

RECEIVED

By Darlene Brady at 10:06 am, Mar 29, 2022

Board of Finance Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday March 23, 2022 6:00 pm

Present- Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick, Fran Goodsell, Rufus deRham, Jim Blackketter

Zoom- Tegan Gawel, Jason Wright

Public and Invited Guests- Jean Speck, Barbara Herbst, Lynn Worthington, Glenn Sanchez, Rufus deRham, Melissa Cherniske, Darlene Brady, Donna Hayes, Joyce Kearns, Rick Osborne, Suzanne Charity, John Russell(in at 6:17, out at 7:03)

Zoom- Alan Gawel, Wendell Soule

Chairman Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes- Motion by Mr deRham, seconded by Mr Blackketter to accept the minutes of the March 16, 2022 Regular Meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Public Comment on agenda items- Ms Hayes read a letter she had written to the board (attached)

Correspondence- none

REPORTS:

A. Board of Selectmen FY2023 budget- First Selectman Ms Speck presented the Selectmen's proposed budget. Significant increased items were discussed including, but not limited to

- a. EMS Staffing-Alan Gawel and John Russell representing the Fire Department spoke about the original amount requested, their concerns about the amount the Selectmen had reduced the request to in their budget and answered questions board members had.

- b. Emergency Management-Ms Speck explained the increase in funding is largely due to the fact that post 9/11 the funding for civil preparedness was almost exclusively paid for through federal funds. These funds have since dried up. She also pointed out that the past TWO years with the climate change (more severe storms) and the COVID pandemic emergency management has been pushed to the forefront of community need. The LEOP, COOP, and Cyber plans are outdated and some are required to be up to date to be able to apply for grants. The LEOP was last updated in 2012.
- c. Registrar of Voters- increase due to number of elections coming up this year
- d. Treasurer and Clerk-increase due to increase in hours

OLD BUSINESS:

Review of Auditor Proposals- Ms O'Dea-Wyrick recused herself from discussion at 7:56 and turned the meeting over to Mr deRham for this agenda item.

2 proposals were received. One from King, King & Associates and the other from Sinnamon & Associates. Both proposals were discussed at length. **Motion by Mr deRham, seconded by Mr Blackketter to move forward with Sinnamon & Associates proposal with a 3 year contract.**
Voting yes: Ms Gawel, Ms Goodsell, Mr Wright, Mr deRham, Mr Blackketter
Abstaining: Ms O'Dea-Wyrick
Motion carries

Ms O'Dea-Wyrick returns to resume chair at 8:03

Mr Blackketter left meeting at 8:03

NEW BUSINESS:

A. FY2023 Budget Revenue Review - attached

B. FY2023 Budget Discussion and possible action- Ms O'Dea-Wyrick went over the budget category by category and gave board members the opportunity to ask any questions on any line item.

Ms Gawel left meeting at approximately 8:10

PUBLIC AND INVITED GUESTS COMMENTS-

Ms Worthington had a number of questions including:

- a. Why doesn't the Fire Department hire its own employees/volunteers?- Ambulance Chief Ms Donzella explained that the newly formed Staffing Committee at the Fire Dept will be looking into this option as well as exploring other staffing models
- b. Why is the Fire Marshall only getting a 3% pay increase, while the other town employees are getting a 4% increase? -Treasurer Ms Herbst explained that the 3% increase is what he requested. He is not a town employee and therefore does not fall into the same category with the 4% across the board raise for town employees.
- c. Why is there no increase in the Senior Center program line with a new director?

Mr Sanchez asked about having the Civil Preparedness line broken down to include specific line items like the other departments do

Ms Brady asked questions about the Resident Trooper Program funding. She recommended looking into the process of reaching out to the schools for funding this program.

