

**BOARD OF FINANCE  
PUBLIC HEARING ON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN FY24 BUDGET**

**March 21, 2023**

**7:00 P.M.**

**COMSTOCK COMMUNITY CENTER – RM 31 & Via ZOOM**

**PRESENT**

**Board of Finance:** Michael Kaelin, Matthew Raimondi, Chris Stroup, Richard Santosky, Stewart Koenigsberg (via zoom), Sandra Arkell

**Board of Selectmen:** First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice, Joshua Cole, Kimberley Healy, Basam Nabulsi, Ross Tartell

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dawn Norton (Wilton CFO), members of the public

Board of Finance Chairman Michael Kaelin called the Public Hearing to order at 7:08 p.m. He noted that all members of the Board of Finance were present with Mr. Koenigsberg participating via zoom. He proceeded to give an overview of the entire town budget (see attached) and then invited the First Selectwoman to review the BOS budget.

At the conclusion of Mr. Kaelin's presentation, he noted that there would be Budget Deliberations taking place on April 3-4, 2023 and the Annual Town Meeting would be on May 2, 2023 with adjourned voting taking place on May 6, 2023. Mr. Kaelin concluded his comments and he introduced First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice.

Ms. Vanderslice began her review on the FY2024 BOS Budget. The BOS is requesting a total operating budget, including operating capital, of \$34,673,595, which is 2.15% increase vs the FY2023 approved budget.

After the First Selectwoman's presentation Mr. Kaelin opened the floor to public comment on the budget. Eight residents commented with Ms. Vanderslice providing answers to questions posed:

Deborah McFadden of Westport Rd  
Rem Bigosinki of Old Boston Rd  
James Van Acker of Portland Ave  
Warren Serenbetz of Signal Hill Rd  
Andrew Maria of Belden Hill Rd  
Michael Salit of Bristol Place  
Richard Berghaus of Langner Lane  
Sara Curtis of Cannon Rd

There being nothing further, the BOF voted unanimously to adjourn the hearing at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Rochester  
(from video recording)

Att: Board of Finance presentation  
Board of Selectmen presentation

# BOARD OF FINANCE

## FY 24 BUDGET PRESENTATION

- FY24 Budget Highlights
- Role of BOF in Town Budget
- BOF Budget Approval Process for FY24

## FY 24 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- BOE budget request increased by \$3,903,830 to \$90,581,692 (4.50% increase)
- BOS operating and capital budget request increased a total of \$730,231 to \$34,673,595 (2.15% increase)
- Debt Service is up \$1,329,750 (14.73% increase)
- Tax Relief for Elderly/Disabled is down \$110,000 (1.03% decrease)
- Other Revenues decreased by \$181,092 (3.24% decrease)

## **FY 24 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

**(CONTINUED)**

- **Total Funds Required increased by \$6,023,449 to \$136,966,349 (4.6% increase)**
- **Net Taxable Grand List (Collectable) increased by \$44,826,930 to \$4,402,822,211 (1.03% increase)**
- **Mill Rate increased by 1.6049 to 29.8338 (5.69% increase)**
- **FY24 General Fund balance is set at 10.0% of Town Operating Budget**

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

- The BOF is required to hold hearings on both the BOE and BOS budget requests
- The BOF considers the following when developing the Mill Rate:
  1. The views of the Town's citizens
  2. The financial resources of the Town
  3. The extent to which, in the Board of Finance's collective judgment, the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen can find savings within their respective budget requests
  4. The appropriateness of revenue, debt service and General Fund balance amounts

## BOARD OF FINANCE FY24 BUDGET APPROVAL PROCESS

April 3, 4 and 10	Board of Finance Meetings to Discuss & Recommend FY24 Budget
May 2	Annual Town Meeting 7:00 PM Clune Center at the High School
May 6	Continued voting at the Clune Center from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM