

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

**Present-** Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick, Fran Goodsell, Rufus deRham(in @6:03), Jim Blackketter, Tegan Gawel, Jason Wright

**Zoom-** none

**Public and Invited Guests-** Jean Speck, Debbie Deveau, Lynn Worthington, Glenn Sanchez, Rita Limbos, Melissa Cherniske, Darlene Brady, Donna Hayes, Jenn Duncan, Peter Gadiel, Mike Gawel, Patricia Oros(left @7:20), John Grant (in @6:52), Scott Trabucco (in @6:54)

**Zoom-** Barbara Herbst

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 Blackketter, seconded by Mr Wright to accept the minutes of the March 23, 2022 Regular Meeting.**  
Motion approved unanimously.

**Public Comment on agenda items-**

1. Peter Gadiel -19 Mauwee Brook Kent : BOE budget-questioned why they are not reducing staff due to lower enrollment and smaller class size (avg 9-15 students per class). There are 27 tuition paying students @ \$4,500, but the cost per student is \$30,000.
2. Mike Gawel-25 Hidden Meadow Lane South Kent: BOE budget-agrees with Peter on reducing staffing. Sites personal experience in construction and cost of everything has increased 25-50% and feels the townspeople could use the extra few dollars in their pockets. Graduated Kent Center School in 1975 with 52 students in his grade with only 2 teachers. Feels a teacher who is making \$50,000-75,000 a year could teach a class of 20+ students. Also questions tuition price being \$4,500 when it costs \$30,000 a year per student.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **FY2023 Budget Discussion-**

#### **Capital plan-**

1. current projects \$806,000 (projects that will be fully funded on 7/1)  
Transfer to capital \$1,108,408.
2. Mr Wright-inquired if anyone had been able to speak to Rick Osborne about possible regional DPW equipment sharing.
3. Mr DeRham reminded board members to keep looking at infrastructure grants and federal funding for large projects (bridges, etc)

#### **Proposed Net Grand List-**

1. net grand list gone up 2.42%
2. Tax Collector expecting a 99% collection rate for next year

#### **Projected Revenue-**

1. \$13,953,522

#### **Mill Rate-**

1. Current rate is 18.57
2. Anticipated rate 20.03 -increase of 7.85%
3. Increase of 1.46
4. 1 tax mill is \$610,349
5. Used \$486,250 last year from general fund (undesignated) to keep mill rate flat
6. Rough calculations-would need \$875,000 this year to keep mill rate flat

Mr Blackketter would like the Board of Ed to take another look at staffing numbers.

Mr Wright would like to look at EMS staffing figure

Mr deRham asked for more information on tuition paying students in KCS.

Ms Duncan gave the following breakdown:

GRADE	# of tuition students
K	5
1	5
2	5
5	3
6	5
7	1
8	2

Numbers include teachers children(who don't pay tuition). 4 of the above students are at the discounted rate of \$2,500/student.

She also reported the 2 vacancies are not core classroom teachers. One is the foreign language teacher and the other is a reading specialist. Mr Trabucco reported the third vacancy is because a core classroom teacher is moving to the math intervention position.(position has been vacant for 2 years)

### **Motion by Mr Blackketter, second by Ms Gawel to reduce the Board of Education budget by \$80,000**

Voting yes-Ms O'Dea-Wyrick, Ms Goodsell, Mr Blackketter, Ms Gawel

Voting no- Mr deRham, Mr Wright

Abstain-none

Motion carries

### **Board of Selectman Budget Discussion**

1. Large increases in EMS Staffing and Civil Preparedness discussed
2. Question on breakdown of Civil Preparedness budget
3. Question raised on the \$15,000 stipend for opt out of health benefits.  
Treasurer reports this was adopted by a past BOS and is in employee manual. Number is capped at \$15,000
4. Question about increased hours for Tax Collectors office-asst tax collector position. Tax collector reports hours have increased from 10 hours a week to 15 hours a week ( three 5 hour days) due to more people in town, workload increase, harder job and more technology.

5. Question about registrar of voters increase-due to this being an election year

Ms O'Dea-Wyrick schedules a Special Meeting for next Wednesday night April 13, 2022 at 6 pm

### **PUBLIC AND INVITED GUESTS COMMENTS-**

Ms Brady reiterated her statement from the last meeting about updated figures for the resident trooper with confirmation from the schools with their contributions so we have accurate numbers and not just proposed numbers. Also reiterated the breakdown of the Civil Preparedness line.

Ms Hayes asked for the breakdown of the Selectmen salaries ie- first selectman, 2nd selectman, 3rd selectman rather than it all lumped in together

Mr Gawel expressed concern about property values and a possible increase in the mill rate

Ms Worthington asked about the procedure to change a line item name. Per the Treasurer the BOF has the power to change a line item name.

**Motion by Mr deRham, seconded by Mr Blackketter to change line 260's name from Civil Preparedness to Emergency Management.**

Motion approved unanimously

Mr Sanchez questioned the figure changes on line 243- HVA since the last meeting. Treasurer will have the "ups and downs" for the next meeting

**Motion to adjourn by Mr Blackketter at 7:55pm**

Next meeting April 13, 2022 at 6pm

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

Bonnie Donzella  
Board Clerk