

Town of Weston OPEB Trust
Summary of Recommendations for Changes to Investment Portfolio Asset Allocation

As further described in the “Weston OPEB Quarterly Investment Review – Fourth Quarter 2022”, the chart below provides a summary of Fiducient Advisors’ recommendations to adjust certain target allocations in the portfolio. The column titled “Proposed Target Allocation” illustrates Fiducient’s new recommendations. The column titled “Current Target Allocation” represents the current target policy.

Recommendations include adjustments within the fixed income mix and the US equity mix of mutual funds.

FIDUCIENT Advisors		Weston OPEB				
Asset Allocation Change Recommendation Worksheet						
Objective : Reallocate portfolio.						
Investment Name	Unreconciled Balance As of: 2/21/2023	Current Allocation	Current Target Allocation	Proposed Target Allocation	Resulting Balances	Resulting Allocation
<i>Cash</i>	\$16,026	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	\$16,319	0.1%
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<i>Fixed Income</i>	\$5,031,287	44.8%	45.0%	45.0%	\$5,047,994	44.9%
Vanguard Short Term Bond Index Adm	\$568,829	5.1%	5.0%	10.0%	\$1,118,829	10.0%
Vanguard Short-Term Investment-Grade Fund Admiral Shar	\$1,761,293	15.7%	15.0%	0.0%	\$0	0.0%
Metropolitan West Total Return Bond Fund Plan	\$2,701,165	24.0%	25.0%	35.0%	\$3,929,165	35.0%
<i>Domestic Equity</i>	\$3,540,341	31.5%	30.0%	30.0%	\$3,363,341	29.9%
Vanguard 500 Index Fund Admiral Shares	\$3,124,917	27.8%	26.0%	22.0%	\$2,467,917	22.0%
Vanguard Extended Market Index Fund Admiral Shares	\$415,425	3.7%	4.0%	8.0%	\$895,425	8.0%
<i>International Equity</i>	\$2,040,601	18.2%	20.0%	20.0%	\$2,240,601	19.9%
American Funds Europacific Growth R6	\$2,040,601	18.2%	20.0%	20.0%	\$2,240,601	19.9%
<i>Real Assets</i>	\$603,928	5.4%	5.0%	5.0%	\$563,928	5.0%
DWS RREEF Real Assets Fund - Class Inst	\$603,928	5.4%	5.0%	5.0%	\$563,928	5.0%
Investment Portfolio Total	\$11,232,183	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	\$11,232,183	100.0%

Rationale for recommendations:

With the expectation of continued volatility in the markets, we expect portfolio diversification to be increasingly important in 2023 and beyond.

The fixed income environment is markedly different than a year ago, with the Fed having raised rates aggressively throughout 2022. With yields much higher than they were a year ago, forward-looking return expectations for fixed income are more compelling. Given that much of the Fed’s rate hike campaign seems to be in the rear window, we recommend you consider increasing exposure to high quality and intermediate duration U.S. fixed income, sourced from a reduction in short term bonds.

Given the broad pullback in equity markets in 2022, valuations look more attractive, and forward-looking return expectations have increased. Opportunities for growth exist in both domestic and foreign markets. We recommend you consider modestly reducing exposure to large cap domestic equities in favor of small/mid cap. Small/mid cap equities have historically tended to outperform their larger cap counterparts in market rebounds. Small/ mid cap equities are more attractively priced than their larger cap counterparts, given market activity in 2022 and in the prior several years.

While global equity valuations (both developed and emerging) continue to favor markets overseas, the greater potential for exogenous events outside of the U.S. tempers some of the relative appeal for foreign holdings. A sizeable allocation to international markets continues to be appropriate, and our recommended allocation to non-US equities remains unchanged.

Given the current environment of meaningful inflation and expected volatility, an allocation to diversified real assets continues to be important. Our recommendation remains unchanged.

February 21, 2023

For Institutional Investor Use Only. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results. This summary memo is meant to be used in conjunction with the Weston OPEB Quarterly Investment Review – Fourth Quarter 2022.