Motion to adjourn by Mr deRham at 8:29pm

Next meeting April 6, 2022 at 6pm

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

Bonnie Donzella
Board Clerk

Proposed Budget

3/23/2022

9:02 PM

TOWN OF KENT

	FY 2019 - 2020	FY 2020 - 2021	FY 2021 - 2022		FY 2022 - 2023	% over current year budget
	Actual	Actual	YTD 1.27.22	Budget	Proposed	
Revenue						
1 Property Taxes	11,080,053	11,038,008	6,451,530	11,021,512	12,210,185	44,000 KVFD Tax Abatements
2 Tax Refunds	(18,724)	(8,798)	(2,542)	-	-	
3 Property Taxes - Interest	62,236	46,958	25,383	40,000	40,000	
4 Property Tax - Liens	969	1,005	399	500	500	
5 Property tax relief	-	905	817	-	-	
6 490 Tax Penalty	-	49,421	82,328	-	-	
7 Town Aid Roads CT Grant	291,401	291,531	146,075	291,531	292,151	ESFG
8 Lien ST Property	28,889	28,889	23,651	28,889	32,055	ESFG
9 Telecom Property	13,034	13,673	-	13,000	13,000	
10 Educational Assistance	26,947	27,594	7,468	27,594	32,149	ESFG
13 Pequot Funds	1,298	1,298	433	1,298	1,298	ESFG
14 State of CT Misc.	490	60,538	8,505	1,000	20,656	
15 Community House Rent	7,100	-	3,830	2,000	5,000	
16 Swift House Rent	1,400	-	100	1,000	1,200	
17 Interest on Investments	66,571	6,397	2,167	15,000	15,000	
18 Miscellaneous Fees	105,397	43,148	7,154	57,500	57,500	
19 Cell Tower Rent	85,962	91,936	55,384	105,255	107,928	
20 Building Permits	34,299	29,182	15,995	18,000	22,000	
21 Transfer Station Income	97,415	96,354	94,324	95,000	95,000	
22 Bulky Waste	5,754	11,516	4,814	10,000	10,000	
23 Raffle Permits	-	-	-	50	50	
24 Pistol Permits	1,250	2,520	1,050	400	400	
25 P & Z Fees / Road Inspection	54,797	24,471	14,862	20,000	20,000	
26 Commission In/Wet	948	1,726	593	800	800	
27 Commission of ZBA	336	170	224	450	400	
28 Town Clerk Fees / Conveyance Ta	98,805	209,632	72,184	80,000	80,000	
29 KCS tuition	20,250	29,125	72,375	51,750	50,000	needs to be verified
30 Park & Recreation	845	250	264	750	750	Donations and community programs
31 Park & Rec Pass	1,555	525	175	3,000	5,000	Emery Park, tennis, ice skating
32 Park & Rec Sports	5,598	-	2,166	-	2,500	Baseball/softball, soccer, basketball
33 Park & Rec Classes	1,196	273	10,340	-	7,000	Fee classes (10% revenue)
34 Park & Rec Enrichment	12,380	9,087	3,542	8,000	8,000	After School Program
35 Park & Rec Enrichment Camp	13,941	-	1,930	-	2,000	Summer Camp
36 Bus Trips & Programs	380	-	-	-	-	Bus Trips
37 Maple Street Extension	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	25,000	
38 Surplus				486,250	-	
39 Funds Capital & Nonrecurring	535,000	945,000	936,000	936,000	806,000	
	12,657,771	13,072,334	8,063,518	13,336,529	13,963,522	

Insurance @ +9% and payroll @ +4%

At the March 15th special Board of Selectmen's meeting, I was granted a \$13,710 (or 20%) increase to my salary. While I truly appreciate the intent, this increase was based on the fact that I will be leaving my current position as Land Use Administrator in the September/October timeframe and the money granted was intended as the top of the salary range for my replacement. My weekly hours were also increased from 30 to 40 based on the actual average hours I have worked over the past two years.

I am before you tonight asking that you reduce my new actual salary to \$71,022, which represents the 4% increase granted by the BOS, but leave the budgeted line at \$82,000. I do not believe that it was the intention to actually increase my salary to \$82,000 but to put it into the budget as a "top of the range" placeholder for my replacement. I am also requesting that the hours revert back to 30 hours/week as an increase in the hours would be something that might be better decided by the new hire.

There are other, more important reasons why I am respectfully asking for this change. While comments were made about consistency and "across the board" fairness, I do not feel that actually happened. At the beginning of the budget process, it was clear that salary discussions were again going to be held at the very end of the budget process, making them rushed and unorganized; a topic to be avoided. The salaries of 3 employees were never even discussed. For the past 3 years, these 3 employees have been working 7 days a week, answering emails, text messages and phone calls and no consideration or acknowledgement was given for their dedication to the Town. The total disregard of their dedication and the LACK of "across the board" fairness are the more important reasons why I am asking for this reduction.

Thank you for listening. I hope you will give my request serious understanding and consideration.

Donna M Hayes

3/23/22

Donna M Hayes