

**BOARD OF FINANCE  
PUBLIC HEARING ON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN FY22 BUDGET  
March 30, 2021  
7:00 P.M.  
HELD ELECTRONICALLY**

**PRESENT**

**Board of Finance:** Jeff Rutishauser, Michael Kaelin, Stewart Koenigsberg, Kevin Gardiner, Chris Stroup, Sandra Arkell

**Board of Selectmen:** First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice, Lori Bufano, Joshua Cole, Deborah McFadden, Ross Tartell

**ALSO PRESENT:** Anne Kelly-Lenz (Wilton CFO), members of the public

Board of Finance Chairman Jeff Rutishauser called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Rutishauser introduced the Board of Finance. He noted that there will be two presentations by the Board of Finance and by the Board of Selectmen followed by an opening to the public for their comments on the Board of Selectmen FY22 budget.

Mr. Rutishauser began reviewing the attached BoF presentation.

At the conclusion of Mr. Rutishauser's presentation, he noted that there would be Mill Rate Deliberations taking place on April 6-8, 2021 and the Annual Town Meeting on May 8, 2021. Mr. Rutishauser concluded his comments at approximately 7:06 p.m., at which time he introduced First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice.

Ms. Vanderslice introduced the members of the Board of Selectmen and thanked those in attendance and those that are watching the meeting from home. She thanked the department heads and all employees for all their service and all their efforts in giving to the community. Her presentation (attached) reviewed the FY22 BOS Budget. The BoS is requesting a budget of 33,485,485, which is 1.73% increase vs the FY2021 approved budget, .98% decrease vs the FY2020 budget and a 2-year average annual decrease of .49%.

At approximately 7:18 p.m. Mr. Rutishauser opened the floor to public comment.

There being no comments from the public, the hearing adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Rochester  
(from video recording)

Att: Board of Finance presentation  
Board of Selectmen presentation

# BOARD OF FINANCE

## FY 22 BUDGET PRESENTATION

- FY22 Budget Highlights
- Role of BOF in Town Budget
- FY22 Budget Summary
- Two -Year Budget Comparison
- BOF Budget Approval Process

# FY 22 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- BOE budget request is \$84.8 million (2.99% increase)
- BOS budget request is \$33.5 million (1.73% increase)
- Debt Service is \$9.2 million (2.32% increase)
- Total Operating Requirement is \$128.8 million (1.21% increase)
- Tax Relief for Elderly/Disabled remains \$1.23 Million
- Total Funding Requirement is \$120.7 million (3.70% increase)
- Net Taxable Grand List (Collectable) increased by 1.34%
- Mill Rate increased to **28.1013** (2.33% increase)

# FY 22 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

## (CONTINUED)

- FY22 General Fund balance is set at 10.0% of Town Operating Budget
- Reserves returned a normal (pre-COVID) level of \$1.28 million
- Other (Non-Tax) Revenues are up \$1,094,000, mainly from:
  - Higher collection of Tax Liens (+\$100,000)
  - Education Grants from State (+\$462,000)
  - Higher Licenses, Permits & Fees (+\$402,000)
- Pension is funded at 96% of liabilities as of June 30, 2020
- Moody's reaffirmed Wilton's Aaa bond rating – February 2021

# THE ROLE OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE IN THE TOWN BUDGET

- The BOF is required to hold hearings on BOE and BOS budget requests
- The BOF will evaluate BOE and BOS budgets and recommend the FY22 Budget and associated Mill Rate to the Annual Town Meeting
- The BOF considers the following when developing the Mill Rate:
  1. The views of the Town's citizens expressed through direct communication (*boardoffinance@wiltonCT.org*)
  2. The financial resources of the Town
  3. Whether the BOE and the BOS can find savings in their respective budget requests
  4. The appropriateness of revenue, debt service and General Fund balance amounts

