

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

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BOARD OF FINANCE

Budget Meeting
Hybrid — In Person and Online

March 28, 2024
7:00 PM

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

Members Present (a quorum of 4 members is required to conduct business):

Bruce Lawler Chair	Geoffrey Prusak Vice Chair	Christina Mailhos Secretary	Walter Parsell	Jason Ross	Stephanie Summers	Melissa Miller (ALT)	Britt Rothausen (ALT)
In person	In person	In person	In person	In person	In person	Absent	In person

Donna Latincsics, Business Manager – In person
Peter Tanaka, 1st Selectman – In person
James Callaghan, Director, Recreation Department – In person
Alexander Moore, Chief, Willington Fire Department #1 – In person
Tom Snyder, Chief, Willington Hill Fire Department – In person
Phil Stevens, Superintendent – In person
Mike D'Amato, Land Use – In person
Mike Makuch, Willington Fire Department #1 – In person

Residents in person and via Zoom

Call to Order

Bruce Lawler called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Seating of Alternates (if needed): n/a

Approval of Minutes – n/a

Present to Speak:

Mike D'Amato spoke in regard to the Planning & Zoning budget. He reiterated that the budget has two increases. One is for a line item that was brought into the budget that was signed and agreed upon previously and is part of a town contract. The other item is for \$2K and is related to Laserfiche. After reviewing the Land Use budget over the last several years and the budget has increased at approximately half the pace as the town's budget by necessity. While cuts need to be made, the funding is for what is currently in place.

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

Peter Tanaka commented that he reviewed some of the cuts. He requested that \$10K is returned to the salt line to bring the line to the current level. The line was at \$15K and a request was made for \$16K. The Board cut it to \$14K. He does not believe they can count on a price reduction for salt. Additionally, at the last meeting the Board cut 15K from Bulky Waste and from what Mr. Tanaka understands from Mr. Sposato the town has an upcoming change in the contract. Mr. Tanaka wants to ensure they can cover the possible increase.

Superintendent Stevens noted that the Board asked the BOE to try to close the gap. The BOE reviewed the budget. In regard to Novus, the IT provider, the BOE had hoped to minimize onsite staff and by going to 4 days/week, there would be a \$10K savings. Novus believes this is feasible as well. In regard to cyber insurance, the BOE just paid for a 15-month contract out of the current budget to put them on a fiscal cycle. In turn, \$6,604 was reduced from next year's budget. In regard to Workers Comp, savings was found resulting in a reduction of \$3,697. In March, the BOE signed on for a new ELA program. Due to this, they are eliminating one of the online subscriptions for a reduction of \$5,100. In regard to special education, they were able to combine transportation saving \$29,558. Additionally, \$20K in maintenance was eliminated from the operating budget. In total, the reductions amount to \$75,303,000 from the last number approved by the BOE. If the CIP number of \$64K is added, the total reduction is \$139,303,000. The new number requested by the BOE for appropriations is \$9,877,772 (less than an 8% increase).

Mr. Tanaka noted that they have looked at having Novus support 4 days/week on the government side and this would provide \$20K in savings. They hope to receive a quote soon.

Peter Latincsics, 97 Trask Road, commented on the overall budget process. It has become apparent to many townspeople, including himself, that they are facing a rather substantial mill rate increase even after reductions by the Board. He estimates that there would be between a 3.25 and 3.5 mill increase. He commented that this is a staggering increase for a town of its size and means. He commented that the problem lies in the shock absorber – the \$1M in the budget each year for CIP which is ostensibly for school improvements. It is a misnomer because it is really a shock creator. By moving this money in, it increases the budget each year by that amount which has to be raised through taxation. Coupled with the large operational increases in the BOE budget of over \$200K, it is unsustainable just through taxation. He encouraged the Board to schedule a meeting with the BOS and the CIP Committee and consider bonding school improvements. While Willington is generally pays as it goes and does not take on debt, it no longer seems possible given all that everyone wants at once.