TOWN OF WESTON COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

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Weston Land Mobile Radio Replacement Project Executive Summary

Introduction

For the past 11 years the replacement of the current land mobile radio (LMR) system that provides communications for Weston's Emergency Services, the Department of Public Works and Animal Control Officer has been debated without any final resolution. Due to the age and failing reliability of the existing system, combined with the industry's lack of support of both infrastructure and system components, interim steps necessary to maintain functionality have been partially addressed by replacing failed components (along with good fortune in not having sustained a catastrophic failure). This notwithstanding, the need to upgrade and replace the LMR system is now at hand.

LMR systems are a complex apparatus composed of multiple integrated components. The ultimate design is a combination of various manufacturers' products and platforms. To the uninitiated the system might appear as just a radio and a tower with an antenna. In reality, there are hundreds of components brought together during the engineering and design phase to create the overall infrastructure. The term "land mobile radio system" generally refers to the combination of all components including the radios, networking connectivity, time synchronization, signal strength voters and comparators, dispatch workstation consoles, recording equipment, alerting hardware, and system health monitoring equipment. Add in our existing towers at Town Hall and the Transfer Station and you have a complete, albeit complex, LMR system.¹

¹ In addition to the towers, there are several receivers located in Weston, Westport and Redding that tie into the Communications Center to augment communications. Many of these components are no longer supported by the manufacturer and, if they were to fail, would require immediate emergency replacement.

The scope of this project is massive but critical to ensure that public safety personnel and other municipal agencies can safely and efficiently deliver services. Moreover, the assistance we provide and rely upon from our surrounding mutual aid partners (Wilton, Westport, Norwalk & Fairfield) has only increased year over year for decades without any signs of reduction. As such, the demands for a communication system we can all use to communicate (interoperability) have become more essential.

Background

Many components of our current system were installed prior to the year 2000. A 15-year life expectancy is considered the industry norm before a complete replacement is recommended. In 2011 an upgrade to the Weston Police radio system was required due to failing system components. That upgrade has now reached the end of its useful life. The manufacturer is no longer providing parts or support and new components must be sourced randomly from other suppliers, generally over the internet.

Similarly, most of the primary subscriber units (individual radios) that are used by the FD and EMS were discontinued a decade ago. Support for these radios is no longer available from the manufacturer. When these radios are in need of repair the only course of action is to replace them with new, or as is often the case, used equipment purchased from EBay or other similar platforms.

Weston is fortunate that our current LMR system was implemented and designed using the best available products and engineering. Mercifully, there have been few "major" system failures over its lifetime. When a failure occurs it requires immediate attention from our vendor. Public safety networks need to maintain a 99.9% uptime, a National standard. Of critical concern is the Town's ability to continue to meet this standard given the equipment currently on hand.

Connecticut Land Mobile Radio Network Introduction

The system described throughout this proposal is known as the Connecticut Land Mobile Radio Network (CLMRN). The CLMRN is an existing statewide radio infrastructure system that was primarily used exclusively by the Connecticut State Police until recently when system improvements allowed for other state agencies and municipalities to join the system. **Of particular importance the CLMRN**

is also being adopted by all of our surrounding mutual aid partners, Westport, Wilton, Norwalk and Fairfield. Weston would join this system by building out additional infrastructure and replacing our subscriber equipment to operate on the CLMRN.

The CLMRN will provide First Responders with expanded coverage throughout lower Fairfield County and in some cases, beyond. The CLMRN also provides additional capacity for the Department of Public Works and our Animal Control Officers. Additional infrastructure is not required to add channels (aka talkgroups) for the individual user groups. Joining the CLMRN also provides access to cutting edge features which are costly or unavailable to implement on stand-alone systems. These features which will be periodically updated and integrated state-wide include asset control (remote wipe of lost/stolen equipment), encryption, direct interoperability with inter and intra town agencies, and more.

The State and Motorola have implemented maintenance and lifecycle service agreements which protect the investment in the system and provide replacement components as they are needed. An estimate of approximately \$140,000 per year will protect Weston site equipment from becoming obsolete due to software upgrades and provide additional protection for maintenance. This annual service fee includes software upgrades as mandated by the State. Any hardware replacement required because of a software upgrade is also included at no additional cost. This service agreement is a requirement by the State to participate in the CLMRN.

