

TOWN OF FRANKLIN
BOARD OF FINANCE (BOF)
FRANKLIN TOWN HALL
7 Meetinghouse Hill Rd.
Franklin, Connecticut
MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, April 23, 2024, 7:00 PM **

Call to Order: Chairman Richard Handfield called meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Members Present: Veronica Calvert, Calli Carboni, Melissa McGuire, Chairman Richard Handfield, Ashley McAuliffe, Vice Chairman Richard Weingart.

Alternate Members Present: Steven Lain. **Alternate Members Absent:** Jeremy Beisiegel, Elizabeth Hook.

Staff / BOE Staff: First Selectman Alden Miner, Selectmen Russ Beisiegel & Tom Craney, Superintendent of Schools Greg Keith, Board of Education Chair Amy Konow.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Auditor Presentation Fiscal Year 22-23:

Reviewed as presented. Points of interest were Balance Sheet, Assets Liability & Fund Balance. In summary, Audit rendered clean opinion and favorable management letter. Official final copy submitted to First Selectman's Office.

- b. Discussion / Possible Action: Presentation Proposed Board of Selectmen & Board of Education Budgets Fiscal Year 2024-25

Board of Selectman Budget: Discussion took place on income Line Item 8000.10 Current Year Taxes. It was noted, Unassigned General Fund is estimated at 17-18%. Looking for Assessor to provide information on real life examples of tax impact to residents considering total tax income, use of unassigned general fund, and mil rate examples.

Board of Education: Superintendent Greg Keith provided an overview. He noted significant increases are due to State mandated programming & services; and rising special education costs. Superintendent Keith responded that special education is the driving force in the increase at about 702,000. BOE has done their diligence is keeping overall operating, staffing, programming, and instructional costs about a 1-2% increase.

BOF members indicated they are not comfortable with a 1.2 Million Dollar increase as proposed by BOE. This budget as proposed would be very difficult to pass in this town. It is understandable BOE has control over fixed operational, staffing, programming, and instructional costs and is working to keep costs under control. BOF would like clarification on enrollment/tuition/transportation cost numbers for NFA and Eastconn.

New Grand list includes new revaluation numbers however Board of Assessment Appeals is finishing up its work. Official document and numbers are coming from Assessor.

It was noted, just because mil rate does not go up does not mean tax bills will not go up due to revaluation. If the mil rate was kept the same and property assessments went up 35% due to revaluation then property taxes will go up 35%. The work of offsetting a potential significant increase continues.

MOTION #1 Melissa McGuire moved to schedule Special Meeting April 30, 2024, 7:00 PM for Discussion and Possible Action on FY 24-25 BOS & BOE Budgets. Richard Weingart seconded. **Passed Unanimously.**

Public Comments: None

Adjournment:

MOTION #2 Calli Carboni moved to adjourn meeting. Richard Weingart seconded. Passed Unanimously.

Sherry Pollard, Recording Secretary