Jim Marshall, Fisher Hill Road, commented on comments made by the last speaker. The capital improvement funds are not a driver of the tax increase or increasing the mill rate by any significant amount as compared to the budget. The driver of the mill rate increase is the operational budget. The CIP Committee was cognizant that it was a tough budget year and while they should be doing more, they are not.

Old Business - none

New Business:

1. Appropriations

Ms. Mailhos confirmed that they are at a 2.93% increase. She believed they were a little lower and thought more was coming from fund balance.

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

Land Use

Mr. Lawler asked Mr. D'Amato if reducing Planning & Zoning by \$2K would have a significant impact. Mr. D'Amato explained that it would prohibit them from having the Laserfiche program which is how they host documents provided on the public portal. It allows property owners to use the GIS system to view their files. This allows contractors and attorneys to see information in real time. Mr. Lawler explained that some items go unspent year over year and asked if \$2K is reduced from the overall budget if there would be a negative effect. Mr. D'Amato explained that a portion of the budget is for items that cannot be planned such as legal notices. Everything else is flat. A reduction would mean that they would pull from another area and hope that it is not needed. Ms. Summers noted that they are doing similar things in other budgets. It would be a cut of approximately 1.2%. She asked if other lines could feed in if needed over the course of the year. Mr. D'Amato responded that it is possible depending on the applications received. In some cases, they lose money due to the cost of the applications if legal notices are needed. Additionally, looking at what has been spent to date, contracts for the office's programs come due toward year end. While it may appear that money is not being spent, it is the way the contracts fall. He noted that he was able to negotiate with OpenGov, the building permit software provider, which will reduce the increase by half over the next few years. The total savings are between \$1,000 and \$1,500. This line item was taken into the Land Use budget from the Building Department.

Mr. Parsell asked about Economic Development and the effect of taking out \$5K. Mr. D'Amato explained that it was put in a couple of years ago to fund the Commission's town welcome signage. The intent was to install 4-6 signs, but the cost was too high to fund in a single year. Thus, they have been coddling the funds between two budget years to purchase the signs. Two signs have been purchased. Without the \$5K, no additional signs would be purchased. Mr. Parsell asked how many members are on the Commission. Mr. D'Amato responded that it has four members and will have five after the next BOS meeting resulting in a full Commission. Mr. Clark is acting as Chair. The Commission is underway with the strategic plan. Ms. Summers noted that the Commission has been on a slower tempo and asked if there have been any economies from not meeting as often. Mr. D'Amato explained his firm has a contract with the Commission. On behalf of the Commission, they have tended to many items including managing the Business Resiliency Grant, the RFP process for the welcome signage, work related to the strategic plan as well as the minutes, and facilitating conversations. This has not changed although the Commission has not met. The signage has been addressed by the Commission on consensus. Mr. D'Amato confirmed that they have paid for the first two signs. The \$5K would be for additional signs.

Mr. Parsell commented that in a tough budget year with a pretty substantial tax increase, while signs are nice, it does not sound like a critical need. Ms. Mailhos noted that when this was initially discussed, they sought businesses that would pay for and maintain them. This may be another way to address the signs.

Board of Selectmen

Ms. Summers asked that Mr. Tanaka speak in regard to the cuts. Mr. Tanaka explained that the bulky waste contract expires this year, and he is expecting a bump. A new company will be taking away the town's waste. A core charge of government is having waste removed as well as plowing the streets. This is why he would like to have \$10K added back for road salt and keep

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

the line level and pray for good weather. While praying for good weather is not a budgeting tool, it is what they have. In terms of the reserves, a load of salt was received so they should be fine for this year and the first part of the winter, but it is an unknown. Mr. Ross asked if there is a way they can get salt from Union since they do not pay everything they are supposed to for the ambulance. Mr. Tanaka explained that he does not know how Union gets its salt. Willington gets it from a contractor.

