



Town of Griswold

Board of Finance
Public Hearing
April 5, 2011
7:00pm



Griswold Middle School Cafeteria UNAPPROVED MINUTES

1. **Roll Call/Call to Order:** S. Merchant, Sr., opened the Public Hearing at 7:01 PM

Board of Finance Members Present:

Steve Merchant, Sr. – Chairman
John Wolkowski
Peter Dorff
Al Geer
Gail Rooke-Norman
Dan Webster

Absent:

Joe Przylucki, Jr. – Vice Chairman

Also Present:

Barbara Crouch, Director of Finance
Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, Asst. Bookkeeper
Phil Anthony, First Selectman
Theresa Madonna, Third Selectman
Elizabeth Dorff, Chair, Board of Education
Stuart Norman, Jr., Vice Chair, Board of Education
Dr. Paul Freeman, Superintendent of Griswold Schools
Holly McCalla, Business Manager, Griswold Schools
Brian Baker, Capital Improvements Committee
73 other persons

2. **Budget Presentations**

- a) **P. Freeman presented the proposed Board of Education Budget** (*See attached handout*) The Board proposed a budget of \$25,249,753. This is an increase of \$953,053, or 3.92% from Fiscal Year 2010/2011.
- b) **P. Anthony presented the proposed Board of Selectmen Budget.** (*See attached handout*)
- c) **B. Baker presented the proposed Capital Improvement Budget** (*See attached handout*) The Committee proposed a budget of \$1,935,000; \$485,000 for Public Safety, \$900,000 for Public Works, \$550,000 for Board Of Education.

3. **Public Input on the proposed 2011/2012 Fiscal Year Budget**

- **Eileen Ego** (resident, Popple Bridge Road) spoke in favor of the Board of Education's budget.
- **Nyssa Frazer-Phillips** (resident, Carely Avenue) spoke in favor of the Board of Education's budget.

- **Yvonne Pulaski** (resident, Popple Bridge Road) spoke in favor of the Board of Education's budget.
- **Nancy Frye** (resident, Popple Bridge Road) had some questions about the Capital Improvement Committee's proposed budget.
- **Lou Rubino** (resident, Voluntown Road) spoke in favor of the Board of Education's budget. Suggested using money from the Town's surplus to relieve some of the tax burden.
- **Cara Roberts** (residents, St. John Road) spoke in favor of the Board of Education's budget.
- **Stacey Stadnicki** (did not give address) needed some clarification on the Capital Improvement budget, and whether that would be a separate budget to vote on, or if it fell under the Board of Selectmen or the Board of Education's budget. Also was wondering what the MILL rate increase would be if the budgets were to pass as presented.
- **Mike Roberts** (resident, St. John Road) spoke in favor of all budgets.
- **Ed Burdick** (resident, Voluntown Road) spoke in favor of the Board of Education's budget, but fears it is not sustainable and may need some trimming.
- **Frank Torchia** (resident, Pachaug River Drive) asked to Board of Finance to put the budget to vote as is, and to not do any cutting unless it doesn't pass.
- **Theresa Madonna** (resident, Osga Lane) spoke in favor of the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen's budgets.
- **Dan Waters** (resident, 74 Pine Road) spoke in favor of all the budgets.
- **Stuart Norman** (Vice Chair, Board of Education) thanked the Board of Finance for not making any cuts up to this point.
- **Courtland Kinnie** (resident, Glasgo Road) spoke in favor of keeping the two employees in the Town's Building Department as full time. With that exception, he's in favor of all the Budgets.
- **S. Merchant, Chairman**, reminded the people that if the surplus continues to be used, the Town will not be able to obtain the bond rating it's been getting. If the budgets presented this evening were to pass, it would mean a 3.41 mill rate increase for taxpayers.

4. Adjournment: S. Merchant Sr., closed the public hearing at 8:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
Acting Recording Secretary