

**BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING – February 1, 2023
HELD ELECTRONICALLY**

PRESENT: Michael Kaelin, Matthew Raimondi, Richard Santosky, Chris Stroup

ABSENT: Sandra Arkell, Stewart Koenigsberg

Others Present: CFO Dawn Norton

Call to Order

Chairman Michael Kaelin called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

Discussion and Vote on Survey

Mr. Kaelin began the Discussion and possible vote on conducting a Survey. Mr. Raimondi reviewed an updated version of the survey that was sent out the previous year. He reviewed a long form and a short form of the survey (see attached) and potential timing of distribution. Members of the board provided their comments. Mr. Stroup moved that the BOF adopt the long form version of the survey that was circulated. Motion seconded by Mr. Santosky. The board further discussed. After discussion motion carried 4-0. Discussion on distribution of the survey. Looking to launch around March 4, 2023.

Mr. Stroup thank Mr. Raimondi on behalf of the board for putting the survey together.

Having no further business, the board voted to adjourn meeting at 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jacqueline Rochester
(from video recording)

BOARD OF FINANCE

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TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

Michael Kaelin, *Chairman*
Stewart Koenigsberg, *Vice Chairman*
Matthew Raimondi, *Clerk*
Sandra Arkell
Richard Santosky
Chris Stroup

BOARD OF FINANCE

Proposal for Resident Survey (vLong)

Mission: The goal of this survey is to quantify our residents' sentiments regarding potential budget and mill rate ~~increases-changes~~ for ~~FY23~~FY24.

Process: The survey will be available to Wilton Residents until ~~March 31, 2022~~TBD^[MR1]. The results will be tabulated and analyzed by the Board of Finance before its final budget deliberation on ~~April 4, 2022~~TBD.

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Introduction:

The primary role of Wilton's Board of Finance is to recommend an annual budget to the town's residents. As part of that decision, the Board of Finance must approve and recommend budgets for the Board of Selectman and the Board of Education. These budgets are the primary drivers in the mill rate calculation. Wilton's residents will then vote on the town's budget at the Annual Town Meeting, **which this year will be held on Tuesday May 3-X at 7:00pm**, with continued voting on **Saturday May 7-X from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM, at the Clune Center at Wilton High School**^[MR2].

To make its recommendation, the Board of Finance is seeking input from the town's residents about the Board of Selectmen's budget, the Board of Education's budget, and the mill rate. While the Board of Finance has line-item authority on the Board of Selectman's budget, it does not have that same authority on the Board of Education's budget. Based on the budgets proposed by the **Board of Selectmen (+1.37%~~X~~% increase)** and the **Board of Education (+3.26~~X~~% increase)**, the **mill rate would increase +1.94~~X~~%**^[MR3]. ~~Note that some residents may experience tax growth greater than 1.94% due to the increase in the valuation of motor vehicles.~~

If you'd like to review the budgets, please click ~~X~~here for the Board of Selectman's budget and ~~X~~here for the Board of Education's budget.

Please note that the responses to this survey are anonymous, and all results will be aggregated. Thank you for your time and consideration in responding to this short survey.

Questions:

- 1) How closely have you followed Wilton's town budget process this year? Please select all that apply
~~How closely do you follow Wilton's town budget process? Please select all the apply~~
 - I have reviewed the Board of Selectman's budget and / or listened to their budget deliberations
 - I have reviewed the Board of Education's budget and / or listened to their budget deliberations
 - I have listened to the Board of Finance's budget deliberations
 - I follow the budget process through media outlets (social media, Good Morning Wilton, Wilton Bulletin, etc.)

- I do not track Wilton's budget process

2) Do you support the proposed +1.37X% increase to the Board of Selectman's budget?

- Yes, and I would support a higher level of increase
- Yes, I support a budget increase at this level
- No, I do not support a budget increase at this level

~~IF Q2=No~~ What tradeoffs would you be willing to make to decrease the Board of Selectman's budget? Please select all that apply

- ~~○ I would support reducing expenditure on public works (road maintenance, snow plowing, etc.)~~
- ~~○ I would support reducing expenditure on public safety (police, fire, etc.)~~
- ~~○ I would support reducing expenditure on parks & recreation~~
- ~~○ I would support reducing expenditure on maintenance of and enhancements to open space and trails~~
- ~~○ I would support reducing expenditure on Wilton Library, Wilton Volunteer Ambulance Corp, and Trackside Teen Center~~
- ~~○ I would support reducing expenditure on environmental issues or initiatives~~
- ~~○ I would support reducing expenditure on social services / the senior center~~
- ~~○ I would support reducing expenditure on business / economic development initiatives to drive commercial investment in Wilton~~
- ~~○ I do not have an opinion on what to decrease in the Board of Selectman's budget~~
- ~~○ Other: _____ [MR4]~~

~~3) IF Q2=HIGHER~~ In what areas would you support an increase in the Board of Selectman's budget? Please select all that apply

- ~~○ I would support increasing expenditure on public works (road maintenance, snow plowing, etc.)~~
- ~~○ I would support increasing expenditure on public safety (police, fire, etc.)~~
- ~~○ I would support increasing expenditure on parks & recreation~~
- ~~○ I would support increasing expenditure on maintenance of and enhancements to open space and trails~~
- ~~○ I would support increasing expenditure on Wilton Library, Wilton Volunteer Ambulance Corp, and Trackside Teen Center~~
- ~~○ I would support increasing expenditure on environmental issues or initiatives~~
- ~~○ I would support increasing expenditure on social services / the senior center~~
- ~~○ I would support increasing expenditure on business / economic development initiatives to drive commercial investment in Wilton~~
- ~~○ I do not have an opinion on what to increase in the Board of Selectman's budget~~
- ~~○ Other: _____ [MR5]~~

4)3) Do you support the proposed +3.26X% increase to the Board of Education's budget?

