

A Standing Motion was made by Mr. Jessuck and seconded by Mr. Sheehan to tentatively approve the following budgets:

3. **Library (10536) in the amount of \$1,053,750.**
Roslyn Rubinstein and Grant A. Ritter, Ph.D., were present to answer questions from the Board.

Vote: Unanimous Motion passed.

4. **Emergency Management (10222) in the amount of \$1,370,752.**
Lt. Stephen Bellos, Director, was present to answer questions from the Board.

Motion by Ms. Larder and **seconded** by Mr. Sheehan to reduce Line Item #10222-52080 Telephone by \$10,000 from \$35,787 to \$25,787.

Vote: Unanimous Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Sheehan and **seconded** by Ms. Larder to tentatively approve the new 52000 Series Sub Total of \$485,127.

Vote: Unanimous Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Sheehan and **seconded** by Mr. Larder to tentatively approve the new Department Total of \$1,360,752.

Vote: Unanimous Motion passed.

5. **Police Department (10229) in the amount of \$5,845,041.**
Brett Mahoney, Chief of Police was present to answer questions from the Board. Also present: Lt. Bellos, Lt. Burton, Sgt. Dimmock, Lt. Silva and Marlena Montgomery, Office Coordinator.

Vote: Unanimous Motion passed.

The meeting went into a break at 8:55pm and reconvened at 9:05pm.

6. **Registrars of Voters (10102) in the amount of \$65,529.**
Patricia Waters and Julie Watson Jones were present to answer questions from the Board.

Vote: 5 - 0 - 1 (Ms. Larder abstained) Motion passed.

7. **Ethics Commission (10143) in the amount of \$723.**
Kate MacKenzie of the Ethics Commission was unable to remain at the meeting and left at 8:30 p.m.

Vote: Unanimous Motion passed.

8. **Representative Town Meeting (10117) in the amount of \$20,306.**
Thomas Dembek, Moderator, was present to answer questions from the Board.

Mr. Dembek offered the Board a reduction to Line Item #10117-52020 Postage in the amount of \$ 450.00 as the RTM will now use the courier service through the Town.

Motion by Ms. Larder and **seconded** by Ms. Sabilia to reduce Line Item #10117-52020 Postage by \$ 450 from \$900 to \$ 450.

Vote: Unanimous Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Sheehan, **seconded** by Ms. Sabilia to tentatively approve the new 52000 Series Subtotal in the amount of \$19,802.

Vote: Unanimous Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Sheehan, **seconded** by Ms. Sabilia to tentatively approve the new Department Total in the amount of \$19,856.

Vote: Unanimous Motion passed.

9. **Town Clerk (10109) in the amount of \$248,080.**
David Campo, Town Clerk was present to answer questions from the Board.
Vote: Unanimous Motion passed.

10. **Board of Finance (10103) in the amount of \$53,544.**
Vote: Unanimous Motion passed.

11. **Contingency (10121) in the amount of \$245,000.**

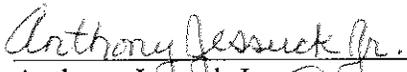
Motion by Ms. Larder and **seconded** by Mr. Sheehan to forward a request to the Board of Selectmen to increase the Contingency Budget (10121) by \$755,000 to a new total of \$1,000,000.

Discussion: If approved by the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance plans to reduce the Board of Education FY17 Budget request by \$755,000 to offset this increase. Thereby making funds available through Contingency should the Board of Education require additional funding.

Vote: Unanimous Motion passed.

12. **Motion** by Mr. Sheehan, **seconded** by Mr. Jessuck to adjourn the Board of Finance Budget Hearing at 9:50 p.m.
Vote: Unanimous Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,


Anthony Jessuck Jr. *(AJM)*
Clerk


Gail R. Miller
Secretary

**Comments by J. W. "Bill" Sheehan at start of Budget Review
03/07/2016**

Today the BOF starts its annual budget review. This is the twelfth time I have done this as a member of the BOF after ten such reviews as a member of the RTM. It took me five years to realize that government always spends the taxpayer's money so what is important is how the dollars are spent and what they are spent on.

The budget that is presented to us for consideration by the BOS is the best estimate by the department heads and the administration of what is necessary to provide town services eighteen months before those services are completely delivered. This estimate has turned out to be \$91,084,907 or 5.5% (\$4,756,438) more than the \$86,328,469 for FY2016, the current budget.

The greatest individual department increases by percentages are Flood and Erosion Control (542.37%), Transfer to Capital Non Recurring Expenditure Fund (299.84%) Current Year Capital (42.42%), Community Use of Schools (12.35%), Emergency Management (10.60%) and RTM (10.16%). The greatest individual department increases by dollar value are Transfer to Capital Non Recurring Expenditure Fund (\$1,841,534), Board of Education (\$1,557,822), Current Year Capital (\$678,350), Police Department (\$331,738) Emergency Management (\$131,320) and Public Works \$100,435).

Personnel Costs are 66.11% of the total Town Budget- 74.45% of total Government Operations, 77.48% of BOE. The dollars spent upon capital and Debt Service help to reduce the percentage of the total. Due to contract commitments there is little this body may do to reduce the impact of salaries and benefits.

The almost \$1 million increase in the BOE budget due to the reduction in expected state financing of the Friendship School is not helping the bottom line.

This leaves the cost of normal government operations not related to salaries and needed capital project funding as the source of any reductions in the budget.

Fortunately, there has been an increase in the Grand List for the upcoming budget year of 1.14% (\$36,057,610) mostly due to Dominion Investment at the Millstone Power Station other real property improvements and motor vehicle replacement in the past year. Unfortunately, outside revenues have decreased this year. My guesstimate (We have not received the revenue projection from the Director of Finance) for those revenues and the Grand List presented by the Assessor leads to a mill rate increase of 1.28 mills (4.96%) to 27.11 mill compared to the current mill rate of 25.83. This is a tax increase for the average household in Waterford of \$201.60.

If the BOF desires to decrease the budget, the reductions will have to come from reducing current programs and/or services, or deciding to defer some of the recommended capital

projects proposed by the administration in the capital plan. These will be difficult decisions and input from the public is greatly appreciated as we deliberate over the next three weeks.