# FY 22 BUDGET SUMMARY

## \$ Thousands

	FY 21 BUDGET	FY 22 REQUEST	\$ FROM FY 21	% FROM FY 21
Education	82,345	84,804	2,460	2.99%
Selectmen (Operating & Capital)	32,915	33,485	570	1.73%
Debt Service	9,015	9,224	209	2.32%
Reserves**	2,969	1,275	(1,694)	(57.0)%
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>127,244</b>	<b>128,789</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>1.21%</b>
Tax Relief for Elderly & Disabled	1,231	1,231	--	0.00%
Non-tax Revenue	(4,349)	(5,444)	1,094	25.2%
Drawdown of excess fund balance	(7,719)	(3,858)	(3,861)	(50.0)%
<b>TOTAL TO BE FUNDED FROM PROPERTY TAX</b>	<b>116,406</b>	<b>120,717</b>	<b>4,312</b>	<b>3.70%</b>
Grand List (Collectable)	4,238,870	4,295,817	1,564	1.34%
Collection Rate	99.0%	99.3%		0.3%
<b>REQUIRED MILL RATE</b>	<b>27.4616</b>	<b>28.1013</b>	<b>2,748</b>	<b>2.33%</b>

\*\* FY21 Reserves reflect significant increase due to COVID concerns – FY22 Reserves are return to Pre-COVID normal reserves set at 1% of Operating Budget

# TWO -YEAR BUDGET COMPARISON

## FY20 vs. FY22

	FY 20 APPROVED	FY 22 REQUEST	% FROM FY 20
Education	82,345	84,804	3.0%
Selectmen (Operating & Capital)	33,816	33,485	(1.0)%
<b>REQUIRED MILL RATE</b>	<b>28.5373</b>	<b>28.1013</b>	<b>(1.5)%</b>

Compared to last Pre-COVID Year, FY22 Mill Rate Lower than FY20

# BOARD OF FINANCE FY22 BUDGET APPROVAL PROCESS

March 29 & 30	Board of Finance Public Hearings to Discuss & Recommend FY22 Budget. Hearings will be held via Zoom Webinar. Meeting access link will be posted on Town website
April 6-8	Board of Finance holds Budget and Mill Rate Deliberation Meetings
May 8	Annual Town Meeting to vote on BOF Budget and Mill Rate Recommendations

# BOF Public Hearing

## Board of Selectmen FY2022 Proposed Budget

March 30, 2021

Board of Selectmen Members:

First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice

Second Selectwoman Lori Bufano

Joshua Cole, Deborah McFadden, Ross Tartell

## BUDGET OVERVIEW

### Three Primary Budget Goals

- ***Continued efforts to provide the quality services Wilton residents and businesses expect at the lowest possible cost.***
- ***Continued efforts to ensure the health and safety of the community throughout the pandemic and pandemic recovery.***
- **Increased Investment in the Future.**
  - The permanent reductions we have made to the ongoing cost of town government now allow us to*
  - Invest to modernize services and meet increased technology based needs.
  - Increase our investment in the town's infrastructure.
  - Invest in master planning.

## BUDGET OVERVIEW

**The FY2022 BOS Requested Budget Totals \$33,485,485**

which is a

**1.73% increase vs the FY2021 approved budget**

**(.98%) decrease vs the FY2020 budget\***

**2-year average annual decrease of (.49%.)**

(in thousands)					
	<b>FY2020</b>	<b>FY2021</b>	<b>FY2022</b>	<b>FY2022</b>	<b>FY2022</b>
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>v FY2021</b>	<b>v FY2020</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 32,542</b>	<b>\$ 32,097</b>	<b>\$ 32,210</b>	<b>0.35%</b>	<b>-1.02%</b>
<b>Operating Capital</b>	<b>\$ 1,274</b>	<b>\$ 819</b>	<b>\$ 1,275</b>	<b>55.68%</b>	<b>0.08%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 33,816</b>	<b>\$ 32,916</b>	<b>\$ 33,485</b>	<b>1.73%</b>	<b>-0.98%</b>

*\*FY2020 Approved Budget plus additional appropriation from reserves for the purchase of a fire truck*

## BUDGET OVERVIEW

### *EXPENSE CATEGORY as a % of the TOTAL REQUESTED BUDGET*

	2021	%	2022	%
	Budget	Budget	Request	Request
Wages	\$ 14,412,101	44%	\$ 14,802,680	44%
Medical	\$ 3,819,266	12%	\$ 3,367,943	10%
All Other Benefits	\$ 3,551,368	11%	\$ 3,629,506	11%
Workman's Comp & Other Ins	\$ 765,311	2%	\$ 656,397	2%
Utilities	\$ 888,563	3%	\$ 826,796	2%
Wilton Library Grant	\$ 2,737,846	8%	\$ 2,722,000	8%
All Other Operating Costs	\$ 5,922,857	18%	\$ 6,204,930	19%
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	\$ 32,097,312	98%	\$ 32,210,252	96%
<i>Operating Capital</i>	\$ 818,412	2%	\$ 1,275,233	4%
Total	\$ 32,915,724	100%	\$ 33,485,485	100%