- Yes, and I would support a higher level of increase
- Yes, I support a budget increase at this level
- No, I do not support a budget increase at this level

5)4) Do you support a +1.94X% increase to the mill rate, as calculated based on the proposed budgets from the BOS and the BOE?

- Yes, and I would support a higher increase to the mill rate
- Yes, I support a mill rate increase at this level
- No, I do not support a mill rate increase at this level

6)5) [IF Q6-Q4 = YES) What is the maximum mill rate change you would support?

- 2% increase
- 3% increase
- 4% increase
- 5% increase
- Whatever rate the Board of Finance decides is sufficient

7)6) [IF ~~Q6-Q4~~ = No) What is the maximum mill rate change you would support?

- ☐ 1% increase
- ☐ No change
- ☐ 1% decrease
- ☐ 2% decrease
- ☐ Whatever rate the Board of Finance decides is sufficient

8)7) Is there any commentary you wish to add regarding the ~~2023-2024~~ budget?

- ☐ Open text box

9)8) Are you eligible to vote in Wilton?

- ☐ Yes, as a registered voter
- ☐ Yes, as a property owner, but not as a registered voter
- ☐ No

10)9) [IF ~~Q10-Q8~~ = FIRST 2 OPTIONS] Do you plan to vote at the Annual Town Meeting on May ~~3~~
~~X~~ or at the Adjourned Town Meeting on May ~~X~~7?

- ☐ Yes, I plan to vote
- ☐ No, I do not plan to vote

11)10) How old are you?

- ☐ 18 or Younger
- ☐ 19-25
- ☐ 26-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65-74
- ☐ 75 or older
- ☐ I prefer not to say

12)11) Do you have children enrolled in the Wilton Public Schools?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, my children receive education outside of the Wilton public school system
- ☐ No, my children are no longer school-aged
- ☐ No, I do not have children

12) How long have you lived in Wilton?

13) What year did you move to Wilton?

- ☐ 5 years or less
- ☐ 6 – 10 years
- ☐ 11 – 20 years
- ☐ 21 – 30 years
- ☐ More than 30 years

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Conclusion:

Thank you very much for taking the time to go through this survey. The Board of Finance will plan to review the results at the April ~~4~~X budget deliberation.

Please also remember to join us at the public hearings for the **Board of Education at 7:00pm on March-23rdTBD** and the **Board of Selectmen at 7:00pm on March-24TBD**. Both will be held at the **Middlebrook Auditorium**.

[MR6]

Please also remember to join us at the **Annual Town Meeting at 7:00pm on Tuesday-May-3TBD** at **Wilton High School's Clune Center**! You can also vote at the **Adjourned Town Meeting on Saturday-**

| **May 7 TBD** from 8:00am to 6:00pm at the Clune Center as well.

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BOARD OF FINANCE

Proposal for Resident Survey (vShort)

Mission: The goal of this survey is to quantify our residents' sentiments regarding potential mill rate changes for FY24.

Process: The survey will be available to Wilton Residents until **TBD**. The results will be tabulated and analyzed by the Board of Finance by **TBD**.

Introduction:

The primary role of Wilton's Board of Finance is to recommend an annual budget to the town's residents. As part of that decision, the Board of Finance must approve and recommend a mill rate which residents vote on at the Annual Town Meeting in May.

While the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education are still finalizing their budgets, the Board of Finance would like to hear directly from residents regarding their perspectives regarding potential mill rate change.

Please note that the responses to this survey are anonymous, and all results will be aggregated. Thank you for your time and consideration in responding to this short survey.

Questions:

- 1) How closely have you followed Wilton's town budget process this year? Please select all that apply
 - ☐ I have listened to the Board of Selectmen's budget discussions
 - ☐ I have listened to the Board of Education's budget discussions
 - ☐ I have listened to the Board of Finance's budget discussions
 - ☐ I follow the budget process through media outlets (social media, Good Morning Wilton, Wilton Bulletin, etc.)
 - ☐ I do not track Wilton's budget process
- 2) What is the maximum mill rate change you would support?
 - ☐ 2% decrease
 - ☐ 1% decrease
 - ☐ No change
 - ☐ 1% increase
 - ☐ 2% increase
 - ☐ 3% increase
 - ☐ 4% increase
 - ☐ 5% increase
 - ☐ Whatever rate the Board of Finance decides is sufficient [MR1]
- 3) Is there any commentary you wish to add regarding the 2024 mill rate?

- Open text box

4) Are you eligible to vote in Wilton?

- Yes, as a registered voter
- Yes, as a property owner, but not as a registered voter
- No

5) How old are you?

- 18 or Younger
- 19-25
- 26-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75 or older
- I prefer not to say

6) Do you have children enrolled in the Wilton Public Schools?

- Yes
- No, my children receive education outside of the Wilton public school system
- No, my children are no longer school-aged
- No, I do not have children

7) How long have you lived in Wilton?

- 5 years or less
- 6 – 10 years
- 11 – 20 years
- 21 – 30 years
- More than 30 years

Conclusion:

Thank you very much for taking the time to go through this survey. The Board of Finance will plan to review the results during its budget deliberation.