

PRESENT Chairman Ronald Fedor, John W. Sheehan, Rosalyn Dupuis, George Peteros,  
Alan Wilensky, Norman Glidden, G. Brian Vachris

OFFICIALS First Selectman Daniel Steward

RTM Andrea Kanfer, Michael Hanna, Paul Goldstein, Thomas Dembek

ALSO Superintendent of Schools Jerome Belair, Town Treasurer Bernard Pisacich,  
Mr. Donald Blevins, Board of Education Chairman; Michael DeRay, Business  
Manager

MEDIA Stephen Chupaska, The Day; Paul Petrone, Waterford Patch

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

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

He explained the budget review process and asked if anyone had comments regarding the budget. Rick Beaney, 33 Greentree Drive, expressed concern regarding some of the cuts in the Board of Education budget, i.e. Music and Sports and felt the students must come first.

**ITEM 1** **Public Health Nurses**  
MOTION To tentatively approve the Public Health Nurses Budget in the amount of \$54,350 as designated by the sub-total.  
Sheehan, Dupuis Unanimous

**ITEM 2** **Conservation of Health**  
MOTION To tentatively approve the Conservation of Health budget in the amount of \$129,444 as designated by the series sub-totals.  
Dupuis, Vachris Unanimous

**ITEM 3** **Board of Education**  
MOTION To tentatively approve the Board of Education budget in the amount of \$42,914,414.  
Sheehan, Dupuis

Mr. Vachris read the following:

BOARD OF EDUCATION: I would like to thank you for holding your increase to the requested guidelines. Again, for the benefit of the public, the big cost driver that increased the budget, and forced the Board of Education to cut instruction, were employee benefits. Employee benefits for the Board of Education employees went up 30.99%. I have a question. What is the co-pay for a doctor's visit for a Board of Education employee? What is the co-pay for a prescription?

As I stated at the beginning of these hearings, we on the Board of Finance do not have the power to negotiate contracts. We do not have the power to ask the employees to collectively pay a little more for their own benefits or accept a lesser raise. But we can enforce a bottom line, and this can cause layoffs. And in my years on this Board and on the RTM, this is the first time it has happened. I have heard and read complaints about the Governor of Wisconsin. But Wisconsin ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in teachers' salaries. Connecticut ranks 2<sup>nd</sup>. Only California has higher average salaries and they are in worse financial shape as a state than Connecticut. My counterpart from the other party on this Board proposed enforced freezes on various Town department salary budgets. I could not support those suggested cuts because I accept the validity of contracts. However, the employees will reap what they sow. They individually want more and they got it. They

must understand that in the end, this means there will be fewer employees.

Mr. Glidden noted that the teachers and other district employees received raises of 3 and 4 percent and the town employees were receiving raises in the 2 percent range.

Messrs. Belair and Blevins addressed the Board noting the efforts made to present a budget within the Board of Finance guidelines. There are no stimulus funds available to support and offset expenditures as there were over the past two years. There is an increase in health insurance. Contractual obligations provide wage increases for teachers, secretaries, custodians, maintenance workers and paraprofessionals. A reduction was realized from the agreement of school administrators, central office administrators and directors to a wage freeze for FY 2012.

**Instructional Services** – Review of Administration – Special Education Supervisor, Substitute Teachers, Tutors in Regular Education, tutor for in-school suspension WHS, two teachers for Consumer Science at Clark Lane. Discussion was held regarding the basis to negotiate raises.

**Support Services** – Review of Academic Software Support salary, and Computer Technician.

**Employee Benefits** – Mr. Vachris noted the increase for Unemployment Compensation as relates to the cost for laying off people. Mr. Glidden questioned what is being done to not face a large increase next year. Ms. Beers said there is a joint effort from the Board of Education, the Town, and a health insurance consultant looking at different options and bids from various providers. Discussion was held regarding unused sick leave.

**Contracted Services** – Legal Services include service for special education students as well as regular students. Increase in Other Professional/Technical Services relates to increase in nursing supplies and vaccinations.

**Transportation** – Discussion regarding transportation costs for special education students and the cost for transporting other students. Mr. Blevins noted that all the special education costs are federally mandated.

**Tuition** – Special Education Private is the portion of out-of-district tuition anticipated to pay for special education students placed in private schools. Excess Cost Private applies the same criteria as public reimbursement for students who were placed in a private school. The State Department of Education has estimated that districts will only receive 75% of reimbursement due to the State's financial crisis.

**Operation and Maintenance of Buildings** – Mr. Sheehan remarked that preventive maintenance should be the #1 priority with the new facilities.

**Text/Library Books/Other Supplies** – Discussion on whether the school newspaper could be distributed online, thus saving on print paper. This item also includes paper for meeting agendas.

**Dues and Fees** – Mr. Sheehan noted that cuts in this item could be made in order to use funds elsewhere in the budget to save sports programs.

**Vote on original motion - \$42,914,414**      **Yes: Dupuis, Sheehan, Peteros, Fedor, Wilensky, Vachris**  
**No: Glidden**  
**Motion Passed**

The Board then acted on some reductions made at previous budget hearings.