Mr. Tanaka addressed an item posed by Ms. Summers last week and noted that the entire town crew has taken the UCONN class in salt spreading. Ms. Summers commented that they may not yet have seen a full year of the impact. In the last full fiscal year, \$113K was spent and it was increased to \$140K in the current year and increasing it to \$160K. They are not cutting. Mr. Tanaka noted that \$150K was spent. Ms. Summers commented that Public Works has requested an overall increase of 15%. She thinks if they are \$10K short in salt that it will be found. Mr. Parsell commented that in the worst-case scenario, they would come before the Board.

Mr. Prusak asked about the impact of the \$100K reduction. Mr. Tanaka explained that they combined the crack sealing budget, chip sealing budget, and the asphalt budget into one line item and requested an additional \$150K so they could address the repairs suggested by the study. The town paid \$40K last year for this study on asphalt maintenance. This is to ensure that repairs are at the same rate as the deterioration. The BOS offered to reduce it by \$75K but the Board took \$100K. Ms. Summers commented that it more than doubled the budget. If it was a typical year, she would want to get started but they paid for the study and there has not been a presentation. She asked about a 10-year plan. The request was for \$325K for asphalt, a \$175K increase although not all of the funds have been spent yet. Ms. Summers commented that they would like to see the plan.

Mr. Parsell noted that the price of petroleum-based products varies.

Mr. Tanaka noted that a Public Hearing regarding the roads and the results of the study took place at a special meeting on January 4, 2023. It is posted on YouTube.

Emergency Services

Fire Marshal

Mr. Lawler noted that over the past three years, the same amount has been requested. In 2022/23 only \$600 was spent and as of January 24th of this year, nothing has been spent. Mr. Makuch explained that these are stipends for the deputies and believes after the transition there was a shortage in deputies. Mr. Lawler noted the Fire Marshal expenses. The request has been for \$2,750 each year. In 2022/23 only \$410 was spent and through January 24th, \$178. He is recommending a cut of \$750 from the deputy fire marshal line and \$2K from the fire marshal expenses. Chief Moore explained that the fire marshal expense is for its portion of the software. After discussion, the Board recommended reducing line 231 by \$2K.

Mr. Lawler noted that a wage increase was requested if the non-union workers receive one. Mr. Tanaka noted that there has not yet been an increase. Union negotiations start April 19th. Ms. Summers noted that the town has done this previously.

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

Mr. Lawler asked Mr. Tanaka to speak about the discussion last week regarding mutual aid and Tolland. Mr. Tanaka explained that as he understands it there is a large difference in mutual aid among Willington, Tolland, and UCONN. Part of the reason is due to the dispatch protocols at TN. Because Tolland has difficulty covering its east side, Willington provides backup, and the west side of Tolland is covered by Vernon. When Willington needs coverage, TN dispatches UCONN first. Chief Moore explained that the departments decide on mutual aid. Both Willington fire departments selected UCONN for a large portion because they can arrive more quickly and have paid personnel. Tolland has staffing issues at night. Stafford is now 24/7 and there has been a reduction, but Willington goes there because the call volume is three times that of Willington. Stafford can get to the highway more quickly and UCONN typically does not go to the highway. Tolland comes second or third. Tolland uses Willington because it is the closest neighbor and if unavailable, UCONN for the western portion along with Vernon and Ellington. It is not unusual for Tolland to be out on two calls during the day and to receive a third or fourth call. Likewise, it is not unusual for Willington to be out on two calls as well. Ms. Summers commented that there is a rationale for the relationship with UCONN as many faculty and students reside in Willington as well as it being closer to a larger portion of the town. Chief Moore noted that they have more personnel as well. Ms. Summers noted that UCONN is financed by the state, and this is different than mutual aid. Mr. Makuch explained that when deciding on mutual aid, this is irrelevant. It is about what resources are close to the tasks. UCONN is a larger resource due to 24/7 staffing. Willington often goes to Tolland in the evening because it staffs its ambulance and Tolland does not. Ms. Summers commented that this makes sense if they are operating a regional system. Chief Moore explained that TN is the regional hub. Ms. Summers commented that Willington is shouldering more than its share. Mr. Lawler noted that mutual aid for Willington to Tolland was 1:72 (July – January). Mr. Tanaka noted that Tolland has volunteer coverage at night, but it is not going out which is why Willington went to a 24/7 ambulance in Willington – it is hard to get people to get out of bed at 2AM. Chief Moore confirmed that Stafford has 24/7 staffing. Ashford does as well. Mr. Lawler confirmed that Willington provides all of Union's ambulance services. Mr. Parsell commented that he looks at Tolland as a town with a population of almost 15K while Willington is almost 5K. Tolland is more developed, has a larger tax base, and Willington is doing heavy lifting for it. Chief Moore explained that Willington cannot say, "no". He noted that if they take away the calls, it would be a significant drop to Fund 17 but they do lose revenue elsewhere. Mr. Parsell noted that they have more going out than coming in. Chief Moore agreed. Ms. Summers commented that Willington is doing the best it can and she is trying to find a way to level the field of the taxpayer burden because it is heavily on Willington. Mr. Makuch explained that the problem cannot be solved this evening, but they can write a letter to the BOS asking for assistance with the problem with Tolland. Mr. Lawler noted that Mr. Tanaka has discussed this with the Town Manager but on Tolland's end it does not seem to be urgent. They need to stress the urgency of the matter. He would like to see it rectified.