The Weston Communications Director and New England Radio Consulting worked with the State Connecticut Telecommunications System Unit (CTS) and Motorola Solutions to design and engineer a project that will meet the current needs of the Town while also protecting against obsolescence in a financially responsible manner. Motorola's proposed implementation will guarantee 95% portable radio coverage in a light commercial building and 98% mobile radio coverage. The proposal includes the upgrade and replacement of all radio infrastructure, backhaul connectivity, and subscriber units.² The price was quoted at \$4,500,000 and includes a 25% discount on fixed and mobile equipment. This discount has been extended as part of the state contract pricing and the benefits we gain from the scope of the equipment purchase.

The agreement with the state helps to assure the longevity of this shared system. The MOU to be executed by the Town contemplates a five-year agreement that automatically renews for four

² "Backhaul" connectivity refers to infrastructure allowing remote sites to communicate with base station
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additional five-year terms, unless either party gives two years written notice to cancel. The state does not charge any money to the Town for use of this system. The Town remains responsible to meet the specifications set by the state insofar as site design. This is intended to create seamless consistency, reliability, while maintaining network integrity.

Conclusion

After an extensive review and needs assessment, it was determined that migration to the CLMRN was the best option for the Town. It provides a balance between functionality and cost. This system has been designed to meet the needs of the Town today as well as into the future. Leveraging the resources of the State, the expansive network that is already in place including the State-wide network, we will be able to maintain radio coverage that is comparable to our existing system while the Town will only be responsible to maintain our own radio sites. Comparing the CLMRN to other systems, we determined this to be the most balanced option considering coverage, cost, reliability and maintenance. This system offers true interoperability with other town agencies as well as local, state, and federal organizations. I trust that those responsible for funding this project embrace this proposal with the same enthusiasm and confidence that I do in proceeding with the CLMRN system.

Current Users of the CLMRN System

Avon	Groton, City (PD only)	Quinebaug Valley
Barkhamsted Fire District	Groton, Town (PD only)	Communications
Bloomfield	Guilford (TGs only)	Rocky Hill (TGs only)
Bridgeport	Haddam	Stamford
Cheshire (buses and dispatch consoles)	Hartford (Fire only)	Stonington (PD only)
Connecticut Dept. of Public Health	Litchfield County Dispatch, Inc.	Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Service
Connecticut Dept. of Transportation	Madison (consoles only)	Trumbull Fire Districts
Coventry (PD only – soon public works)	Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Department	U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Darien (consoles only)	Middlefield	Valley Shore Emergency Communications
DEMHS Region 5 EPT	Middlesex Health Paramedic Service	Wallingford (ISSI)
Durham	Middletown (ISSI)	Waterbury (ISSI)
East Haddam (EMO)	New Britain	West Hartford (TGs only)
Estuary Transit District	New Haven Area Special Hazards Team	Westport
Fairfield	Norwalk	Wilton
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)	Norwich (PD only)	Willington



Town of Weston

Land Mobile Radio System Replacement

LMR Presentation Summary

- Recommend Purchasing the Connecticut Land Mobile Radio System
- Initial System Cost: \$4,500,000
 - BOF & BOF Approval > Special Town Meeting
 - General Fund Reserves
- Project Contingency: 4% or \$180,000
 - Previously allocated radio improvement funds
- Annual System Cost: \$140,000
 - Suggest add to the Communications Center budget for FY25
- Initial Town Responsibilities (prior to system installation): \$124,000
 - Previously allocated radio improvement funds & Tower Fund
 - Facility improvements

In this presentation:

- Our current Land Mobile Radio system
- How Did We Evaluate Our Needs And Goals?
- Possible Solutions
- Projected Costs
 - Purchase & Installation Cost
 - Recurring Cost
- Conclusion

Our current Land Mobile Radio system

- Equipment & Infrastructure
 - Engineering and Installation Circa 2000
 - 15 Years Useful Life (Industry Standard)
 - Current infrastructure is no longer supported by manufacturer
 - Parts to maintain / repair system operational are no longer available

