

Board of Finance Special Meeting
Wednesday September 14, 2022 6:00 pm

Present- Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick, Fran Goodsell, Tegan Gawel, Rufus deRham

Zoom- Jason Wright

Public and Invited Guests- Jean Speck, Barbara Herbst, Scott Trabucco, John Grant, Lynn Harrington, Lynn Worthington, Eric Epstein

Chairman Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes-Motion by Mr deRham, seconded by Ms Goodsell to accept the minutes of the July 20, 2022 meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Public Comment on agenda items- Lynn Worthington asked that when people are speaking to please move closer to microphone

Correspondence- numerous letters read (attached)

Reports:

- a. **Board of Education-** non profit enrichment program formed. Applied for a grant w/ All Star transportation for electric buses. Got 1 full size bus and charging station in each town of Reg 1
- b. **Tax Collector-**no report
- c. **Board of Selectman-**First Selectman Ms Speck
 1. StreetScape project-spending lots of time answering questions and trouble shooting
 2. Met with John Worthington coming up with ADA compliance checklist for the Swift House. Need to come up with an implementation plan with dollar figures
 3. Swift House survey to close tomorrow night

4. Cell tower-no updates. Unable to get a response from cell tower company
- d. **Treasurer-** attached
 1. Line item over run policy is something for the BoS to handle, not BoF according to town counsel
 2. Capital Plan Policy-template been provided

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **BOE School Resource Officer proposal** - lengthy discussion and question of the process of appropriating the funds. Decision held off until talk of EMS funding could be talked about.
- b. **EMS Staffing-** current trending shows \$130,000 budgeted amount will not be enough. Treasurer recommends appropriating \$100,000 to be voted on by the town at the same time they vote on the school SRO proposal.

MOTION: by Mr deRham, second by Ms O'Dea-Wyrick, Pursuant to the BOE and BOS I recommend that we appropriate \$200,000 specified for the SRO program to go to a town vote

yes-Rufus deRham, Tegan Gawel, Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick, Fran Goodsell
no-Jason Wright

Motion carries

MOTION: by Mr deRham, second by Ms Goodsell, Recommend an additional appropriation of \$100,000 for the contracted expenditure for EMS Staffing cost

Motion carries unanimously

c. Capital Spending Policy- tabled until October meeting

New Business: none

.Public Comment- Thank you from John Grant

October meeting-Park and Rec will be here with an update, update on teacher negotiations, and will need to accept Mr Blackketters resignation from BOF and the process for filling his position

Motion to adjourn by Mr deRham at 7:29

Next meeting- October 20, 2022 @ 6 pm

Minutes are not considered final until approved. Please check the ensuing meeting minutes for corrections/changes.

Bonnie Donzella
Board Clerk

Treasurer's Report

9/14/2022

	May		June	
A/P Checks Issued	112	174,567	169	852,051
Payroll	116	88,118	157	149,815
BoE Transactions	67	356,924	100	660,335
Deposits	12	163,251	26	206,716
Net Income to Expense	307	(456,358)	452	(1,455,485)

FY 2021 -2022

	Actual	Budget	% of Budget	Variance to budget
Income	\$ 13,245,243	\$ 13,336,529	99.32%	\$ 91,286
				\$ -
A · General Government	\$ 1,365,842	\$ 1,438,279	94.96%	\$ 72,437
B · Public Safety	\$ 400,606	\$ 403,610	99.26%	\$ 3,004
C · Public Works	\$ 1,627,703	\$ 1,797,611	90.55%	\$ 169,908
D · Health and Welfare	\$ 118,057	\$ 126,181	93.56%	\$ 8,124
E · Recreation	\$ 151,756	\$ 216,391	70.13%	\$ 64,635
F · Sanitation	\$ 127,394	\$ 144,154	88.37%	\$ 16,760
G · Board of Education	\$ 6,999,684	\$ 7,196,556	97.26%	\$ 196,872
H · Debt Service	\$ 38,906	\$ 38,906	100.0%	\$ -
I · Transfer to Capital	\$ 1,001,341	\$ 1,001,341	100.0%	\$ -
J · Transfer to Dog Fund	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	100.0%	\$ -
L · Transfer to Schaghticoke	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	100.0%	\$ -
K · Current Year Capital Projects	\$ 936,000	\$ 936,000	100.0%	\$ -
Total Expense	\$ 12,804,790	\$ 13,336,529	96.01%	\$ 440,454