Education

Ms. Summers noted that she appreciates the work of the Director of Special Education finding savings.

Mr. Prusak asked about the MBR and special education. Superintendent Steven explained that in terms of the MBR, it does not matter if it is an outplacement. The MBR is still impacted and will increase; however, there are statutory reasons why they could petition the Commissioner

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

for Education for a reduction. These include if for example three students in the same grade who were outplaced transitioned out of the district at the same time resulting in savings. He explained that keeping students in-house would cost significantly more.

Mr. Latincsics asked what the MBR is now so if they want to petition, they would know the number. Superintendent Stevens explained that is essentially the budget number.

Ms. Summers commented that it is reasonable to discuss the efforts in providing relief and providing an additional \$10K. She confirmed that Mr. Tanaka may have an additional \$10K available once he hears from Novus. Superintendent Stevens explained that that his meeting with Novus was separate from that of Mr. Tanaka's. Ms. Summers asked Mr. Tanaka if the \$10K would provide relief on salt and bulky waste. Mr. Tanaka commented that he does not believe anticipated savings to the general fund is the same as funding salt and bulky waste. He would like to see it on the budget line.

Human Services

A brief discussion took place regarding the request for an increase in the number of hours for the assistant and its calculation.

Voting on Appropriations

[next page]

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

Miscellaneous Budgets

Motion to accept the budget request for 0121 Probate Court for 4,426
was made by MAILHOS and seconded by PRUSAK .

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0126 Election Officials for 71,839
was made by Parsell and seconded by ROSS.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0131 Board of Finance for 5,018
was made by SUMMERS and seconded by ROSS .

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0132 Treasurer for 11,474
was made by ROSS and seconded by SUMMERS .

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0133 Auditor for 46,095
was made by PARSELL and seconded by MAILHOS.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0135 Bd of Assessment Appeals for 1,498
was made by PRUSAK and seconded by ROSS .

Discussion: Mr. Parsell noted that he is on the Bd. of Assessment Appeals.

Mr. Parsell recused himself from the vote.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0161 Conservation Commission for 1,500
was made by PRUSAK and seconded by SUMMERS.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0171 Planning and Zoning for 157,606
was made by PRUSAK and seconded by ROSS.

Discussion: Ms. Latincsics confirmed the dollar amount.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

Motion to accept the budget request for 0172 Zoning Board of Appeals for 5,147
was made by ROSS and seconded by PRUSAK.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0175 Economic Development for 18,000
was made by PARSELL and seconded by MAILHOS.

Discussion: none

In favor: Ross, Mailhos, Lawler, Parsell, Summers Abstentions: Prusak

Vote: Motion passed.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0176 Inland/Wetlands for 2,000
was made by MAILHOS and seconded by SUMMERS.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0861 BOF Contingency for 15,000
was made by SUMMERS and seconded by ROSS.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for O-004 Transfer Out-Park & Rec 94,516 **434,119**
was made by SUMMERS and seconded by PARSELL.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Board of Selectmen

Motion to accept the budget request for 0111 Selectmen for 160,234
was made by MAILHOS and seconded by SUMMERS.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0130 Accounting Services for 291,343
was made by ROSS and seconded by PRUSAK.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0134 Assessor for 162,028
was made by PARSELL and seconded by SUMMERS.

