

Board of Finance
Mill Rate Discussion #2
April 7, 2010
minutes

Attending:

BoF Members: Jim Meinhold, Lynne Vanderslice, Warren Serenbetz, Andy Pforzheimer, Al Alper and Gail Lavielle

BoS Members: Bill Brennan

BoE Members: Karen Birck, Barbara Myers, Gil Bray, Bruce Likly and Richard Dubow

Wilton Public Schools Administration: Gary Richards, Timothy Canty, Ken Post, Julia Harris and Nancy Hasenauer

Wilton Town Employees: Sandy Dennies, CFO, Bill Tanner and David Hartman (Wilton Police, off duty), Rich McArdle, Finance, Mark Amatrudo and Paul Milositz (Fire Dept.) and Sarah Taffel, Human Resources.

Wilton Citizens: Marilyn Gould (also P&Z for Wilton), Joan Lownds (Wilton Bulletin), Karis Miller, Sybille Kinley, Tiffany Tecce and Christian Camerota (Wilton Patch)

Call to Order:

Chairman Warren Serenbetz called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. He stated the purpose of the meeting was round two of deliberations on the mill rate for Budget 2011. There would be no opportunity for public comment.

Budget 2011 Discussions:

Mr. Serenbetz confirmed the agreed upon assumptions regarding revenue, collection rate and ending fund balance made during Tuesday night's meeting were run through the mill rate model. These numbers also included the decided upon cuts of \$1.2million to the BoE budget and \$500,000 in cuts to the BoS budget. The result was a mill rate increase of 2.88%.

Mr. Meinhold stated based on Tuesday night's discussion, 3.0% was the BoF's consensus as the number for an affordable and acceptable mill rate. Now that the actual number appears lower at 2.88% he proposed putting back \$100,000 to get up to 3.0%. Mr. Pforzheimer agreed.

Mr. Serenbetz believed the 2.88% was close enough so leave it as is without adding back money. Mr. Meinhold strongly believed \$100,000 would make a difference in possibly one more teacher or firefighter and it would be hypocritical to not go up to 3.0%.

Ms. Vanderslice agreed with Mr. Meinhold saying his argument was compelling and it would be consistent to put back \$100,000 on a pro-rata basis. She also commented she remains concerned there is \$2 million in 2010 revenue that can't be counted on going forward.

Mr. Alper, who initially wanted a mill rate increase of below 2% but acknowledged it was unrealistic, agreed looking at the larger picture \$100,000 was important.

Ms. Lavielle believed the BoF had arrived at what the town could cut of \$1.7 million and didn't want to load the town with more than was needed so opted for the 2.88% increase.

Mr. Pforzheimer agreed with the idea if the mill rate number had increased above 3% and required more cuts it was only right with the number below 3% to put money back.

Mr. Alper stated he may have reconsidered the Ending Fund Balance. Mr. Serenbetz suggested putting \$100,000 back, split evenly and taking the same amount out of the Ending Fund Balance. Both Ms. Vanderslice and Ms. Lavielle were opposed to this idea.

Mr. Brennan suggested splitting the difference and restoring \$50,000 to the budget. The board agreed and the meeting was adjourned temporarily at 7:55pm to re-run the numbers.

The meeting reconvened at 8:12pm. The mill rate was set at 2.94% after adding back \$50,000 on a pro-rata basis to the BoE (71%) and the BoS (29%).

The 14 Resolutions necessary to go to the Annual Town Meeting were all passed, each with a vote of 6 yes , 0 no and 0 abstentions. (See attached pages.)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Roberts
Recording Secretary

Board of Finance Vote on the FY 2011 Budget
Special Meeting of April 7, 2010

- 1. Estimated Revenues:** Jim Meinhold moved and Lynne Vanderslice seconded that estimated FY2011 revenues, excluding current property taxes, be set at \$5,512,986 consisting of the revenue sources and amounts listed below: (Not necessary to read list).

Supplemental Motor Vehicle Taxes	\$ 375,000
Back Taxes	250,000
Tax Liens and Interest	190,000
Grants for Education	2,422,254
Other Grants	868,612
Licenses, Permits, Fees and Other	1,027,210
Interest on Investments	100,000
Total	\$ 5,512,986

Ayes: 6 Nays:0 Abstentions: 0

- 2. Debt Service:** Lynne Vanderslice moved and Warren Serenbetz seconded that \$8,473,182 be appropriated for Debt Service.

Ayes: 6 Nays:0 Abstentions: 0

- 3. Board of Education:** Warren Serenbetz moved and Andy Pforzheimer seconded that \$70,291,250 be appropriated for the Board of Education operating budget.

Ayes: 6 Nays:0 Abstentions: 0

- 4. Board of Selectmen Operating:** Andy Pforzheimer moved and Al Alper seconded that \$27,522,596 be appropriated for the Board of Selectmen's operating budget.

Ayes: 6 Nays:0 Abstentions: 0

- 5. Board of Selectmen Capital:** Al Alper moved and Gail Lavielle seconded that \$1,331,805 be appropriated for the Board of Selectmen's total capital.

Ayes: 6 Nays:0 Abstentions: 0

- 6. Charter Authority:** Gail Lavielle moved and Jim Meinhold seconded that \$269,047 be appropriated for the Board of Selectmen, and \$807,141 be appropriated for the Board of Finance

Ayes: 6 Nays:0 Abstentions: 0

7. **Tax Relief:** Jim Meinhold moved and Lynne Vanderslice seconded that tax relief for the elderly or disabled be estimated at \$ 850,000.
Ayes: 6 Nays:0 Abstentions: 0
8. **Ending Fund Balance:** Lynne Vanderslice moved and Warren Serenbetz seconded that the June 30, 2011 estimated General Fund Balance be set at \$10,937,296 which is 10.6% of budgeted revenues, and that \$13,828,606 of the estimated June 30, 2010 fund balance be used to finance the FY 2011 budget.
Ayes: 6 Nays:0 Abstentions: 0
9. Warren Serenbetz moved and Andy Pforzheimer seconded a motion to recommend to the Annual Town Meeting a Fiscal 2011 General Fund budget of \$108,695,022.
Ayes: 6 Nays:0 Abstentions: 0
10. Andy Pforzheimer moved and Al Alper seconded that the estimated rate of tax collections due on the October 1, 2009 Net Taxable Grand List of \$5,058,482,712 be set at 99.2%.
Ayes: 6 Nays:0 Abstentions: 0
11. Al Alper moved and Gail Lavielle seconded a motion to levy a tax of 20.16 mills on the Net Taxable Grand List of October 1, 2009 and that the tax be payable one-half on July 1, 2010 and one-half on January 1, 2011, except for bills of \$100 or less, and for personal property taxes on automobiles, which shall be payable in one installment on July 1, 2010.
Ayes: 6 Nays:0 Abstentions: 0
12. Gail Lavielle moved and Jim Meinhold seconded a motion to bond for Miller Driscoll design for roofing and siding in the amount of \$250,000
Ayes: 6 Nays:0 Abstentions: 0
13. Jim Meinhold moved and Lynne Vanderslice seconded a motion to bond for Middlebrook roof design in the amount of \$150,000
Ayes: 6 Nays:0 Abstentions: 0
14. Lynne Vanderslice moved and Warren Serenbetz seconded a motion to bond for Middlebrook exterior window replacement in the amount of \$550,000
Ayes: 6 Nays:0 Abstentions: 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM