



Town of Griswold

Board of Finance
Public Hearing
April 5, 2016
7:00pm



Griswold Middle School Cafeteria
APPROVED MINUTES

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

Board of Finance Members Present:

Scott Davis – Chairman
Brian Baker – Vice Chairman
Peter Dorff
Gary Levy
Dan Webster

Members Absent:

Gail Rooke-Norman
John Wolkowski

Also Present:

Erik Christensen, Director of Finance
Kevin Skulczyck, First Selectman
Steve Merchant, Sr., Second Selectman arrived at 7:05PM
Susan Rourke, Interim Superintendent of Griswold Schools
35 Other People

2. **Public Input on the proposed 2016/2017 Fiscal Year Budget**

- **S. Davis, Chairman Board of Finance** opened the meeting with highlights of the current proposal for the Town Budget as well as Board of Education budget. He stated as the numbers stand we are currently looking at an increase to the mill rate of .45 mills. He invited any residents to come forward and speak.
- **S. Rourke, Interim Superintendent of Schools** stated the Board of Education budget was at an increase of 2.62%. She stated there was no reduction or addition to teachers or support people. There were reductions to supplies and equipment in order to get to this figure and stated there was nowhere else to cut.
- **K. Skulczyck, First Selectman** stated he was pleased with both the Town and The Board of Education budgets coming is as close to a 2% increase as possible. He stated he supports both budgets.
- **T. Cholewa, resident Chestnut Hill** supports both budgets and is hoping both budgets get passed the first time around.
- **L. Sorder, resident Ashland Street** stated she was concerned about the Debt Service affecting the Board of Education budget. She also stated there needs to be transparency in the media in order to correctly inform the taxpayers. She stated she supports the Board of Education budget.

- **R. Churchill, resident Bitgood Road** stated he agrees with L. Sorder regarding Debt Service. He stated he supports both budgets.
- **E. Dorff, resident Crary Road** stated she was concerned regarding the cuts to supplies and services. She stated she would like to see more of an increase to the Board of Education budget. She stated she was concerned regarding double digit salary increases in the Town budget. She stated she supports the Board of Education budget.
- **E. Burdick, resident Voluntown Road** stated the school is the net winner regarding debt service. He feels the Board of Education budget cannot be increased due to residents not being able to afford the increase. He stated he supports both budgets.
- **F. Everett, resident Lester Road** stated a strong school system is good for the town to bring in businesses and people. He stated the Board of Education has only been increased by 0.74% in the past 7 years. He stated he supports the budget.
- **A. Grzelak, resident Jennifer Lane** stated the bottom line is that Griswold is underfunded from the State for ECS. He stated we need our Legislatures to go after the money which is due us.
- **M. Wooten, resident Zvingilas Court** stated she supports the Board of Education budget.
- **J. Barnie, resident Hopeville Road** stated were are underfunded from the State regarding the required mandates. He also stated Capital Improvements are suffering due to the lack of money needed to repair roads and purchase equipment. He stated he supports both budgets.
- **S. Davis** asked if there was anyone else who wanted to come forward to speak. After hearing none:

2. **Adjournment:** S. Davis closed the public hearing at 7:33 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeannette Bell
Recording Secretary