**Library Budget**

MOTION To restore \$5,170 to LI 51110 Administration, \$10,119 to LI 51210 Clerical/Technical, \$1,170 to LI 51920 FICA, Total restoration of \$16,459.  
Sheehan, Peteros Yes: Dupuis, Sheehan, Peteros, Fedor, Wilensky, Vachris  
Abstain: Glidden

MOTION To tentatively approve the 51000 series in the amount of \$907,709.  
Sheehan, Peteros Yes: Dupuis, Sheehan, Peteros, Fedor, Wilensky, Vachris  
Abstain: Glidden

MOTION To tentatively approve the Library budget in the amount of \$1,048,703.  
Sheehan, Peteros Yes: Dupuis, Sheehan, Peteros, Fedor, Wilensky, Vachris  
Abstain: Glidden

**Emergency Management**

MOTION To restore \$1,594 to LI 51210 Clerical/Technical, \$19,279 to LI 51440 Dispatch Personnel, \$1,496 to Dispatch Overtime, \$122 to LI 51830 Training Overtime, \$1,711 to LI 51920 FICA. Total restoration of \$24,202.  
Sheehan, Peteros Yes: Dupuis, Sheehan, Peteros, Fedor, Wilensky, Vachris  
Abstain: Glidden

MOTION To tentatively approve the 51000 series in the amount of \$721,557.  
Sheehan, Peteros Yes: Dupuis, Sheehan, Peteros, Fedor, Wilensky, Vachris  
Abstain: Glidden

MOTION To tentatively approve the Emergency Management budget in the amount of \$867,477.  
Sheehan, Peteros Yes: Dupuis, Sheehan, Peteros, Fedor, Wilensky, Vachris  
Abstain: Glidden

**Police Department**

MOTION To restore \$5,597 to LI 51110 Administration, \$429 to LI 51920 FICA. Total restoration of \$6,026.  
Sheehan, Peteros Yes: Dupuis, Sheehan, Peteros, Fedor, Wilensky, Vachris  
Abstain: Glidden

MOTION To tentatively approve the 51000 series in the amount of \$4,281,756.  
Sheehan, Peteros Yes: Dupuis, Sheehan, Peteros, Fedor, Wilensky, Vachris  
Abstain: Glidden

MOTION To tentatively approve the Police Department budget in the amount of \$4,912,252.  
Sheehan, Peteros Yes: Dupuis, Sheehan, Peteros, Fedor, Wilensky, Vachris  
Abstain: Glidden

**Assessor**

MOTION To restore \$4,942 to LI 51110 Administration, \$378 to LI 51920 FICA, total restoration of \$5,320.  
Sheehan, Peteros Yes: Dupuis, Sheehan, Peteros, Fedor, Wilensky, Vachris  
Abstain: Glidden

MOTION To tentatively approve the 51000 series in the amount of \$258,108.  
Sheehan, Peteros Yes: Dupuis, Sheehan, Peteros, Fedor, Wilensky, Vachris  
Abstain: Glidden

MOTION To tentatively approve the Assessor budget in the amount of \$283,519.  
Sheehan, Peteros Yes: Dupuis, Sheehan, Peteros, Fedor, Wilensky, Vachris  
Abstain: Glidden

**Board of Selectmen**  
MOTION To restore \$1,679 to LI 51110 Administration, \$128 to LI 51920 FICA, total  
restoration of \$1,808.  
Sheehan, Peteros Yes: Dupuis, Sheehan, Peteros, Fedor, Wilensky, Vachris  
Abstain: Glidden

MOTION To tentatively approve the 51000 series in the amount of \$164,444.  
Sheehan, Fedor Yes: Dupuis, Sheehan, Peteros, Fedor, Wilensky, Vachris  
Abstain: Glidden

MOTION To tentatively approve the Board of Selectmen budget in the amount of \$212,315.  
Sheehan, Peteros Yes: Dupuis, Sheehan, Peteros, Fedor, Wilensky, Vachris  
Abstain: Glidden

**Planning and Zoning**  
MOTION To restore \$3,000 to LI 51110 Administration, \$230 to LI 51920 FICA, total  
restoration of \$3,230.  
Sheehan, Peteros Yes: Dupuis, Sheehan, Peteros, Fedor, Wilensky, Vachris  
Abstain: Glidden

MOTION To tentatively approve the 51000 series in the amount of \$497,961.  
Sheehan, Peteros Yes: Dupuis, Sheehan, Peteros, Fedor, Wilensky, Vachris  
Abstain: Glidden

MOTION To tentatively approve the Planning and Zoning Commission budget in the amount of  
\$521,547.  
Sheehan, Peteros Yes: Dupuis, Sheehan, Peteros, Fedor, Wilensky, Vachris  
Abstain: Glidden

MOTION To adjourn at 8:55 pm.  
Sheehan, Wilensky Unanimous

Submitted by,

Prepared by,

Alan Wilensky, Clerk

Yvette M. Pier, Secretary

