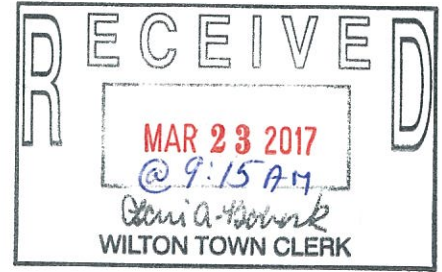


**BOARD OF FINANCE
PUBLIC HEARING ON
BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET
March 20, 2017
7:30 P.M.**



MIDDLEBROOK SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

PRESENT

Board of Finance: Jeff Rutishauser, Warren Serenbetz, Richard Creeth, Peter Balderston, John Kalamarides, Walter Kress

Board of Education: Bruce Likly, Christine Finkelstein, Glenn Hemmerle, Lori Rothstein, Kevin Smith

ABSENT: Laura Schwemm, Chris Stroup,

ALSO PRESENT: Anne Kelly-Lenz (Wilton CFO) and members of the press and public

Board of Finance Chairman Jeff Rutishauser called the Public Hearing to order at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Rutishauser introduced the Board of Finance and thanked the audience for their attendance. He spoke in detail on the slides (presentation attached) depicting Budget Highlights, the role of the Board of Finance in the town budget, and how the Board assesses resources and financial condition. Mr. Rutishauser noted that the state is considering asking the town to pay a large portion of the Teachers Pension Contribution that the state has historically paid. Mr. Rutishauser noted that the Town is budgeting a reduction of \$1 Million in State aid to municipalities (based on a decline primarily from Educational Cost Sharing grants (ECS) and that the budget does not include the additional \$4 Million that the state is asking in teachers pension contributions as it is still being debated in Hartford. He noted that if the teacher pension contribution proposal does pass, a future Town Meeting will need to be convened to determine how to cover the additional \$4 Million. Mr. Rutishauser also gave an overview of the Budget Summary and the Preliminary Mill Rate for FY18.

Mr. Rutishauser concluded his comments by stating that as they seek to close the deficit gap, there are only two ways to accomplish this: budget cuts or a tax increase which essentially is to raise the Mill Rate. His comments concluded at approximately 7:43 p.m., at which time he turned over the podium to Bruce Likly, Board of Education Chairman.

Mr. Likly introduced the members of the Board of Education and commended the BOE for their hard work. He also thanked the administration and teachers that work in the Wilton School system. He thanked the citizens for their support of Wilton Schools. Mr. Likly next gave a slide presentation overview of the proposed FY18 School Budget, which is also posted on the school website. He detailed past year achievements, as well as 2017-18 instructional priorities and large budget drivers. Mr. Likly closed by noting that there was not a lot of detail in the presentation as the numbers are the same as last year (0.00% increase in budget requests for this year). The detailed budget is available on the BOE website and Mr. Likly suggests that if anyone has questions after reviewing the budget to contact anyone on the BOE.

Mr. Rutishauser then opened the floor to public comment. Approximately 23 citizens spoke and expressed their views on the BOE budget; most of whom supported the Budget.

Mr. Rutishauser thanked the media this budget season for their coverage with regard to the back and forth with Hartford on the money the Town may or may not be receiving, as they have kept the Town well informed. He also thanked the citizens for their civility. Mr. Rutishauser invited all to the Board of Finance hearing on the Board of Selectmen Budget that will take place on Monday March 27, 2017 at Middlebrook School.

The hearing adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Rochester
(from video recording)

Att: Board of Finance slide presentation

BOARD OF FINANCE
FY 18 BUDGET - PUBLIC HEARING
MARCH 27, 2017

AGENDA

- Introduction
- Overview and Preliminary Mill Rate Projection
- Budget Presentation - Board of Selectmen
- Public Comment

BOARD OF FINANCE
FY 18 BUDGET - PUBLIC HEARING
MARCH 20, 2017

AGENDA

- Introduction
- Overview and Preliminary Mill Rate Projection
- Budget Presentation - Board of Education
- Public Comment