Dispatch Radio Console
2 Total



Portable Radio
132 Total



Mobile Radio
56 Total



**TOWN OF WESTON LMR SYSTEM
EXISTING ANTENNA LOCATIONS**

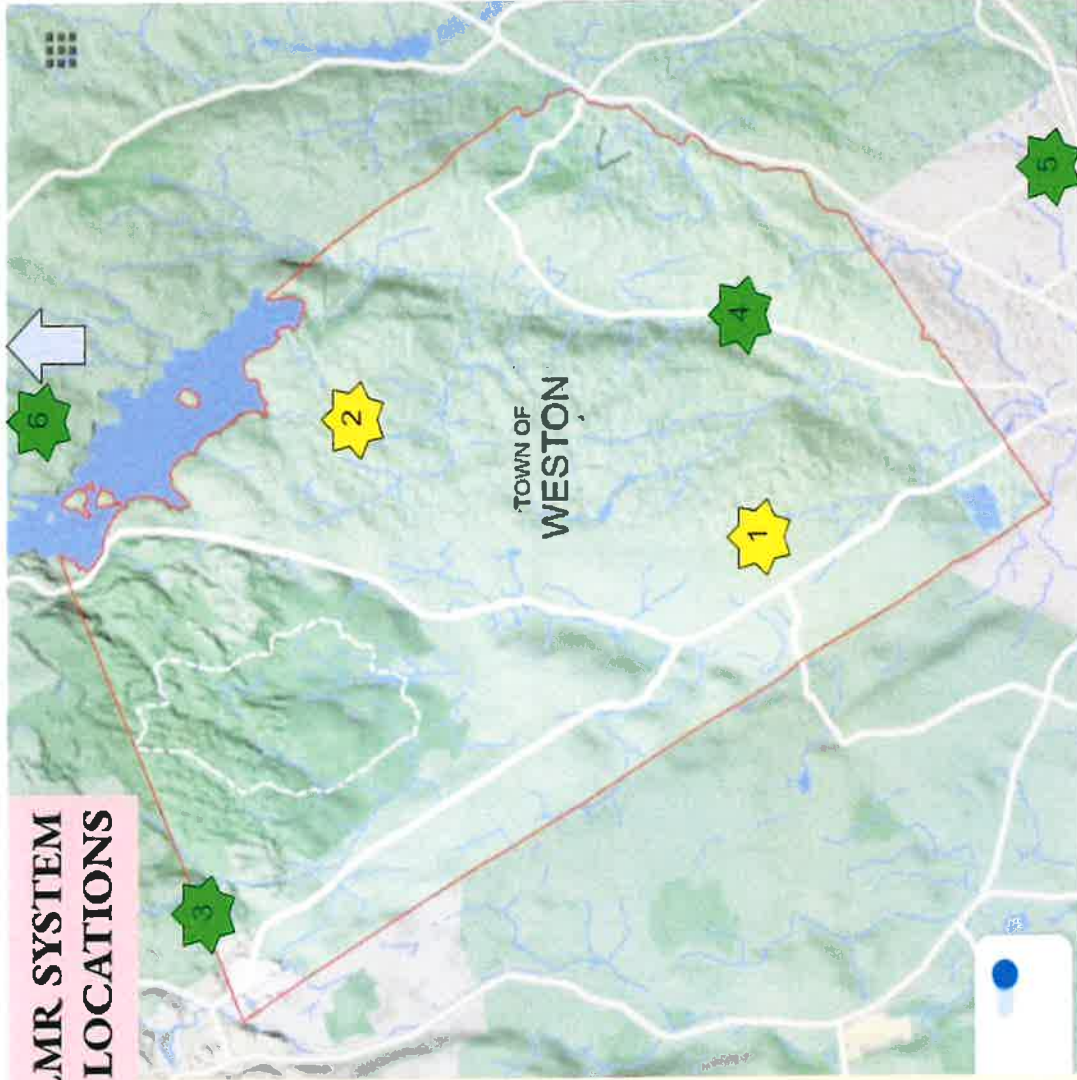
- 1 - TOWN HALL
- 2 - TRANSFER STATION
- 3 - MEADOW RIDGE
- 4 - LYONS PLAIN FD
- 5 - BAYBERRY ROAD
- 6 - REDDING POLICE



