



# Town of Griswold

Board of Finance  
Public Hearing  
April 3, 2012  
7:00pm



## Griswold Middle School Cafeteria APPROVED MINUTES

1. **Roll Call/Call to Order:** S. Merchant, Sr., opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 PM

### **Board of Finance Members Present:**

Steve Merchant, Sr. – Chairman  
John Wolkowski  
Peter Dorff  
Scott Davis  
Gail Rooke-Norman  
Dan Webster  
Brian Baker

### **Also Present:**

Erik Christensen, Director of Finance  
Jaimee O'Neill, Asst. Bookkeeper  
Phil Anthony, First Selectman  
Steve Mikutel, Second Selectman & State Representative  
Elizabeth Dorff, Chair, Board of Education  
Stuart Norman, Jr., Vice Chair, Board of Education  
Dr. DiIorio, Interim Superintendent of Griswold Schools  
Holly McCalla, Business Manager, Griswold Schools  
73 other persons

2. **Budget Presentations**

- a) **J. DiIorio presented the proposed Board of Education Budget**

The Board proposed a budget of \$25,181,847. This is an increase of \$885,147, or 3.64% from Fiscal Year 2011/2012.

- b) **P. Anthony spoke on behalf of the proposed Board of Selectmen Budget.**

P. Anthony stressed the importance of road repairs. Also mentioned was the savings the Town has realized since the installation of solar panels on many of the municipal buildings.

- c) **S. Mikutel spoke on behalf of the State's Budget.**

S. Mikutel stated the 43% of the Education revenue for the Town of Griswold comes from the State Budget. S. Mikutel also mentioned that the Board of Finance and Resident's need to focus on the Town's ability to pay when looking at the proposed budgets, and that the Board may want to look at cutting from the Capital Improvements budget.

- d) **P. Brycki, Executive Director for Griswold Housing Authority**

P. Brycki is requesting that Board of Finance add \$100,000 to the budget for plans for the expansion of McCluggage Manor. The State will match the \$100,000, and that will

allow for the project to move forward.

e) **B. Baker presented the proposed Capital Improvement Budget.**

The Committee proposed a budget of \$975,000; \$300,000 towards the High School roof, \$25,000 for a pick-up truck for Public Works, \$150,000 for a storage building for the Board of Education, and \$500,000 for road repairs.

3. **Public Input on the proposed 2012/2013 Fiscal Year Budget**

- **E. Pelish-Sundstrom** (resident, Danika Way) spoke in favor of the Board of Education's budget.
- **N. Frazer-Phillips** (resident, Cathcart Drive) spoke in favor of the Board of Education's budget.
- **J. Smith** (resident, Crary Road) spoke in favor of the Board of Education's budget.
- **C. Blanchard** (resident, Stone Hill Road) thinks both budgets need to be cut before going to referendum.
- **P. Zvingilas** (Building Official, Town of Griswold) questioning why the Secretary line item was reduced in the budget that was forwarded to the Board of Finance, when the audio from the Selectmen's budget meeting says that it would be forwarded to the Board of Finance as presented to the Board of Selectmen. He asked the Board of Finance to please take this into consideration when going through the budget.
- **A. Curran** (former teacher, Griswold Public Schools) spoke in favor of the Board of Education's budget.
- **M. Welke** (resident, Laura Jane Lane) spoke in favor of the Board of Education's budget.
- **J. Fontaine** (resident, Haley Meadow Road) spoke in favor of the Board of Education's budget.
- **E. Burdick** (resident, Voluntown Road) stated that the Board of Finance shouldn't send the budgets to referendum without making some cuts.
- **N. Gileau** (didn't state his address) spoke in favor of the Board of Education's budget.
- **N. Higgens** (resident, Pleasant View) spoke in favor of the Board of Education's budget, although he feels that French should not be cut. Mr. Higgens also stated that the Building Secretary position needs to be restored to full time, and the Storage Building for the Board of Ed should be removed from the Capital budget.
- **S. Norman** (Vice Chair, Board of Education) spoke in favor of all budgets. Mr. Norman also urged residents to look at the Mill rate calculation, and see that due to the Reval, it is only 2.34 mill increase to get to 26.30 mills.
- **C. Fontaine** (resident, Haley Meadow Road) spoke in favor of the Board of Education's budget.
- **S. Brown** (resident, Glasgo Road) spoke in favor of the Board of Education's budget.
- **T. Falck** (Senior Center Director, Town of Griswold) spoke in favor the Housing Authority's request for \$100,000.
- **M. Wooten** (resident, Zvingilas Court) spoke in favor of the Board of Education's budget.
- **B. Knox** (Alvina Ave) feels that the Board of Education budget should be cut. A tax increase would put her under.
- **E. Ego** (resident, Popple Bridge) spoke in favor of the Board of Education's budget.
- **S. Stadniki** (resident, Bow Lane) wanted to let the Finance Director know, that

the handouts created to show how real estate taxes can be calculated based off of the mill rates, are very helpful.

- **N. Tamborino** (resident, Glasgo Road) spoke in favor of the Board of Education's budget.
- **P. Anthony** (First Selectman, Town of Griswold) spoke regarding Building Official Peter Zvingilas' comment. For clarification, the Selectmen reduced the budget because they were trying to submit a flat budget with zero increases.
- **J. Merrill** (resident, Edmond Road) would like to know why we always hear about cutting teaching positions if the budget doesn't pass, but what about cutting some of the Administrator's positions. Also, would like to see a Resident Trooper in the Town.

**4. Adjournment:** S. Merchant Sr., closed the public hearing at 8:53 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jaimee O'Neill  
Acting Recording Secretary