FY 18 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Prior to Board of Finance deliberations, total funds required is up \$2.19 million (1.87%)
- Net Taxable Grand List is up 0.27%
- Budget Shortfall of \$1.88 million (1.60%)
 - Budget Cuts or Tax Increase
- BOE budget request is a 0% increase
- BOS budget request is up \$1.03 million (3.2%)
- FY18 General Fund balance is set at 10.0%

FY 18 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS (CONT'D)

- Pension is funded at 91% of liabilities, leaving a \$9.9 million net liability (June 30, 2016)
- Tax Relief for Elderly/Disabled remains at \$1.1 Million
- Debt Service is up 2.6% (\$296,386) primarily due to bonding for Miller-Driscoll construction
- Moody's reaffirmed Wilton's AAA bond rating – April 2016

THE ROLE OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE IN THE TOWN BUDGET

The Town Charter governs the Board of Finance's actions

- The BOF is required to hold hearings on both the BOE and BOS budget requests
- The BOF must consider the following when developing the Mill Rate:
 1. The views of the voters expressed at the town hearings and in direct communication (*boardoffinance@wiltonCT.org*)
 2. The financial resources of the Town
 3. Whether the BOE and the BOS can find savings in their respective budget requests
 4. The appropriateness of revenue, debt service and general fund balance amounts

HOW THE BOARD OF FINANCE ASSESSES RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL CONDITION

Revenue Sustainability

- Grand List Growth – Slowing, Wilton maturing
- “Real Growth” Needed – Priority on Commercial Development
- Commercial Property Value Improvement – Lease-up Vacancies
- State Grants and Funding – Severely Reduced in FY18

FY18 BUDGET – MUNICIPAL AID

(\$ Thousands)

\$2,482

EDUCATIONAL
COST SHARING
(ECS)

\$1,212

MUNICIPAL
REVENUE
SHARING

\$355

MUNICIPAL
GRANTS

\$915

\$1,451

\$357

\$1,094

FY17 Budget

FY18 Budget

HOW THE BOARD OF FINANCE ASSESSES RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL CONDITION

Debt, General Fund Balance and Pension Fund Levels

- Impact of New Bonding for Miller-Driscoll
- Maintaining AAA rating – Minimum 10% General Fund Balance
- Unfunded Pension Liabilities – \$9.9 Million; 91% Funded (6/30/16)

Operating Expenses

- Evaluate budget requests versus prior actual expenditures
- Focus on Efficient Staffing and Headcount Control

FY 2018 BUDGET SUMMARY
\$ Thousands

	FY 17 BUDGET	FY 18 REQUEST	\$ FROM FY 17	% FROM FY 17
Education	80,573	80,573	0	0.0%
Selectmen Operating & Capital	32,202	33,234	1,032	3.2%
Debt Service	11,471	11,768	297	2.6%
Charter Authority	1,242	1,256	14	1.1%
Tax Relief for Elderly & Disabled	1,121	1,121	--	--
TOTAL OPERATING REQUIREMENTS	126,609	127,952	1,342	1.06%
Non-tax Revenue	(5,597)	(4,746)	(851)	(15.2)%
Drawdown of previous year's ending fund balance	(4,111)	(4,113)	(2)	(0.03)%
TOTAL TO BE FUNDED FROM PROPERTY TAX	\$116,901	\$119,092	2,191	1.87%

FY 2018 PRELIMINARY MILL RATE
\$ Thousands

	FY 17 BUDGET	FY 18 REQUEST	\$ CHANGE FROM FY17 BUDGET	% CHANGE FROM FY17 BUDGET
TOTAL TO BE FUNDED FROM PROPERTY TAX	116,901	119,092	2,191	1.87%
Grand List	4,302,071	4,313,627	314	0.27%
Collection Rate	99.4%	99.4%	--	--
REQUIRED MILL RATE	27.3371	27.7750	1,877	1.60%

BOARD OF FINANCE BUDGET SCHEDULE

March 20 & 27	Board of Finance Public Hearings
March 29 & 30	Board of Finance completes deliberations on budgets and mill rate
May 2	Annual Town Meeting
May 6	Adjourned vote of ATM