= TRANSMITTER &
RECEIVER



= RECEIVE ONLY



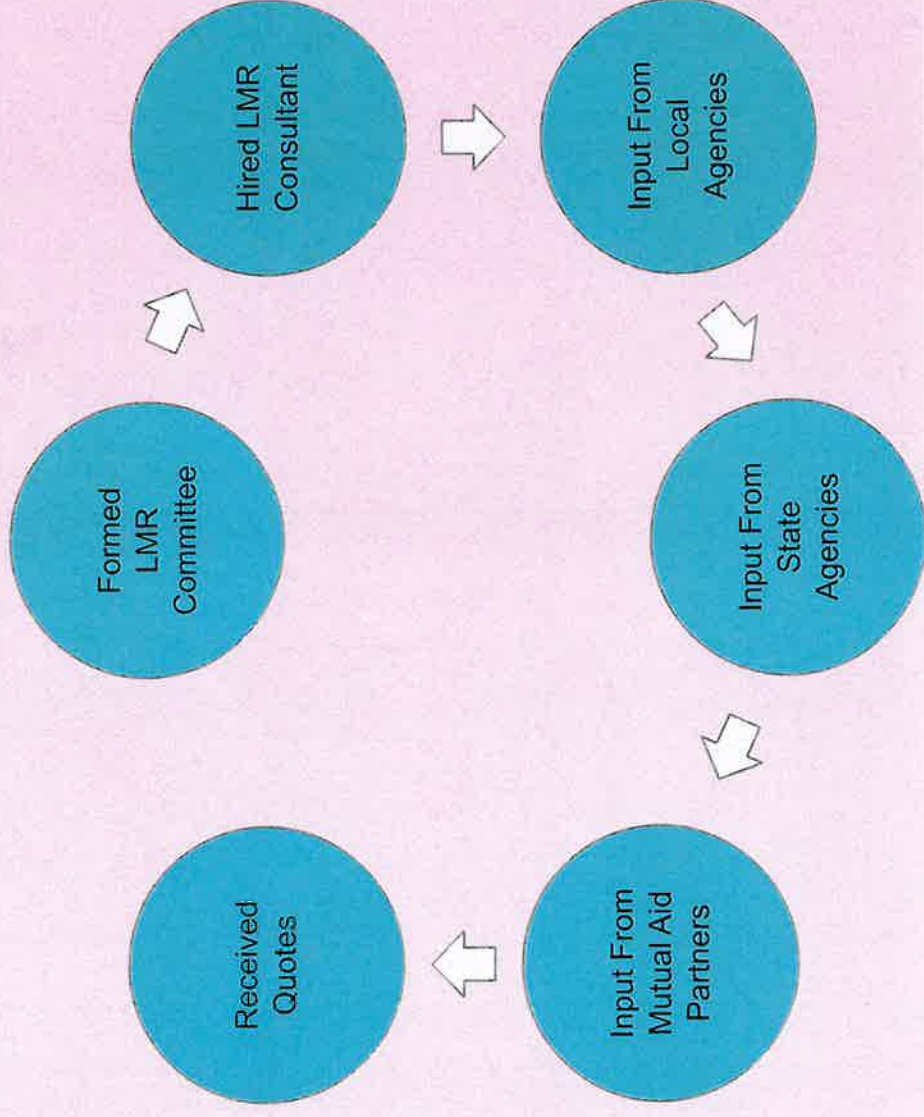
Our current Land Mobile Radio system

- What's Good?
 - Good coverage throughout our Town
 - Terrain Challenges
 - Original Installed Equipment High Quality
 - Outlasted system useful life
 - We have total control of the system

Our current Land Mobile Radio system

- What's Bad?
 - Replacement Parts Unavailable
 - Potential Extended Down Time
 - No Interoperability
 - Difficult to Communicate With Other Agencies
 - Lack of Current Technology

How Did We Evaluate Our Needs And Goals?



Possible Solutions

Analysis determined two feasible solutions:

- Solution #1 Replace current system with similar
- Solution #2 Replace current system with “State System”

Possible Solutions: #1 Replace current system with similar

Pros	Cons
Cheapest Option	Poor interoperability with Mutual Aid Partners
The Town owns system and is responsible for its own communications infrastructure	The Town owns system and is responsible for its own communications infrastructure
Town decides level of maintenance ie. Break and Fix verse Lifecycle support.	Not monitored by Connecticut Telecommunications Systems Unit.
	Coverage not as good as CLMRN

Possible Solutions: #2 Replace with CLMRN

Pros	Cons
Significantly improved mutual aid communications	State requires level of lifecycle maintenance coverage. Added cost
Provides enhanced converge. Higher frequency allows for better building penetration.	Town joins partnership with the State and must purchase approved equipment.
APCO Project 25 Compliant (Interoperability)	Higher Initial Cost
Lifecycle Support / Monitored radio health 24/7.	

