

**BOARD OF FINANCE  
BUDGET DELIBERATIONS MEETING – APRIL 1, 2014  
MEETING ROOM B  
WILTON TOWN HALL**

**PRESENT: Warren Serenbetz, Lynne Vanderslice, James Meinhold, Al Alper, Jeff Rutishauser, Richard Creeth**

**ALSO PRESENT: William Brennan, Sandy Dennies, Dick Dubow, Ken Post, Gary Richards and other members of the public and press**

Chairman Warren Serenbetz called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

**Deliberations FY 2015 Budget**

Mr. Serenbetz noted that while he appreciated all the work that was done developing the budgets he felt that a 3.62% increase to the mil rate was too high. He introduced David Lisowski the Town Assessor who reviewed the Grand List. Mr. Lisowski referred to a handout of the Grand List Summary filed the end of February. That total is \$4,266,865,500, however he pointed out that at last year's Mil Rate Meeting the Board of Assessment Appeals had concluded their work by the end of March so the adjustments set by the BAA was already in the calculations. This year the BAA is just beginning to hold their appeals and he attributed an increase in appeals from the reval. Mr. Lisowski reviewed their best estimate for the Grand List as \$4,262,301,790. A motion was made by Ms. Vanderslice to reduce the Grand List by \$4,563,710. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lisowski explained that there is a reserve set aside to cover the costs of litigation for the Board of Assessment Appeals court cases. He recommends increasing the reserve from \$416,000 to \$690,000.

Mr. Serenbetz went over other items that impact the mil rate –

- Estimated collection rate of 99.3%
- Tax Relief for the elderly and disabled is \$1.1 M and when added to \$23,250 for WVAC in Georgetown comes to a total of \$1,123,250
- Debt service is \$9,102,764
- Revenues at \$5,956,263 – A discussion ensued around increasing the amount in the revenues by \$150,000. Mr. Meinhold made a motion to increase the amount to \$150,000 the motion was seconded and carried with Mr. Alper voting no.
- Use of the General Fund

### **Board of Education and Board of Selectmen Budgets**

Mr. Meinhold said that there isn't a lot of fat in either budget but that he could point to \$900,000 of savings without drastically impacting the goals of either Board. He said that a 1.7% isn't doable for the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education to meet their goals and provide the services necessary.

Some of the suggestions made to cut costs from the Board of Selectmen's budget were:

- Expand the use of Police cars from 4 to 5 years
- Salt and Sand in DPW - if more salt and sand are required pay for it out of the Charter Authority budget
- Eliminate Dive Team
- Eliminate Parking lot and lights at Town Hall
- Eliminate Bradley Park walkway

From the Board of Education suggested cuts from their budget were:

- Athletic programs, increase of 14.1% is too high
- Eliminate Extra teacher

A lengthy discussion ensued over cuts to both budgets and it was agreed that both the Board of Selectman and the Board of Education would determine where to make the cuts to their budgets once the amounts were determined. Mr. Serenbetz moved that they set the Board of Selectmen operating and capital total % change year-over-year for 2014-2015 at 2.65% which would represent a cut of \$348,500. The motion was seconded and carried. Mr. Alper and Ms. Vanderslice opposed.

A brief discussion on the Board of Education budget ensued. Mr. Meinhold made a motion to cut the Board of Education budget by \$750,000 resulting in a mil rate increase of 2.49%. The motion was seconded and carried. Mr. Alper and Ms. Vanderslice opposed.

A discussion ensued around increasing the Fund Balance to lower the mil rate. Ms. Vanderslice made a motion to increase the Fund Balance adjustment from \$2.633M to \$3.133M. [An increase of \$500,000]. The motion was seconded and carried. Mr. Meinhold and Mr. Serenbetz opposed.

It was decided that the resolutions would be finalized at the next meeting on April 22, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mariana Corrado  
(off a video tape)