

Board of Finance Special Meeting and Town Budget Hearing
Friday May 5, 2023 6:00 pm

Present- Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick, Fran Goodsell, Tegan Gawel, Jason Wright, Casey Cogut, Rufus deRham

Zoom-members of the public

Public and Invited Guests- Jean Speck, Barbara Herbst, Scott Trabucco, Debbie Devaux, other members of the public

Chairman Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Quorum established

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Mr Wright, seconded by Mr Cogut *move to adjourn to budget hearing* Motion approved unanimously

Annual Budget Hearing on Proposed 2023-2024 Budget

Comments from the public

- a. Chris Garrity-Thanked Barbara Herbst for her work on preparing the budget for everyone. It looks great! Concerned about the mill rate.
- b. Debbie Deveaux- mill rate is high. Suggested cutting the 2nd park and rec position
- c. Marty Lindenmayer-well prepared budget. Combine wages, salaries and benefits? Questioned why ARPA fund distributions are included in the grants section. Treasurer Herbst explained they are listed as a reference but not included in the budget.
- d. Ellen Gutierrez- Spoke in favor of the BOE budget and opposes any cuts to the KCS budget
- e. Lynn Harrington-suggested instead of moving \$400,000 from unassigned funds, only move \$200,000 and save the other \$200,000 for next year after the property valuations. Supports increases for

dept heads. Spoke on issues with Park and Rec dept. Questioned enrollment decline in school.

- f. Scott Tabucco-explained the how they came up with the BOE budget
- g. Tom Ryan-spoke on BOE budget. Mr Wright replied the BOF does have support the school
- h. Elizabeth Bernard-spoke in favor of Park and Rec programming and the need for another position in Park and Rec (asst to the director)
- i. Chris Garrity-spoke on Park and Rec concerns
- j. Tom Ryan-spoke about the difficulties getting volunteers to assist with Park and Rec programs
- k. Jean Speck- spoke about Mill Rate. 21 towns in the COG. 14 of them have a higher Mill Rate, 6 have a lower Mill Rate. Kent is on the lower end of the middle of the 21 towns. 32.46 is the highest rate in the State and Salisbury has the lowest at 11. She also stressed the need for a full time asst to the Park and Rec director.
- l. Thomas Ford-is the after school program director. Spoke about the children and his love for the kids he serves. Has been in his position for roughly 1 year. Spoke very highly of Jared's accomplishments so far as Park and Rec director.
- m. Debbie Deveau- reiterated that the asst to Park and Rec director should be part time not full time

6:51 pm Chairman O'Dea-Wyrick closed the hearing and reconvened to the BOF meeting

Budget Discussion

Motion by Ms Goodsell, seconded by Mr Cogut to put 16K back in the budget for Police protection

Yea- Mr Wright, Ms Goodsell, Mr Cogut

Nay- Mr deRham, Ms Gawel, Ms O'Dea-Wyrick

Motion fails

Motion by Ms Goodsell, seconded by Mr Wright to move an additional \$300,000 out of the undesignated funds for a total of \$700,000 motion passes unanimously

Motion by Mr Wright **to reduce the Park and Rec's budget by 16k (line 326)** no second

Current Mill Rate is 18.57

Proposed Mill Rate is 18.83

Closing Remarks

- a. Donna Hayes-questions on the motions/changes
- b. Zanne Charity-need for adult programming
- c. Alan Gawel-EMS staffing update
- d. Joe Agli (in chat) asked if the Park and Rec position has been changed to 2 part time positions? Answer is no
- e. Lynn Harrington-question on the \$700,000 transfer. Spoke again on Park and Rec

Motion to adjourn by Mr deRham at 7:37

Next meeting TBA

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

Bonnie Donzella
Board Clerk