Estimated System Costs: Installation Equipment & Labor

- UHF Conventional System Refresh
 - Budgetary Value \$3,349,791
- CLMRN Integration
 - Budgetary Value \$4,500,000
- Project Contingency
 - \$180,000 (4% Motorola Recommendation)

Estimated System Cost: Post Warranty Services

Solution #1 Refresh	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Maintenance Services	Included	\$98,703	\$101,664	\$104,714	\$107,853
Lifecycle Services	N/A	\$70,798	\$71,216	\$71,646	\$72,089
Total Services	Included	\$169,501	\$172,880	\$176,360	\$179,942

Solution #2 CLMRN	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Maintenance Services	Included	\$98,970	\$103,641	\$108,550	\$113,712
Lifecycle Services	N/A	\$39,994	\$40,725	\$41,485	\$42,276
Total Services	Included	\$138,964	\$144,366	\$150,035	\$155,988

Estimated System Cost: Town Responsibilities

Fiber Optic Line	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Frontier Estimate 5 Years No Increase	\$5,688	\$5,688	\$5,688	\$5,688	\$5,688
Item	Price				
New Boiler in Firehouse / Remove Hot Water Pipes	\$96,000				
New Roof On Godfrey Tower Shelter	\$5,500				
New HVAC Heat Pump Norfield Shelter	\$12,500				
New Security Cage Station #2 Attic	\$2,500				
Facility Improvements Norfield Tower Shelter	\$7,500				

Grant / Bond Applications

- **Congressionally Directed Spending - \$1,000,000**
 - Application Submitted March 2023
 - Based upon successful Wilton application previous year
 - Positive feedback from Congressman Himes' Office
- **Connecticut Bond Council - \$509,286**
 - Application Submitted December 2022
 - Based upon price of Radio Console
 - Positive feedback from CT Office of Policy & Management

Approvals Process / Dates

- **4/19/23 - Presentation to joint BOF & BOS Special Meeting**
- **4/19/23 - BOS vote to approve.**
- **5/1/23 - BOF vote to approve**
- **5/4/23 - BOS Vote to hold Special Town Meeting**
- **6/7/23 - Vote to approve at Special Town Meeting**

Recommendation To Move Forward With CLMRN

Why spend \$1M more? Is it really worth it?

- Increased level of safety
- Wide coverage area: Weston, Wilton, Westport, Fairfield & Norwalk
- Allows interoperability between units in the field with other agencies
- Considerable upgrade to DPW & ACO communication capabilities
- Allows for future system enhancements
- The system is APCO P25 compliant (Interoperability)
- State supervision and maintenance of system with 24/7 monitoring by CTS

FUND BALANCE FORECAST FY 2022-23

GENERAL FUND BALANCE 6/30/22

	Fiscal '22-23 Orig. Budget	Fiscal '22-23 Est. Actual	Variance	Comments
Revenue			18,657,924	
Tax Revenue	76,170,169	76,399,046	228,877	Current levy collection % forecast to exceed budget
Departmental Receipts	1,068,900	1,789,400	720,500	Investment Income and building permits
State Revenue	656,575	959,152	302,577	Municipal Revenue sharing; FEMA reimbursements
Total Revenue	<u>77,895,644</u>	<u>79,147,598</u>	<u>1,251,954</u>	
Expenditures				
Board of Selectmen Budget	14,685,746	14,708,633	(22,887)	Primary negative driver - Legal Exp.; primary positive driver - Snow Removal
Board of Education Budget	56,391,182	56,091,182	300,000	Tentative from the BOE prior to May presentation
Capital Budget	2,431,071	2,481,071	(50,000)	Police Locker/Bathroom Supplemental
Debt Service	4,387,645	4,387,645	-	
Total Expenditures	<u>77,895,644</u>	<u>77,668,531</u>	<u>227,113</u>	
FY 23 Fund Balance Forecast prior to LMR			20,136,991	
FY 23 Fund Balance Forecast utilizing \$3M from fund balance			17,136,991	
FY 23 Fund Balance Forecast utilizing \$4.5M from fund balance			15,636,991	
Proposed FY 2024 Total Budget	79,699,432			
% Fund Balance Forecast prior to LMR			25.3%	
% Fund Balance Forecast utilizing \$3M from fund balance			21.5%	
% Fund Balance Forecast utilizing \$4.5M from fund balance			19.6%	

Board of Finance Regular Meeting
February 9, 2023 6:00 PM
Meeting held remotely

Call to Order: Board of Finance Chair Michael Imber called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. Also in attendance were Board of Finance members Theresa Brasco, Jeffrey Farr, Amy Gare, Jeffrey Goldstein, and Maxwell Rosenthal; Vice Chair Rone Baldwin had an excused absence due to travel. Also in attendance were Finance Director Rick Darling, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Town Assessor Denise Hames, WPS Finance Director Phillip Cross, and Karen Paulsen, Fiducient Advisors.

