

The Board of Finance held a special meeting on April 21, 2009 in the Auditorium of the Windham Middle School, 123 Quarry Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

Members Attending: Barbara McGrath, Janice Fournier, Jay Handfield
Leo Santucci, Peter McDevitt Jr., Hanna Clements

Chairman, Barbara McGrath called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

Public comment

There was no public comment.

Discussion and Possible Action on the 2009-2010 Board of Education Budget

Peter McDevitt questioned if there are any more changes from the Board of Education. The Board of Education is still in negotiations with the union so their budget has not changed.

Upon a motion by Hanna Clements, seconded by Peter McDevitt, moved to set the Board of Education budget at \$41,250,993.

During a discussion it was questioned if the grand list changes after the Board of Assessment Appeals meeting had any impact on the Board of Education budget. The mill rate decrease for the Board of Education budget will be .04.

The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and possible action on the 2009-2010 General Government Budget

Barbara McGrath discussed the changes in the budget. The grand list totals have changed which has also caused the numbers in the budget to change. To recap the changes made by the board, the following has been changed: line item 50202-114 for Animal Control FICA/Medicare has been increased by 930.00, line item 52905-207 for Ambulance Professional services – dispatch has been reduced by 3,351.00, line item 46411-990 for Ambulance Interfund transfer in – Town has been decreased by 3,351.00, line item 50707-997 for Interfund transfer out – Ambulance had been decreased by 3,351.00. The recommended changes to the Board by the Town Controller are as follows: line item 50702-232 Debt Service – Bonds - principal to decrease by 4,999.00, line item 50702-233 Debt Service – Bonds – interest to decrease by 99,818.00, line item 41003-818 School Construction Grant to increase 34,757.00, line item 41009-900 Investment Income to decrease 45,000.00. There were also options presented for the allocation of pilot funds. The pilot study was reviewed. The current pilot allocation is 47% for the

Town and 53% for the Willimantic Service District. If the pilot funds are decreased in the Town and increased in the Willimantic Service District, it will affect the amount we receive from the State.

Peter McDevitt gave a brief background on the Town and City with a pilot study that was done a couple of years ago.

Jay Handfield commented on the pilot funds. He would like some information on how adjusting the pilot allocation percentage will reduce the revenues received from the State.

Janice Fournier commented that the percentage of distribution does not show what the reduction in State revenues will be.

Upon a motion by Leo Santucci, seconded by Jay Handfield to shift the pilot allocation for the General Government from 47% to 41% and for the Willimantic Service District from 53% to 59%.

During a discussion the mill rate would increase .35 for the General Government and a zero mill rate increase for the Willimantic Service District. Leo Santucci commented on the amount of exempt properties in the Town of Windham and also in the Willimantic Service District.

Janice Fournier voiced her concern on the allocation and questioned if it was appropriate to do so at this time.

Peter McDevitt commented that this could be changed next year.

The motion passed with Janice Fournier opposing.

Peter McDevitt would like to remove the postponement of a motion to remove \$25,000 from 50404-239 Windham Paramedics reducing it from 50,000 to 25,000.

Members from Windham Hospital paramedic program talked about their budget.

Peter McDevitt questioned the missed call list.

Chief Ronald Palmer spoke about the impact the cut in the paramedic program would have.

The motion did not pass.

Upon a motion by Hanna Clements, seconded by Jay Handfield, to reduce line item 50702-232 from \$2,090,949 to \$2,085,950.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Hanna Clements, seconded by Jay Handfield, to reduce line item 50702-233 from \$956,308 to \$856,490.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Hanna Clements, seconded by Jay Handfield, to increase line item 41003-818 from \$1,153,032 to 1,187,789.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Hanna Clements, seconded by Jay Handfield, to reduce line item 41009-900 from \$100,000 to \$55,000.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Jay Handfield, seconded by Hanna Clements, moved to set the General Government budget at \$12,816,326

The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and possible action on the 2009-2010 Ambulance Budget

Upon a motion by Jay Handfield, seconded by Hanna Clements, moved to set the ambulance budget at \$1,204,325.00.

The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and possible action on the 2009-2010 Willimantic Service District Budget

Upon a motion by Leo Santucci, seconded by Hanna Clements, to reduce line item 50900-207 from \$390,916.00 to \$383,099.00.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Hanna Clements, seconded by Peter McDevitt, moved to set the Willimantic Service District budget at \$8,444,257.00

The motion passed with Jay Handfield abstaining.

Discussion and possible action on the time, date, and place of the Annual Budget Meeting.

Upon a motion by Hanna Clements, seconded by Jay Handfield, to set the Annual Budget meeting for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday May 5, 2009 at the Windham Town Hall.

The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and possible action on the time, date, and place of the referendum vote.

Upon a motion by Leo Santucci, seconded by Hanna Clements, to set the referendum vote for Tuesday May 12, 2009 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at two locations to be determined by the registrar.

The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Upon a motion by Jay Handfield, seconded by Janice Fournier, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Attest: _____
Karen Williams, Clerk