

**BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**BUDGET MEETING – April 2, 2019**  
**WILTON TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM B**  
**7:30 P.M.**

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
TOWN OF WILTON

2019 APR 11 P 12:34

BY: *af*

**PRESENT**

**Board of Finance:** Jeff Rutishauser, Peter Balderston, John Kalamarides, Walter Kress (via phone), Stewart Koenigsberg, Ceci Maher

**Others:** Members of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Education and members of the public and press

Chairman Jeff Rutishauser called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Mr. Rutishauser announced that each member of the Board would give an opening statement before deliberations.

All members of the Board gave their comments and touched on the Revaluation and possible anticipated push down coming from the state.

**Peter Balderston:** Mr. Balderston read a prepared statement. After reading his statement, Mr. Balderston proposes a 0% increase in both the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education Budget for FY20.

**Ceci Maher:** Ms. Maher lauded the BoS & BoE for bringing their budgets in under the proposed BoF guidance. After her statement she proposed accepting both the BoS and BoE budgets as presented.

**Stewart Koenigsberg:** Mr. Koenigsberg gave his statement and noted that the BoS and BoE budgets were well thought out and spoke to points regarding the Revaluation and possible cuts that may come down from the state.

**John Kalamarides:** Mr. Kalamarides noted that the BoS & BoE were given guidance by the BoF for their budgets and came in under that guidance. After his statement he proposed accepting both the BoS and BoE budgets as presented.

**Walter Kress:** Mr. Kress gave his statement. After his statement, he noted that in light of the shortfall in the grand list the BoS, BoE and taxpayers should share in the cost and proposes a 0% increase in both the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education Budget for FY20.

**Jeff Rutishauser:** Thanked the BoS & BoE for coming in with a budget under the suggested guidance by the BoF. He also commended the BoE and the Town for sharing key senior management functions improving both efficiencies and shared costs. Mr. Rutishauser then read his statement and proceeded to discussion of the budgets.

**Discussion of the Budgets**

**Estimated Revenues:**

**\$4.753M:** Motion made by Mr. Kalamarides to accept the numbers for estimated revenues. Mr. Balderston seconded. After discussion, motion carried 6-0.

**Debt Service:**

Debt service for the coming year is \$10.153M. Motion made by Mr. Balderston to approve debt service. Ms. Maher seconded and the motion carried 6-0

**Grand List Tax Collection Rate:**

Mr. Konigsberg made a motion to set the Tax Collection Rate at 99.3%. Mr. Kalamarides seconded. After discussion, motion carried 6-0.

**Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled:**

Tax relief for the elderly or disabled is estimated at \$1.2M which includes WVAC Georgetown at \$20,750. Motion moved by Mr. Balderston. Ms. Maher seconded. After discussion, motion carried 6-0.

**Board of Selectmen Operating Budget:**

Mr. Kalamarides made a motion that the Board of Selectmen's Operating Budget be \$32,801,407. Ms. Maher seconded. After discussion, motion was defeated 2-4 (Rutishauser, Balderston, Kress and Koenigsberg opposed).

Discussion on BoS Operating Budget and BoS Operating Capital Budget ensued. After discussion, motion made by Mr. Konigsberg to reduce the combined BoS Operating and Operating Capital budget by \$309,305 from the submitted amount. Motion second by Mr. Balderston and carried 4-2. (Kalamarides, Maher opposed)

**Board of Education Budget:**

Mr. Kalamarides made a motion that the Board of Education Budget be \$82,983,607. Ms. Maher seconded. After discussion, motion was defeated 2-4. (Rutishauser, Balderston, Kress and Koenigsberg opposed)

Motion made by Mr. Balderston to hold the BoE Operating Expense to 0% increase over last year. Motion seconded by Mr. Rutishauser. After discussion, motion carried 4-2. (Kalamarides, Maher opposed)

**Charter Authority:**

Mr. Balderston moved that Charter Authority be set to \$1,255,321 or 1% of the total operating budget. Mr. Koenigsberg seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

**General Fund Operating Fund Balance:**

Mr. Balderston moved that General Fund Operating Balance be set to \$126,787,380. Mr. Koenigsberg seconded and the motion passed 4-2. (Kalamarides, Maher opposed)

**Ending Fund Balance:**

Mr. Balderston moved that ending fund balance be set to \$2,851,773. Mr. Kress seconded. After discussion, motion passed 6-0.

**Mil Rate:**

With the above adjustments, the Mil rate is anticipated to be an increase of 1.24% over last year. Motion moved by Mr. Balderston to levy a mil rate of 1.24%, seconded by Mr. Koenigsberg and carried 6-0.

The official Resolutions will be discussed at the April 3, 2019 meeting.

Mr. Rutishauser then called for an adjournment of the meeting and to reconvene on April 3, 2019 at 7:30PM. Meeting adjourned at 9:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Rochester  
(from video recording)