properties: \$121,640 Unanimous

Sub-total for 52000 series: \$621,998 Unanimous

There were no changes in the 54000 series.

Discussion was held regarding LI 54020 Equipment, including miscellaneous equipment replacement, as well as use of the fitness room. A monthly charge was suggested for use of the fitness room. Mr. Peteros offered observations of costs vs. fees of certain programs and suggested that the fee schedule be revisited.

MOTION To tentatively reduce LI 54020 Equipment to \$1,000.
Sheehan, Dupuis Yes: Sheehan, Dupuis, Larder, Peteros
No: Fedor, Wilensky

Total for 54000 series: \$4,000 Yes: Sheehan, Dupuis, Larder, Peteros
No: Fedor, Wilensky

Final Total: \$1,766,240 Unanimous

The Board recessed at 9:52 pm.
The meeting was reconvened at 10:03 pm.

ITEM 4 Finance Department

MOTION To tentatively approve the Finance Department budget in the amount of \$1,017,470 as designated by the series sub-totals.
Wilensky, Dupuis

Lengthy discussion was held regarding LI 51110, Administration, and a proposed stipend of \$22,500 for the Human Resources Director. Mr. Peteros offered that each position has certain responsibilities and salary to be paid commensurate with those responsibilities, whether it is in the private or public sector. The individual holding the position and any savings by the Board of Education are separate from the discussion of the Human Resources position and the salary assigned to it. Comparison was made to the Director of Finance position and its responsibilities. Noted that this position has been merged with the Board of Education Human Resources Department. Discussion of human resource responsibilities to be retained by Board of Ed personnel. Dr. Collins noted that a stipend of \$708 per month is being paid to

the Human Resources Director until July, 2009. Mr. Fedor felt that a savings will be realized by this merger of two positions and that the salary is in line with the private sector.

MOTION To tentatively reduce this item by \$16,000 to include a stipend of \$6,500 and a total salary of \$92,642.

Peteros, Wilensky Yes: Peteros, Larder, Dupuis, Wilensky
No: Sheehan, Fedor

Vote on LI 51110 Administration Yes: Peteros, Larder, Dupuis, Wilensky
No: Sheehan, Fedor

Discussion was held regarding LI 51210 Clerical/Technical and secretary for Personnel Review Board services. Noted that this Board doesn't meet every month for lack of agenda items.

MOTION To tentatively reduce this line item by \$975 to \$233,450.

Larder, Dupuis Unanimous

FICA Total: \$43,922 Unanimous

Sub-total: \$618,353 Unanimous

MOTION To tentatively reduce LI 52050, Dues, Conferences and Education by \$800 to \$13,746 reflecting West Group-Bound Session Law (Annual Update of the Connecticut General Statutes) These items can be obtained for less than budgeted.

Larder, Wilensky Unanimous

Sub-total: \$281,069 Unanimous

Discussion of anticipated computer hardware and software upgrade/maintenance needs.

MOTION To tentatively reduce LI 54130 Computer System to \$50,000.

Sheehan, Fedor Unanimous

Sub-total: \$50,000 Unanimous

Final Total: \$993,396 Unanimous

ITEM 5 Insurance

MOTION To tentatively approve the Insurance budget in the amount of \$2,683,954 as designated by the series sub-totals.

Fedor, Dupuis

Discussion of worker's compensation claims experience and premiums, limited market of insurers and elimination of aggregate stop loss coverage under health insurance,

Final Total: \$2,683,954 Unanimous

ITEM 6 Legal

MOTION To tentatively approve the Legal budget in the amount of \$332,142 as designated by the series sub-totals.

Fedor, Dupuis

Discussion of how legal fees are incurred by individual departments, fees incurred to date by utility commission, tax collection. Additional discussion regarding activities which constitute miscellaneous claims.

MOTION To tentatively reduce LI 52560 Miscellaneous Claims to \$6,000 based on past history.
Wilensky, Fedor Unanimous

Final Total: \$330,542 Unanimous

ITEM 7 Retirement

MOTION To tentatively approve the Retirement budget in the amount of \$2,343,309 as designated by the series sub-total.
Fedor, Dupuis Unanimous

ITEM 8 Contingency

MOTION To tentatively approve the Contingency budget in the amount of \$300,000 as designated by the series sub-total.
Fedor, Dupuis

Discussion was held.

MOTION To tentatively reduce the Contingency budget to \$250,000.
Fedor, Dupuis Unanimous

ITEM 9 Debt Service

MOTION To tentatively approve the Debt Service budget in the amount of \$1,418,313 as designated by the sub-total.
Fedor, Dupuis Unanimous

MOTION To adjourn at 11:33 pm.
Fedor, Wilensky Unanimous

Submitted by,

Prepared by,

Cheryl Larder, Clerk

Yvette M. Pier, Secretary