Notes

\$ 440,454 **Preliminary Budget Surplus**

Revenue Highlights

\$ 167,255 **Property taxes and interested collections exceeded budgeted amounts**

\$ 14,231 **State payments exceeded budgeted amounts**

\$ 89,697 **Town Clerk recording fees and collections exceeded budgeted amounts**

\$ 20,625 **KCS Tuition payments exceeded budgeted amounts**

\$ 16,676 **P/R fees exceeded budgeted amounts**

\$ (12,346) **Interest on Investments fell short of budgeted amounts**

\$ 486,250 **Amount of appropriated UGFB not used**

ARPA Application Status Report

Total Pool of funding	\$	400,000	
Direct Recommended Allocations	\$	(57,000)	NFP
Balance to Distribute	\$	343,000	

Total Applications Received		51	
Individual and Families		15	
Small Business		12	
NFP		24	

Funding requests through Applications		\$ 472,681	
Individual and Families	\$	75,000	
Small Business	\$	105,300	
NFP	\$	292,381	

Funding released TD		\$63,500	
Individual and Families	\$33,500		7
Small Business	\$30,000		3
NFP	0		



Barbara Herbst <treasurer@townofkentct.org>

KVFD contract with ERM (Emergency Resource Management)

1 message

Barbara Herbst <treasurer@townofkentct.org>

Fri, Aug 19, 2022 at 4:09 PM

To: Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick <nodeawyrick@gmail.com>, Jean Conlon Speck <firstselectman@townofkentct.org>, Rufus DeRham <Rufuspderham@townofkentct.org>, Glenn Sanchez <Glennsanchez@townofkentct.org>

Hello everyone,

I was given a copy of the attached contract between the KVFD and ERM (Emergency Resource Management) for the term 8.2.22 through 12.31.23.

Observations:

- a) 7% increase in fees - to my knowledge, town management had no seat at that table
- b) trending shows that staffing average is one person 24 hrs a day, seven days a week
- b) trending FY expenditure of \$332,847
- c) budgeted amount is \$130,000, based on the trending, the appropriation will be exhausted in mid October

A discussion needs to be started now, before budget season begins.

Questions:

What is the municipal requirement?

What are the options?

What level of expenditure without municipal oversight is appropriate?

Is it cost effective to continue the outsourcing of staffing for this service?

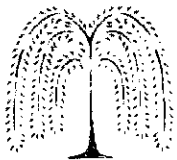
What will be the indicator of taking the expenditure and the responsibility "in house"?

What would be the process for taking the responsibility "in house"?

Who is responsible for formulating a plan?

What is the plan?

Is the plan as simple as maintaining the status quo?

**Barbara E Herbst**

Treasurer, Town of Kent

860 927 0109 | treasurer@townofkentct.org

PO Box 678

Kent CT 06757

<https://www.townofkentct.org/>



Click to schedule a meeting



FY '23 ERM contract with KVFD.pdf

1582K



Barbara Herbst <treasurer@townofkentct.org>

Kent SRO / Referendum

1 message

Barbara Herbst <treasurer@townofkentct.org>

Fri, Aug 26, 2022 at 4:48 PM

To: Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick <nodeawyrick@gmail.com>, Fran Goodsell <fmgoodsell2@yahoo.com>, Tegan Gawel <tegangawel@gmail.com>, Jason Wright <jasonwright@mindspring.com>, Rufus de Rham <rufusde@gmail.com>, Jim Blackketter <jim@blackketter.com>, Jean Conlon Speck <firstselectman@townofkentct.org>, Rufus DeRham <Rufuspderham@townofkentct.org>, Glenn Sanchez <Glennsanchez@townofkentct.org>, Scott Trabucco <trabucco@kentcenter.com>, Lisa Carter <lcarter@region1schools.org>, Michelle Mott <mottm@kentcenter.com>, Darlene Brady <townclerk@townofkentct.org>, ROV - Registrar of Voters <registrar@townofkentct.org>
 Cc: Deborah Devaux <taxcollector@townofkentct.org>, Jennifer Dubray <assessor@townofkentct.org>, Donna Hayes <landuseadmin@townofkentct.org>, Joyce Kearns <adminassist@townofkentct.org>, Park and Recreation Director <ParkandRec@townofkentct.org>, Rick Osborne <publicworks@townofkentct.org>, Leah Pullaro <socialservices@townofkentct.org>, Barbara Herbst <treasurer@townofkentct.org>

Dear everyone,

The First Selectman and I had a conference call with Town Counsel (Attorney DiBella) today regarding the referendum question necessary to address the SRO request of the BoE.