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0137 Revenue Collector for 97,660
was made by PRUSAK and seconded by MAILHOS.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0141 Town Counsel for 32,000
was made by PARSELL and seconded by ROSS.

Discussion: Ms. Summers confirmed this does not reflect a cut.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0151 Town Clerk for 119,770
was made by SUMMERS and seconded by ROSS.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0181 Town Office Operations for 277,614
was made by ROSS and seconded by PRUSAK.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0182 Town Hall Operations for 8,123
was made by MAILHOS and seconded by SUMMERS.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0183 Consulting Engineers for 10,000
was made by PARSELL and seconded by ROSS.

Discussion: Ms. Summers confirmed this reflects a cut.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0185 Senior Center Operations for 44,508
was made by PRUSAK and seconded by SUMMERS.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0233 Health District for 32,925
was made by PRUSAK and seconded by SUMMERS.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0235 Fire Main & Hydrants for 9,635

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

was made by ROSS and seconded by SUMMERS.

Discussion: none

Vote: In favor: Ross, Mailhos, Lawler, Parsell, Summers Opposed: Prusak

Motion passed.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0241 Building Official for
was made by SUMMERS and seconded by PARSELL.

41,480

Discussion: none

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0311 Public Works for
was made by PARSELL and seconded by SUMMERS.

1,496,410

Discussion: Ms. Latincsics noted that this reflects the reductions.

Vote: In favor: Ross, Mailhos, Lawler, Parsell, Summers Opposed: Prusak

Motion passed.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0342 Cemetery for
was made by PRUSAK and seconded by MAILHOS.

2,000

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0351 Transfer Station for
was made by ROSS and seconded by SUMMERS.

287,420

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0811 Social Security for
was made by MAILHOS and seconded by PRUSAK.

98,844

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0821 Unemployment for
was made by PARSELL and seconded by SUMMERS.

1,000

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0831 Employee Insurances for
was made by SUMMERS and seconded by PRUSAK.

247,354

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0841 Pension for
was made by ROSS and seconded by PRUSAK.

45,490

Discussion: none

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0851 Insurances for 95,077
was made by PRUSAK and seconded by SUMMERS.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0871 Miscellaneous for 2,000
was made by PRUSAK and seconded by SUMMERS.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0910 Debt Services for 165,000
was made by MAILHOS and seconded by ROSS.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0930 Capital Expenditures for 65,000
was made by PARSELL and seconded by SUMMERS.

Discussion: Ms.Mailhos confirmed that \$64K was removed leaving \$65K.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for O-004 Transfer Out-Capital Reserve for 1,531,000
was made by MAILHOS and seconded by SUMMERS.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for O-004 Transfer Out-Handicap Vehicle 1,000
was made by ROSS and seconded by PRUSAK.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for O-004 Transfer Out- Housing Authority for 2,182
was made by SUMMERS and seconded by PRUSAK.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for O-004 Transfer Out-Accrued Sick Days for 5,000
was made by PRUSAK and seconded by SUMMERS.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for O-004 Transfer Out-Dog Fund for 26,835
was made by ROSS and seconded by SUMMERS.

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for O-004 Transfer Out-Human Services for 83,014
was made by SUMMERS and seconded by ROSS.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for O-004 Transfer Out-Open Space for 25,000 5,466,946
was made by PARSELL and seconded by SUMMERS.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for O-004 Transfer Out-Library for 263,962 263,962
was made by SUMMERS and seconded by PRUSAK.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Emergency Services

Motion to accept the budget request for 0231 Fire Marshal for 27,168
was made by MAILHOS and seconded by PRUSAK.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0232 AED's and Dispatch Fees for 37,365
was made by PRUSAK and seconded by SUMMERS.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for 0234 Emergency Mgmt Director for 7,000
was made by PRUSAK and seconded by ROSS.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for O-004 Transfer Out-Ambulance for 622,588
was made by PRUSAK and seconded by SUMMERS.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for O-004 Transfer Out-WHFD1 for 181,300
was made by PRUSAK and seconded by PARSELL.

