

Marlborough Board of Finance  
Marlborough Elementary School  
And via Zoom and Speaker Phone  
Special Meeting  
March 30, 2023  
7:00 p.m.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Nastri called special meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Present and seated were Mike Nastri, Jeff Plourde, Jack Fidler, Ken Hjulstrom, and Robert Mirabal. Alternate Chris Barella was seated for Liz Gorgoglione. Alternate Karen Pakulis-Paul was also present.

**Public Comments**

The Board members received an Expectations Agreement that every board/commission member is to read, sign, and turn it back in. This is in the new Charter.

**New Business**

Budget Discussion

A revised budget was passed out for discussion. Peter Hughes, Director of Planning and Development, discussed the revised budget with the Board.

**MOTION:** Mr. Hjulstrom made a motion, seconded by Mr. Plourde, to approve the local Board of Education budget as presented in the revised budget. **DISCUSSION:** This figure considers the reduction in health insurance.

**VOTE:** All voted in favor.

**Motion passed. 6-0-0**

**MOTION:** Mr. Fidler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Plourde, to approve the operations budget as presented in the revised budget for \$6,215,180. **DISCUSSION:** They discussed the fact there were so many mistakes in this budget, the health insurance reduction, the legal fees put back in, and the funds for a vacant DPW position. Mr. Hjulstrom said that even the Interim Town Manager and Board of Selectmen chairperson don't have faith in the numbers. Ms. Traversa said that they don't know what the numbers are due to the 2022 fiscal year being unaudited. They're assuming figures for revenue and surplus will be similar to 2021.

**VOTE:** In favor: Mr. Nastri, Mr. Plourde, Mr. Mirabal, and Mr. Fidler

Opposed: Mr. Hjulstrom

Abstained: Mr. Barella

**Motion passed. 4-1-1**

**MOTION:** Mr. Plourde made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fidler, to approve the capital budget as presented in the revised budget. **DISCUSSION:** Mr. Hjulstrom is disappointed that nothing is being done with the \$70,000 in DPW reserves for the metal building at the town garage. Members were also uncomfortable with \$300,000 for the town hall HVAC. Mr. Hughes

explained that over \$90,000 has been spent in the past five years patching the system. The cost is based upon a bid received over a year ago. They will go out to bid once the budget is approved. They currently have someone re-designing the system.

**VOTE:** In favor: Mr. Nastri, Mr. Plourde, Mr. Mirabal, Mr. Fidler and Mr. Barella

Opposed: None

Abstained: Mr. Hjulstrom

**Motion passed. 5-0-1**

**MOTION:** Mr. Fidler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Plourde, to approve the revenue as presented in the revised budget for \$27,094,944. **DISCUSSION:** This doesn't take surplus into account because they don't have the data. The Board of Selectmen used the 2021 surplus number. Mr. Hjulstrom said he spoke with Selectman Lowry and he believes the surplus should be around \$250,000.

**VOTE:** All voted in favor.

**Motion passed. 6-0-0**

**MOTION:** Mr. Hjulstrom made a motion, seconded by Mr. Plourde, to set the mill rate at 34.73 mills.

**VOTE:** All voted in favor.

**Motion passed. 6-0-0**

### **Public Comment**

Louise Concodello, Millstream Road, said the local Board of Education approved their operations budget, but also made a motion to approve \$85,000 in capital. Ms. Traversa said that's fine because the capital is in the budget.

### **Adjournment**

The Board adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debby Rihm

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Board Clerk