In the absence of a formal clear recommendation of an appropriation from the Board of Finance, there is no proper matter for holding a referendum at this time.

The issue of whether or not an SRO is a suitable expenditure is an operational decision and is an affair or situation to be considered by the Board of Selectmen, it is **not** a referendum question.

The BoF, at their July 20th meeting, did not make a recommendation of an appropriation suitable to be taken to a Town Meeting or referendum for consideration of the electors and citizens.

The BoE and the BoS have already determined this is an expenditure that is worthy of funding and pursuant to CGS **Sec. 7-348**, the Board of Finance has two options, which I paraphrase below;

- a) BoF can convene and make a motion to recommend the expenditure to the Taxpayers and subsequently the approval of said appropriation will be brought before the electors and citizens for consideration.
- b) The BoF may call a public hearing at which interested parties and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard so that the board may obtain information to assist in making its recommendation or lack thereof.



Barbara E Herbst

Treasurer, Town of Kent

860 927 0109 | treasurer@townofkentct.org

PO Box 678

Kent CT 06757

From: **Elizabeth Bernard** <ebarnard1120@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Sep 6, 2022 at 1:27 PM

Subject: BOF email

To: Joyce Kearns <adminassist@townofkentct.org>

Hi Joyce,

Could you please forward the following to the BOF?

Thanks,

Biz

Dear Board of Finance,

I am unable to make the meeting on the 14th, as KCS has Open House. I am writing you to share my support of funding an SRO for Kent Center School. I am asking that you allow the request for funding to be sent to a town vote. As a teacher at KCS and the mother of a KCS student, I believe this would have a substantial positive impact on our school community. Not only will this create a safer school environment, but having a resource officer would provide valuable opportunities for students to become comfortable and familiar with our trooper.

I worked as a teacher in Salisbury for 7 years, where the resident trooper implemented the DARE program. Not only did I witness the important conversations about decision-making between the fifth graders and our trooper but I was able to see the relationship develop throughout the year. Trooper Sorrell frequently had lunch with students, was outside at recess, and was a constant familiar face throughout the building. I saw students look up to Trooper Sorrell and saw him as a safe adult to go to. I believe this would also be the case when adding a state trooper as SRO at Kent Center. As a teacher, I am constantly making decisions based on what I believe is best for our students. I do believe that hiring a trooper as SRO would be in the best interest of our students and the KCS community.

Please send the request for an SRO/2nd town trooper to a town vote.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Bernard



Barbara Herbst <treasurer@townofkentct.org>

Fwd: SRO/2nd Resident Trooper

Bonnie Donzella <BOFClerk@townofkentct.org>
To: Barbara Herbst <treasurer@townofkentct.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 6:01 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **michele fusco** <shelzie442@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Sep 6, 2022 at 7:17 PM
Subject: SRO/2nd Resident Trooper
To: <BOFClerk@townofkentct.org>

Board of Finance,

I will not be able to attend the meeting on the the request for an SRO/2nd Resident Trooper to a town vote. I would like to say that we owe our children, parents, and staff a little bit of security at the least. These times are so unpredictable ! No one is immune from the wreckless actions that we have seen over the course of the past years/months that have befallen our children and teachers in a place that should be a safe haven for them. An armed security guard at KCS should be the least that we can do to protect our most precious cargo. Most other schools in the area have had at least one security guard, full time, for years now. I think it's definately time we follow suit.

Truly,

Michele Fusco

Kent, Connecticut | Sept. 11, 2022

Board of Finance Meeting Regarding KCS SRO/2nd Trooper

Kelley Zylstra

Greetings,

I am a mother of two school-aged children who attend Kent Center School and have resided in South Kent for the last 6 years.

I was born and raised in Chicago from the 1980's through 2000, arguably the height of both gang and homicide violence, and has long been regarded as the most gang-occupied city in the United States. Even back in the 90's, my public K-12 schools had more measures installed in attempt to protect children from gun-related violence, including school resource officers, metal detectors, and K9's frequently visiting. The fact that any school/district in Connecticut, in this decade, is less so equipped and lagging on all available measures to provide a safe learning environment is an incredible lack of oversight and disregard for one of our more vulnerable communities.