Discussion: Motion needs to be restated to indicate WFD1.

PRUSAK amended the motion.

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

Motion to accept the budget request for O-004 Transfer Out-WFD1 for \$181,300 was made by PRUSAK and seconded by PARSELL.

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for O-004 Transfer Out-WHFD for was made by SUMMERS and seconded by PRUSAK.

161,360 **1,036,781**

Discussion: none

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the budget request for the Board of Education for was made by MAILHOS and seconded by ROSS .

9,933,075 9,933,075

Discussion: none

A roll call vote was taken.

Vote: In favor: Mailhos, Ross, Parsell, Summers; Abstentions: Prusak, Lawler.

Motion passed.

Region 19 4,657,859

General Government 7,201,808

TOTAL Expenditures 21,792,742

Ms. Mailhos motioned to apply \$700,000 of Fund Balance instead of \$500,000 that was a placeholder.

Ms. Summers seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. Parsell confirmed that the mill rate is set after the Public Hearing. Ms. Summers noted that moving the funds is not setting the mill rate. Mr. Parsell noted that it does affect it. Mr. Makuch explained that the meeting after the referendum is not only to vote on the mill rate but also to make final adjustments if needed.

Ms. Mailhos amended the motion.

Ms. Mailhos motioned to apply \$700,000 of Fund Balance instead of \$500,000 that was a placeholder for the purpose of making a recommendation moving forward.

Ms. Summers seconded the motion.

Discussion: A discussion took place on whether they should vote on this now and let it go to the voters. Ms. Summers commented that most of the adjustments would be in their favor such as a positive outcome on a contract. She believes it would be good for this year to take some of the scare out of it and talk about the fund balance this evening if this is the intent of the Board. It was noted that an adjustment may be made later if needed.

Mr. Parsell asked about the projected mill rate. It was noted that the projected mill rate would be a 2.51, and increase to 34.67.

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

Mr. Latincsics called a Point of Order.

Mr. Latincsics commented that the public hearing is an important part of the process and is the town's first exposure to the budget. He would like to hear the dollar amount and percentages of the expense increases. It is incumbent on the Board to listen at the Public Hearing to what the public says, asks, and how they react. Adjustments may be made after the Public Hearing. It then goes to a Town Meeting for further discussion. They want involvement of the townspeople especially this year.

Mr. Makuch commented that this was a misuse of a Point of Order. This was a Present to Speak. A Point of Order cannot be used for Present to Speak.

Discussion: Ms. Mailhos noted that the Board discussed using the Fund Balance last week and she feels comfortable with \$700,000. It puts them at 10% of the expenditure appropriation, in the middle of where they want to be between 8%-12%. Mr. Lawler asked how many months of fund balance is needed. Ms. Mailhos explained that the auditors said between 8%-12%.

Vote:

In favor: Ross, Mailhos, Lawler, Parsell, Summers

Opposed: Prusak

Abstentions: none

Motion passed.

Chief Moore confirmed that the Ambulance Payroll is \$622,588 with \$10K coming from Fund 17 and the correction of the union contribution of another \$10K.

Correspondence: - none

Present to Speak

Peter Latincsics asked what the increase is in terms of dollars and percentage.

Ms. Latincsics noted that she will calculate and provide it to Mr. Lawler tomorrow. It will be posted.

Good and Welfare: UCONN is currently ahead 45-33.

Adjournment:

Ms. Summers motioned to adjourn at 8:54pm.

Mr. Ross seconded the motion.

Motion passed (6-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pascuzzi

Lisa Pascuzzi

Recording Secretary

RECEIVED
WILLINGTON, CT.

2024 APR -8 A 8:15

[Signature]
TOWN CLERK