Mr. Imber introduced and welcomed new Board of Finance member Jeffrey Goldstein.

Mr. Farr made a motion to move current agenda item number 5 to follow agenda item number 3. Seconded by Ms. Brasco. Motion passes.

1 - Discussion regarding an update on the upcoming revaluation process, and a chronological overview of the Assessor's procedures in developing the annual grand list. Denise Hames, Tax Assessor. Ms. Hames provided an update on the revaluation process for the 2023 revaluation as well as a general chronological overview. Ms. Hames answered questions from the BOF on revaluation procedures and the grand list.

2 - Discussion/Decision regarding a presentation of the OPEB trust on any proposed investment reallocations by our Investment Advisory, Karen Paulson, Fiducient Advisors. Karen Paulsen gave a detailed presentation on the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) trust portfolio as of 2/2/23. Updates on Weston OPEB updated balances, current allocations and target allocations were reviewed. Ms. Paulson offered suggestions based on modeling for potential future fund recommendations. Discussions continued on market overviews for 2022 full year performance as well as a detailed review of the current portfolio performance. Ms. Paulson confirmed that longer fixed income duration contributed to the poorer-than-benchmark performance of the OPEB trust under the year-to-date and trailing one year measurements. Mr. Imber observed that current OPEB trust assets leave the town with approximately 100% funding of the OPEB liabilities as of July 1, 2021 while noting that the actual liability may have shifted in the last 18 months. Rick Darling noted that the OPEB liability will be updated later this year. Ms. Paulsen discussed the potential for a small re-allocation of investments for the BOF to consider. Mr. Imber asked Ms. Paulsen for a written summary for the BOF to consider based on Fiducient's recommendations for re-allocated investments and time frames. Ms. Paulsen promised to do so. No motion made.

3 - Discussion regarding the Board of Education's financial report as of December 31, 2022. Phil Cross, Director of Finance and Operations. Mr. Cross gave a summary report on the Fiscal year 2023 budgets as of December 31, 2022. Mr. Cross also gave a report on the surplus analysis for FY2023 noting that they have a surplus of \$429,306. He gave a detailed summary of the surplus analysis from salary savings, tuition and settlements, transportation fleet reduction and transportation credits as well as insurance savings.

4 - Discussion regarding an update on the Town Financial report. Rick Darling, Finance Director. Mr. Darling provided an overview of the general fund year end highlights for FY-23 revenues and expenditures as well as a discussion on the fund balance. Mr. Darling highlighted that tax revenues are \$229,000 higher than budgeted due to projected strong collections as well as tax sales. Investment income is forecasted \$300,000 higher as well as Town Clerk receipts and building permits forecasted at \$170,000. Mr. Darling reviewed expenditures noting positive variances in health insurance, animal control and Board of Education surplus. Deficits reviewed were legal, police wages, and school/town water. Overall there is a healthy fund balance forecasted at 25% of the preliminary FY 2024 budget. Mr. Darling made note of the future Dispatch and Radio Communications project which is estimated at 3.5 million for the Town share. Taking this into consideration, the fund balance would decrease to 20%.

5 - Discussion/Decision regarding a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$7,681 for the Assessor's office and related payroll costs which recognizes bringing the Assistant Assessor to full time from 30 hours per week. Jonathan Luiz, Town Administrator. Mr. Imber made note that the \$7,681 is incorrect based on the original request and breakdown which was due to transposed numbers in the initial request. The total cost for the supplemental appropriation is \$8,184.68. Mr. Imber made a motion to amend the supplemental appropriation request for \$8,184.68. Seconded by Ms. Brasco, the motion passed unanimously. Discussions continued on the amended appropriation request. Mr. Imber asked for a motion for a supplemental appropriation approval of 8,148.68 to fully fund for the remainder of the fiscal year to have the Assistant Assessor full time. Motion made by Max Rosenthal. Seconded by Mr. Goldstein. All in favor. Motion passes.