School children have been confronted with specific safety issues of their era throughout history, whether it was Cold War drills, pandemics even before the age of Covid-19, D.A.R.E., gang awareness, fire safety and the like. We've always done everything in our power in order to prevent, prepare and mitigate such concerns. Gun violence in the school setting remains one of the biggest ongoing safety issues for our children in their learning environments today. I think it would be a misstep if we do not provide all the available safety measures currently available. Not any one single safety measure eliminates the threat, however, combining the tools and resources we have available might help to mitigate an unimaginable disaster, such as a school shooting, from happening to our own small town.

Gun violence in the K-12 setting has only been maintaining or increasing its incidence in our country over the years (Figure 1).

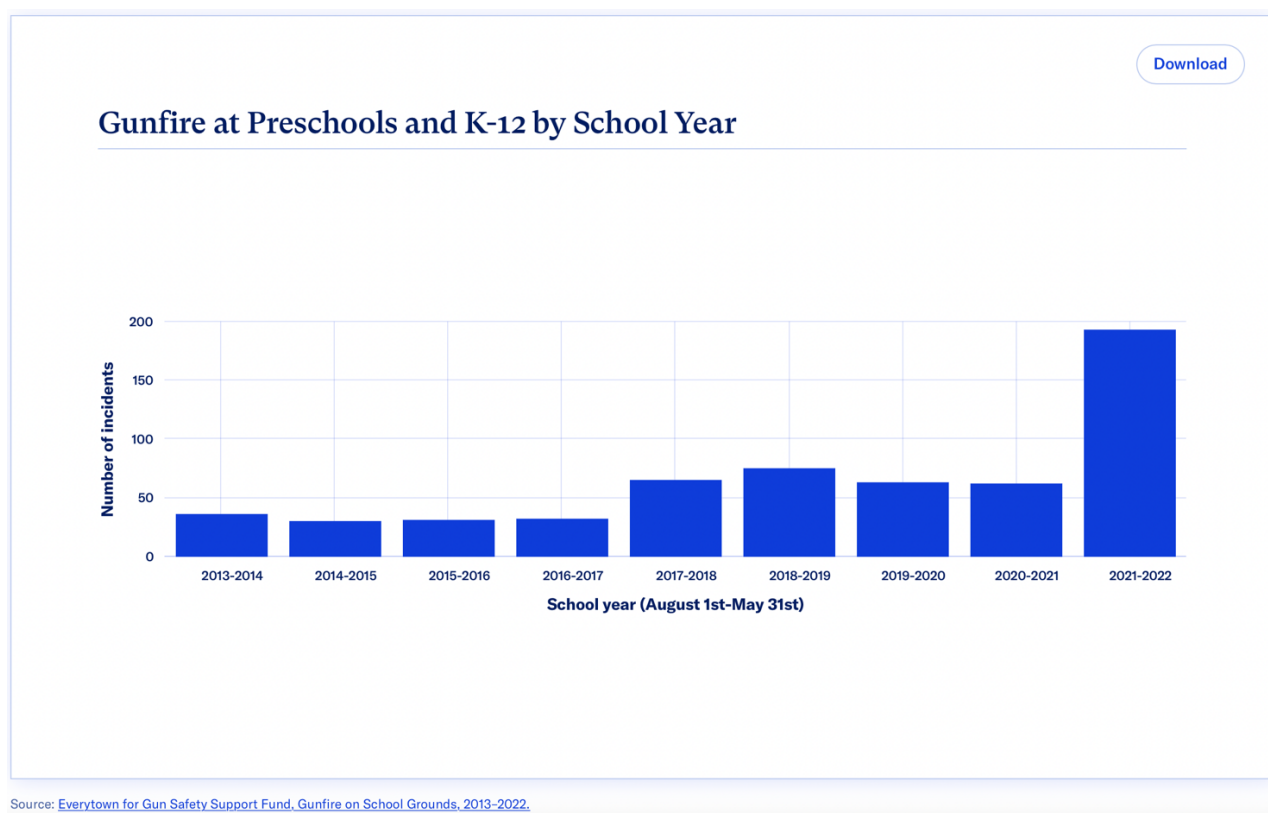


Figure 1. Source: Everytown.org

I have heard the argument that our school is safe because it utilizes a double-locking door system, as well as some other security systems inside the physical building. However, that only addresses one type of shooter profile: someone entering the school who is not a student or KCS staff. I am not aware of measures, besides locked classroom doors, that help in the event a student carries a weapon into/onto school grounds. Additionally, research demonstrates that school shootings happen more often outside of the school building (Figure 2). In this situation, having the presence of an officer on site, and more so, able to rapidly respond to emergencies, may help in prevention and/or the quick elimination of threats to our school community.

