

Marlborough Board of Finance
Marlborough Elementary School Library
And via Zoom and Speaker Phone
Regular Meeting
February 16, 2023
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Chairman Nastri called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present and seated were Mike Nastri, Jack Fidler, Ken Hjulstrom, Jeff Plourde, and Robert Mirabel. Alternates Chris Barella was seated for Liz Gorgoglione and Karen Pakulis Paul were present.

Public Comments

None

Additions to the Agenda

None

New Business

Board of Education Budget Presentation

Superintendent Holly Hageman presented their proposed FY 23-24 budget to the Board of Finance. Other BOE members present or on the Zoom meeting were Ruth Kelly, Louise Concodello, Kerri Barella, and Patrick Pabouet.

The Operating budget is proposed to increase almost 5%. The main cause of this increase is the addition of two new positions. They are paying 90% of the new School Resource Officer salary (with the other 10% in the town budget) and one new position of a 12-month Director of Operations (Facilities / Technology/ Security Systems/ Transportation). The BOE is proposing a smaller capital project budget to compensate for the big increase in operations. The three projects in the capital budget total \$85,000. The capital improvement plan funding request includes an architectural study (\$25,000), necessary to be eligible for federal and state reimbursement for projects. The study would lead to the development of a long-term capital plan. They want to continue with the maintenance of the school's brick exterior (year 3 of 4) for \$30,000, and replacement of five exterior doors at a cost of \$30,000. The SRO is not listed under salaries, but rather under purchased professional services as they don't consider this a school position. Others listed under this is the AHM social worker, Physical Therapist, and other consultants. Some years the PT is a school employee and then the salary is listed with the non-certified staff.

The overall total budget increase goes from almost 5% down to 0.71% with the revenue that comes in and the other changes in the budget.

Board of Selectmen Update on Litigation Settlement

The Board of Selectmen asked the Interim Town Manager to make intra- and interdepartmental transfers to fund the employment litigation settlement for Foley v. Town of Marlborough. The \$237,500 settlement will be paid over two years; \$110,000 from the current budget and the remaining \$127,500 to be put in the upcoming FY 24 budget in the legal line item.

The breakdown is as follows:

- \$60,000 intradepartmental transfer from Contingency to Legal Fees;
- \$30,000 interdepartmental transfer from Public Works Road Crew Payroll to Legal fees; and
- \$20,000 interdepartmental transfer from General Maintenance-General Supplies to Legal Fees.

There was back and forth discussion with the Interim Town Manager who was on the Zoom call with the Board. Some members believe this was suspicious and deceptive. The BOF Chairman will collect questions from the Board and email them to Ms. Traversa to have answers available at their next meeting.

Old Business

Finance Director Position – Update

A new Finance Director has been hired and is starting on March 14, 2023.

Reports

Liaison Reports (RHAM, Local BOE)

RHAM – Mr. Plourde reported that RHAM’s proposed budget is a 4.76% increase. Diesel has gone up, and two positions were added – LPN and a summer school “credit recovery” teacher. The industrial tech/coach and the family/consumer science teacher positions are not being filled. The athletic field needs a full or a refresh fix. The BOE decided to do a refresh of the field for \$382,000. Their electricity cost is budgeted to go down due to an agreement, along with bonding.

Local Board of Education – Mr. Hjulstrom said the local board has been working on their budget too. The figure in the budget book does not match the number presented earlier tonight (\$8,531,429). Without having an audit, they’re projecting to have about a \$45,000 surplus.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hjulstrom made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2023, meeting as submitted. Mr. Plourde seconded. All voted in favor.

Correspondence

None

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debby Rihm

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Board Clerk