

BOARD OF FINANCE
TOWN OF SOUTHTON
MARCH 30, 2020

The Board of Finance of the Town of Southington held a Teleconference Special Meeting on Monday, March 30, 2020 at the Finance Department Conference Room, Town Hall, 75 Main Street, Southington, CT. John Leary, Chair, called the teleconference special meeting to order at 7:03 o'clock, p.m.

The following members indicated their presence:

John Leary, Joseph Labieniec, Edward Pocock, Jr., Kevin Beaudoin, Tony Morrison & Susan Zoni

A quorum was determined.

Staff: Mark Sciota, Town Manager
Emilia Portelinha, Director of Finance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was recited by everyone on the telephone line.

II. Adopt FY 20291 – 2020 Board of Finance Proposed Budget

The Three Budgets and CIP Plan will be approved in five motions.

1. General Fund
 - a. General Government

Motion to reduce \$25,000 from the Payroll/MERS account, reduce \$288,000 from the Capital Budget – Widen Resurface, Drainage account and reduce \$120,000 from Medical Insurance – Transfer to the Self-Insurance fund was made by Mr. Pocock. Mr. Beaudoin seconded. Motion passed 6 to 0 on a roll call vote.

Mrs. Zoni made a motion to approve the amount of \$58,076,942 for the General Government budget for the FY2020-2021. Mr. Beaudoin seconded.

Mr. Morrison said he intended to vote no on this. I think we should be passing a zero tax increase this year for reasons that I put on the Minutes and discussed in our last BOF meeting. They're on the record that at this time we should have a zero increase.

Mr. Labieniec added he would do the same thing in that he believed that we should have a zero percent impact to the mill rate this year. I won't reiterate all of my comments from the meeting last week, but I will be voting no.

Mrs. Zoni advised she will be voting yes. I'd love to have a zero increase, but we would hamstring ourselves and we shouldn't take that lightly.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Zoni: Yes
 Mr. Morrison: No
 Mr. Beaudoin: Yes
 Mr. Pocock: Yes
 Mr. Labieniec: No
 Chair Leary: Yes

Motion passes 4 to 2.

b. Board of Education Operations

Mr. Beaudoin made a motion to approve \$100,736,445 for the Board of Education for FY2020-2021. Mr. Pocock seconded.

Mr. Morrison reiterated his comments for a zero increase which is all that is called for at this time. No increase whatsoever. I intend to vote no.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Zoni: Yes
 Mr. Morrison: No
 Mr. Beaudoin: Yes
 Mr. Pocock: Yes
 Mr. Labieniec: No
 Chair Leary: Yes

Motion passes 4 to 2.

2. Animal Control Fund

Mr. Beaudoin made a motion to approve \$258,643 for the Animal Control Fund for FY2020-2021. Mr. Pocock seconded. Motion passes 6 to 0 on a roll call vote.

3. Sewer Fund

Mr. Beaudoin made a motion to approve \$5,552,800 for the Sewer Fund for FY2020-2021. Mrs. Zoni seconded. Motion passes 6 to 0 on a roll call vote.

4. Capital Improvement Plan FY 2020-2021 (Year 1)

Mrs. Zoni made a motion to approve the FY2020-2021 Five Year Capital Improvement Plan project list and to proceed with the recommended funding strategies outlined in year 1 for \$31,770,972. Mr. Pocock seconded.

Mr. Pocock asked if the fire truck was included in that or is that going to be split. Mr. Sciota said there is no fire truck in this year. We'll reevaluate it in the coming years. The ladder truck, which we are talking about, is not in the capital budget for year 1.

Roll Call Vote:	Mrs. Zoni:	Yes
	Mr. Morrison:	Yes
	Mr. Beaudoin:	Yes
	Mr. Pocock:	Yes
	Mr. Labieniec:	No
	Chair Leary:	Yes

Motion passes 5 to 1.

General Comments for the Record:

Chair Leary said the BOF worked very well, very collaboratively on this budget. Everybody spent a lot of time looking at the numbers and thinking in through, asking questions and the amount of teamwork and collaboration was wonderful. In the face of the COVID19 virus, we even worked harder in what I could call a completely non-partisan way and I thank everybody for that who worked on behalf of the town and where we ended up, we ended up.

If I could just summarize, we are ending up with a 0.42 percent tax increase. When the budget was presented to us, it was 1.47 percent tax increase which was a great budget to start with and then because of the COVID19 virus and its effect on the community, effect on people and the amount of uncertainty that it put into the process, it shifted our thought individually on where we would stand with it. But we all asked our questions and worked well. At all times we kept our focus on the interests of the Town of Southington and I thank everybody for that.

Mr. Sciota stated on behalf of the Town Administration and I know on behalf of the School Administration, because Mr. Connellan has been on this call, we want to thank you for all the work you did and we know it was a very, very difficult year. So, on behalf of the Town Administration and the Town Administration, thank you for the work you put in.

The Chair thanked everybody who was in on the process that was developed over several years of putting together a reasonable budget, trying to put in more needs than wants, and really working hard to deliver a good budget. Everyone of our managers, employees, staff and our finance department who pulled it all together, we thank you for delivering it to us in a nice package in an orderly manner that made our work easy. Answering all of our questions and being with us. Thank you to everybody who was involved.

Mr. Pocock seconded the Chair's comments. We all have our opinions, but I always respect everybody's opinion. I have also to respect that I know the town did a very hard job of putting their budget together along with the school board, I just wanted to thank people as well.

The Chair put this in perspective for the public. We hear a lot of numbers and they tend to get lost. A property appraised at \$200,000 would have assessment of \$140,000 which would result in \$18 of additional tax. A property with an appraised value of \$300,000 would have an assessment of

\$210,000 would pay an additional \$27 in tax. Taxes go up 0.42 percent. The mill rate as proposed will go from 30.64 to 30.77.

This will become a recommendation for the Town Council. They will have a little more time to think about it and ponder it and ultimately approve a budget and send it back to the BOF to set the appropriate mill rate.

We are going to have to work really over the next year and into the next budget cycle as we move through the COVID19 issue and see where we end up. What impact it really has on us as a country, as state, as a community and how it impact us, how it impacts the tax revenue, our state grants and we'll all have to continue our work together as we move forward into the following year's budget and the management of the entire year. We are still in the middle of this and we really don't know. The uncertainty still remains. People are still being affected. We will all work together to figure our best way out of this as we move forward.

III. Meeting Adjournment

Mr. Pocock made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Labieniec seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 o'clock, p.m.)