ALL SHOOTINGS 1970-PRESENT: LOCATION

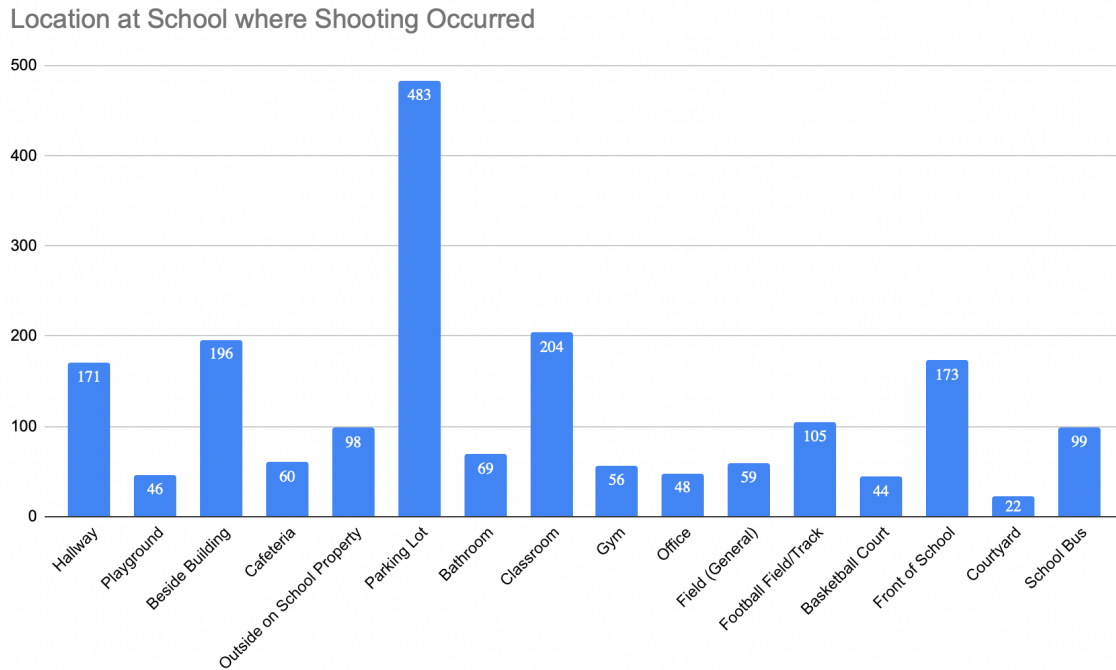


Figure 2. Source: TheViolenceProject.org

I am advocating for, and lending my support to, the addition of a school resource officer or 2nd State Trooper for Kent Center School. It would be an utmost failure to our community, not *if*, but *when* such an event happens, and we failed utilize every imaginable tool available for prevention and mitigation, all in an effort to save a buck. Not only should we hire an officer for the school, but we should also be implementing trauma-informed care training and programing, in combination with our school counselor and psychologist, as a way in providing aid between the link of mental health and gun violence in the school setting. Relying on a double-locking door system alone ignores the fact that most school shooter profiles are (1) current students who are able to walk through the doors with a weapon, and (2) had been known to at least one person as planning an event or having troubling indicators (Figure 3). We should be following the leading research and recommendations, instead of lagging behind, in instituting methods that might one day save the lives of our town's children.

Motives

- 24% motivated by desire for attention or recognition.
- 27% motivated by suicide or desperation.
- 34% motivated by attempt to solve a problem.
- 54% had multiple motives.
- 61% motivated by desire for revenge.
- 75% felt bullied/persecuted/threatened by others.

Statistics

- 27% of attackers exhibited interest in violent movies.
- 37% of attackers exhibited interest in violence in their own writings, poems, essays, and journal entries.
- 59% of attacks occurred during the school day.
- 63% of attackers had a known history of weapons use.
- 68% acquired the weapon used from their own home or that of a relative.
- 93% of attackers engaged in some behavior prior to the attack that caused others to be concerned.
- 93% of attackers planned out the attack in advance.
- 95% of attackers were current students.
- Odds are one in 1 million that a student will die at school as a result of a violent act.

Figure 3. School shooter profile, source: homelandsecurity.iowa.gov

I urge the Board of Finance to move the SRO/2nd Trooper issue to a town vote, and I advocate for the approval of an officer for Kent Center School as a way to add one more layer of prevention and protection to our school community.

Always,
Kelley