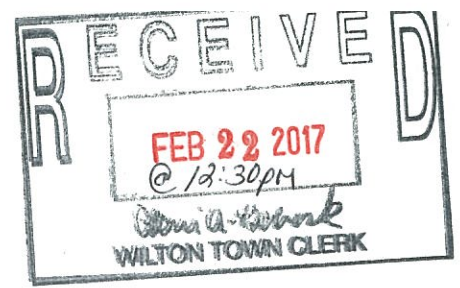


**BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING – February 13, 2017
WHS Professional Library**



PRESENT: Jeff Rutishauser, Richard Creeth, John Kalamarides, Walter Kress, Warren Serenbetz

ABSENT: Peter Balderston

Others Present: Board of Education, Anne Kelly-Lenz, CFO

Call to Order

Chairman Jeff Rutishauser called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Comments Prior to Budget Discussion

BOE Chairman Bruce Likly opened the discussion with the fiscal problems affecting Hartford that might negatively impact Wilton, necessitating painful cuts to municipal and educational programs. He felt that the potential cuts to the budget, already lean at 0% increase over last year's budget, would be "unfair to the kids."

FY18 Budget Discussion

Jeff Rutishauser noted that the budget that was reviewed by the BOF was the Superintendent's Recommended Budget and had therefore not yet been approved by the full BOE due to the snowstorm cancellation of the prior BOE meeting. However, the Superintendent's Budget was generally approved with little significant change so that the budget document and issues would be relevant even before BOE approval.

Discussion of the budget consisted of questions from BOF board members on topics in the FY18 Budget including staffing levels, Pre-K Program enrollment and addition resources required, the Milone and MacBroom (M&M) enrollment Forecast Report, extracurricular programs, senior class parking and revenue potential, cost and impact of the teacher coaching and evaluation program.

Two follow-up deliverables that Dr. Smith agreed to provide were 1) the updated M&M enrollment forecast number and 2) an analysis of the incremental cost of the expansion of the Pre-K program being included in the FY18 budget.

State Fiscal Situation and Impact on BOE Budget

John Kalamarides asked a question on how the BOE would react to the potential funding shortfalls coming from Hartford from the elimination of ECS and potentially sharing of teacher pension contributions.

Since the question related to the next agenda item, Chairman Likly called for a 2/3 vote to merge the discussion of the FY18 Budget and the next agenda item, State financing shortfalls, which was approved unanimously.

Since the state budget is still being debated in Hartford, there was general agreement that Wilton would have to prepare for potentially several scenarios of increasing shortfalls relative to last year's Town budget. Dick Huot, WPS Interim Finance Director, raised one of the areas of financial uncertainty on

Minutes have not been reviewed by this Board and may be subject to revision in future minutes.

how to account for the Excess Cost Sharing from SPED outplacements that has typically been around \$1 million but may not be included in the future.

The general view was that it is premature to determine what and how much state aid will be cut but that we should continue to work together as the state budget process goes forward and consider how we should meet various shortfalls.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Warren Serenbetz moved to adjourn and the meeting ended at 8:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Rutishauser