## BUDGET OVERVIEW

### *Drivers of the Requested Budget Increase*

	FY2022R v	%
	FY2021B	change
Restored Expenses Temporarily Eliminated or Deferred in FY2021	\$ 396,010	1.20%
Pandemic Related Spill Over Costs	\$ 103,000	0.31%
New Initiatives	\$ 202,800	0.62%
Wage Increases	\$ 396,000	1.20%
<i>Primary Drivers</i>	\$ 1,097,810	3.34%
Medical Cost Savings	\$ (451,323)	-1.37%
All Other Costs	\$ (76,725)	-0.23%
Total Requested Increase	\$ 569,762	1.73%

**BUDGET OVERVIEW*****FY2021 Eliminated/Deferred Expenses Restored in the Requested Budget***

First Selectwoman Temporary Salary Reduction	\$ 32,250
Road Salt	\$ 100,000
Merwin Meadows Swimming Program	\$ 81,760
Senior Center Entertainment	\$ 12,000
Tree Pruning and Removal	\$ 70,000
Subtotal Operating Expenses	\$ 296,010
DPW Operating Capital Deferral	\$ 100,000
Total Restored Expenses	\$ 396,010

**BUDGET OVERVIEW**

***New Initiatives Included In the FY2022 Requested Budget***

Master Planning	\$ 150,000
Summer Hours River/Trail Clean Up	\$ 10,800
Digitizing Wetland Mapping	\$ 12,000
Social Service Financial Assistance	\$ 10,000
Technology Projects-Temporary Help	\$ 20,000
	<u>\$ 202,800</u>

## BUDGET OVERVIEW

### *REQUESTED BUDGET BY EXPENSE CATEGORY*

	2021	2022	2022R	%
	Budget	Request	vs 2021B	change
Wages	\$ 14,412,101	\$ 14,802,680	\$ 390,579	2.71%
Medical	\$ 3,819,266	\$ 3,367,943	\$ (451,323)	-11.82%
All Other Benefits	\$ 3,551,368	\$ 3,629,506	\$ 78,138	2.20%
Workman's Comp & Other Ins	\$ 765,311	\$ 656,397	\$ (108,914)	-14.23%
Utilities	\$ 888,563	\$ 826,796	\$ (61,767)	-6.95%
Wilton Library Grant*	\$ 2,737,846	\$ 2,722,000	\$ (15,846)	-0.58%
All Other Operating Costs	\$ 5,922,857	\$ 6,204,930	\$ 282,073	4.76%
Operating Capital	\$ 818,412	\$ 1,275,233	\$ 456,821	55.82%
Total	\$ 32,915,724	\$ 33,485,485	\$ 569,761	1.73%

***DRAFT Five-Year Bonded Capital Plan***

Department	Project	2022-May	2022-Nov	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Public Works	Road Restoration	1,500,000		3,000,000	3,060,000	3,121,200	3,183,700	13,864,900
		(5 miles)*		(10 miles)	(10 miles)	(10 miles)	(10 miles)	
	Bridge Replacement	538,000		714,600	538,200	354,600	347,800	2,493,200
	Catch Basin Truck			450,000				450,000
		2,038,000		4,164,600	3,598,200	3,475,800	3,531,500	16,808,100
Police	Building		15,000,000					15,000,000
								0
		0	15,000,000	0	0	0	0	15,000,000
Town Wide	Emergency Radio System		2,500,000					2,500,000
								0
		0	2,500,000	0	0	0	0	2,500,000
Town Hall								
		0		1,500,000	0	0	0	1,500,000
Fire	Replacement Aerial Truck	1,600,000		0				1,600,000
	Replacement Engine				600,000			600,000
	Multi agency/use training structure					310,000		310,000
		1,600,000		0	600,000	310,000	0	2,510,000
Parks & Recreation	Middlebrook Tennis Courts	305,000						305,000
	Stadium Track Replacement							0
		305,000		0	0	0	0	305,000
BOE	District Roof Replacements	600,000		500,000	500,000	500,000		2,100,000
	Middlebrook and Cider Mill HVAC Replac/Add Service			100,000	1,000,000	1,000,000		2,100,000
								0
		600,000		600,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	0	4,200,000
	Total Bonded	4,543,000	17,500,000	6,264,600	5,698,200	5,285,800	3,531,500	42,823,100