

**TOWN OF WILLINGTON BOARD OF FINANCE  
TOWN HALL  
COMMON ROAD  
WILLINGTON, CT 06279**

**BUDGET HEARING MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

7:00 PM

*\*Minutes are not official until approved at the next regular meeting*

**Members Present:**

Jim Bulick - Chairman  
Mike Makuch, Vice Chairman  
Bill Rankin - Alternate  
Peter Tanaka  
Barry Wallett  
Fred Schoen - Alternate  
Laurie Semprebon  
Randy Belair

**Members Absent:**

**Also Present:**

Erika Wiecewski, First Selectwoman  
Donna Latincsics, Business Manager  
Phil Stevens, Superintendent  
Board of Selectmen Members  
Willington Board of Education Members  
Willington Fire Department Members  
Willington Hill Fire Department Members  
Members of the Public

Chairman Jim Bulick called the Budget Hearing to order at 7:03 p.m.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED**

General Government and Board of Education Budgets. The Revenue projection is 2.45% the General Government expenses increasing about 3.7% and the Board of Education budget is increasing 4.6%. Jim Bulick asked if anyone had any questions or comments. Donna Cook of Common Road, asked if there was a place where residents can find actual town spending information. Business Manager Donna Latincsics said it could be found in the Auditor's Reports located under the Financial Office section of the town website:

[https://www.willingtonct.org/financial-office/pages/fiscal-](https://www.willingtonct.org/financial-office/pages/fiscal-year-audit-reports)

[year-audit-reports](https://www.willingtonct.org/financial-office/pages/fiscal-year-audit-reports). The Board thanked Donna.

Due to additional money collected for a State Teacher Retire Benefit payment that never materialized, the Board of Finance applied surplus funds collected to the budget so there would be no mil rate increase 2019-2020.

Selectwoman Erika Wiczenski said that the Grand List is a confirmed number. (The Board of Assessment Appeals met).

Herb Arico of Eldridge Road Wanted to know what the General Reserve balance is currently at. Business Manager Donna Latincsics reported approximately \$2.5 million. Chairman Bulick said the Board of Finance has a policy to keep the Fund Balance in the 8-12% range of our budget. He added that, that's how they manage the risks of the unknown such as things breaking, road work, etc... The Board thanked Herb Arico.

## **SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Carl Pearson of Fermier Road, asked when the next property evaluation is scheduled for? Erika Wiczenski answered that the next schedule is set for every 5 years, 2024.

Robert Testa of Meadow Lane said that before he moved to Willington, he lived in urban areas. He remembers when he got out of his car, how fresh and clean the air felt. Then he saw the amount of taxes that he would have to pay. Those two things are what made him want to move to the town. He says that he feels it's important to keep taxes as low as possible because it's one of the things that are attractive about this town. He urged the Board to keep spending in check. The Board thanked Robert Testa.

Donna Cook of Common Road Said she was a CPA and stated that it has been a brutal tax

season. She said that people are fleeing Connecticut because of it. She said that this town doesn't get a lot of services outside of the school and the library. She explained that she wasn't criticising the town, she said it's a reality check for what the residents are paying. The Board thanked Donna Cook.

Peter Latincsics of Trask Road said that the Board of Finance has been tracking throughout the budget process a large increase on the Board of Education is not consistent. He said that they can't have a large increase year after year. He stated that it doesn't make sense for the schools to have such a large increase. He said that he doesn't know any other alternative than to reduce the General Government Budget. He stated that he must trust the Board of Education and the Board of Finance know what they are doing. The Board thanked Peter Latincsics.

Superintendent Phil Stevens said that a 0% increase just isn't possible. He said that they tried to come up with many different strategies to spend less with little impact to their current programs. The Board thanked Phil Stevens.

Jim Bulick asked if there were any other comments or questions.

**Jim Bulick called the Budget Hearing to a close at 7:20 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Guinnevere Almquist, Recording Secretary