



Town of Griswold

Board of Finance
Special Meeting
May 14, 2020
7:00 PM
Via Teleconference
MINUTES



1. Roll Call/Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Board of Finance Members Present:

Brian Baker – Chairman
Scott Davis– Vice Chairman
Alex Grzelak arrived at 7:02PM
Valerie Grills
Gail Rooke-Norman
Dan Webster
Steve Mikutel

Also Present:

Erik Christensen, Interim Director of Finance
Sean McKenna, Superintendent of Griswold Schools
Todd Babbitt, First Selectman
Jeannette Bell, Recording Secretary
35 Oher People

2. New Business

a. Discussion on public feedback FY20-21 budget.

The Board of Finance wished to thank the public for there feedback on the draft budget posted on the Towns website. A. Grzelak wanted to correct something which he felt was misrepresented. The Board of Education was not instructed to cut 1.2 million from their budget, the only comment was they should come back to the Board of Finance with a new budget with a ½ mill increase.

b. Discussion on communication with First Selectman and Superintendent of Schools regarding asking their respective Boards to consider negotiating concessions.

S. McKenna stated there was really no progress to report as it is an extremely complicated process which could end up costing the town a considerable amount of money in arbitration. T. Babbitt stated there was an informal discussion with the union however there was nothing resolved. The Board of Finance stated it was unfortunate that formal discussions were not had with the unions.

3. Old Business

a. Discussion and possible action on FY20-21 budget.

E. Christensen presented the board members with a spreadsheet indicating the mill rate increase with the current budget, along with cuts needed to be made by all 3 budgets in order to get to a new mill rate increase and what tax increase that would have on the assessed values of taxpayers houses. He also noted the increase talked about at the previous meeting did not include increased revenue, therefore the potential cuts are not as

large. He stated the increase from revenue was not added in the report which amounted to approximately \$566,855.00. Using the correct figures there would need to be a reduction of \$1,548,000.00 from all budgets. The Capital Committee suggested a cut of \$625,474.00 from their budget and the Board of Selectman proposed a cut of approximately \$202,000.00 from their budget. That would leave a reduction of approximately \$720,000.00 from the Board of Educations proposed budget. There was discussion regarding the amount of excess tuition which was generated by the BOE and the HVAC repairs which the Board of Finance had asked the Board of Education to include in their proposed budget. There was discussion regarding the amount of money in surplus and if that might be an option to use a portion of it, however because we will be going out for bonding any amount taken from that could affect the interest rate on the bonding. There is currently \$4,696,375.00 in the unassigned fund balance which is 12.87% of the budget. The Board of Education was asked to come back with a reduction from their proposed budget in order to achieve a ½ mill increase to the taxpayers. It was also noted the next Regular Meeting on May 19th should be canceled and to add a Special Meeting on May 21st in the hopes of having a final budget to present for public comment.

4. Adjournment

MOTION: D. Webster made a **motion** that was seconded by S. Mikutel to adjourn the meeting at 8:59PM. All in favor; **motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeannette Bell
Recording Secretary