

Marlborough Board of Finance
Marlborough Elementary School
And via Zoom and Speaker Phone
Special Meeting
March 23, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Chairman Nastri called regular meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. Present and seated were Mike Nastri, Jeff Plourde, Jack Fidler, Ken Hjulstrom, and Robert Mirabal. Alternate Karen Pakulis-Paul was present and seated for Liz Gorgoglione.

Public Comments

Shawn DeFelice, town resident and DPW employee (speaking as a taxpayer). Mr. DeFelice spoke regarding the metal building/mechanics garage completion. He is a new employee so he does not know why the project came off the 5-year plan once the building was constructed in 2011. It was to be completed so that the fire apparatus and Engine cabs could fit in to be worked on. They are unable to fit in their new trash truck or raise a body in the bay. This leaves the employees to work on these in the driveway, sometimes in the stormy inclement night weather. He asked that the BOF consider the upgrades to the garage be funded in the budget.

New Business

Budget Discussion

A revised budget was passed out for discussion. Amy Traversa, Interim Town Manager, said that the health insurance decrease has been accounted for in this copy. The new figure for RHAM is also included. The SRO 90% school/10% town costs are reflected in the budget numbers. Legal changed from \$75,000 to \$50,000. Ms. Traversa will get an answer for that. A member asked for reasoning for the raise for the town clerk. Ms. Bourbeau responded because she deserves it. A member asked that no change in salary be made to the tax collector in case there is a change in personnel. Mrs. Bourbeau said she has not heard anything about that. Mr. Fidler said that now, more than ever, we should try to retain personnel with competitive salaries. Interval House should be changed from \$500 to \$0. A member asked why a social worker is needed at the senior center. He thought AHM covered that. Mrs. Bourbeau said that the Food Bank use has increased by 40% and there are other needs not being met. The seniors are the fastest growing population in town. The position is needed because there is not an employee who can handle this. The Chatham Health number has been lowered. There should be a \$12,000 reduction in the local BOE budget due to the health insurance lower premium. There is \$808,128.19 in retired projects being transferred to the Undesignated Fund Balance. Any further budget changes must be made at next week's meeting in order to get it revised and in the paper on time.

MOTION: Ms. Pakulis--Paul made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fidler, to not ask for any more potential cuts for the town operations budget except for what has been discussed at tonight's

meeting. **DISCUSSION:** This is pre-mature without final numbers and discussion on capital items. If something is revised during the week that is new, they will be able to look at the budget again. Is it confirmed that Public Works has \$70,000 in their reserves. Yes, but the town is not looking to do anything for the metal building. You can't assume money is there for \$219,000 in car tax reimbursement.

VOTE: All voted in favor of the motion except for Mr. Hjulstrom who was opposed. Motion passed.

Public Comment

Deb Bourbeau, North Main Street, explained that the Charter changed how and when the budget is done. The BOS has done all the research and done the best they can. There is no extra meat in the budget. Also, it is the BOS budget. We finalize it. We have the ability to change things. We are taxpayers too. I don't hear you going over the board of education budget and capital with a fine-tooth comb.

Ken Hjulstrom – wanted to speak but was told by Ms. Traversa that he cannot speak under public comment because he is a board member.

Debby Rihm, 50 Cheyenne Court, advised that she saw areas where the health insurance was not reduced and should be fixed for the final budget.

Betty O'Brien North Main Street, thanked the BOF for the work they did. She is on the BOS and stated that at her age, on fixed incomes, the BOS is concerned with increases and checked over everything.

Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debby Rihm

Debby Rihm
Board Clerk