6 - Discussion/Decision regarding approval of the meeting minutes of January 12th. Mr. Farr made a correction to item 4 on the minutes. Item corrected to read, "Mr. Farr was not in favor of approving, noting that the \$3,000 should be absorbed in the overall town budget and not a supplemental appropriation". Mr. Farr made a motion to approve the January 12, 2023 Board of Finance minutes with an amendment to item 4. Seconded by Mr. Rosenthal. All in favor, motion passes with Mr. Goldstein abstaining.

7 - New business. Mr. Imber made a motion to add to the agenda a discussion on protocol requests for supplemental appropriations. Mr. Farr seconded the motion. All in favor motion carried. Mr. Imber discussed a proposal for implementation of a systematic protocol and spreadsheet for future requests relating to supplemental appropriations. Discussion continued.

8 - Adjourn. Mr. Farr moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm. Mr. Goldstein seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted By: Shawn Amato, Recording Secretary.

Board of Finance Special Meeting
March 8, 2023 6 PM
Meeting held remotely

1. **Call to order:** Board of Finance Chair Michael Imber called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Also in attendance were Board of Finance members, Vice Chair Rone Baldwin, Theresa Brasco, Jeffrey Farr, Amy Gare, Jeffrey Goldstein, and Maxwell Rosenthal. Also in attendance were Weston School Superintendent Lisa Barbiero, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Tina Henckel, School Finance Director Phillip Cross, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Tracy Edwards, Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal Laura Kaddis, Intermediate School Principal Patricia Falber, Middle School Principal Daniel Doak, High School Principal Meghan Ward, Director of Digital Learning and Technology Daniel DeVito, Facilities Director Michael DelMastro, and BOE Chair Steve Ezzes.

2. **Discussion/ Decision concerning the Board of Education's proposed budget for FY 2023-24:** Mr. Imber introduced Superintendent Lisa Barbiero who reviewed a presentation on the BOE's proposed budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024. Superintendent Barbiero gave an overview of the BOE budget with an operating budget of \$58,047,590 and a capital budget of \$856,590 with a total increase of \$1,656,405 or 2.94%. Mrs. Barbiero gave an explanation that utilities, salaries/benefits, enrollment projections, special education, and curriculum and instruction initiatives are the main drivers of the budget. Ms. Barbiero's presentation detailed WPS commitment goals, comparisons of budgets to neighboring towns, enrollment projections and classroom sizes with the need for pure teams across academic areas in the 6,7,8th grade as well as BOE class size guideline and staffing.

3. Members of the Board of Finance were presented with the opportunity to ask questions on the proposed budget. Responses were given by Ms. Barbiero, Dr. Tina Henckel, Phil Cross, Tracey Edwards, Meghan Ward, Daniel Doak, Patricia Falber, Laura Kaddis, Daniel DeVito, Michael DelMastro and Steve Ezzes:
 - Mr. Imber asked about premium cost shares for health insurance and how it compared to other districts. Mr. Cross responded it was relatively low compared to other towns.
 - Mr. Imber asked about AFSCME current contract negotiations. Mrs. Barbiero and Mr. Cross responded.
 - Mr. Imber asked about the 2.5 FTE instructional leaders. Ms. Barbiero and Dr. Henckel discussed the plan for the Instructional Coaches that are being put in place particularly for reading and math. Ms. Brasco asked what other strategies in other schools are as well as what types of coaching models, and what are ways of addressing and meeting the goals are. Ms. Barbiero noted the need to reevaluate to meet the needs of the district and revisions will be made based on student needs. Dr. Henckel said there are many different variables to consider and you cannot compare apples to apples to other towns. Questions by BOF were asked and answered regarding stipends and consulting services as well as the FTE's.
 - Mr. Imber asked for clarification on the reading program expense for K-2 and what portion is recurring and if it is a permanent increase for the reading program. Dr. Henckel answered that it is a one year implementation cost for K-2 and for grades 3-5 for the following year for and then after that it is sustainable.
 - Mr. Imber asked for clarification on a decreases in line items of \$136,000 decrease in field costs. Mr. Cross said that is for a third party to maintain our fields. WPS are moving forward to eliminate the 3rd party and going back to in house.
 - A discussion was held on tuitions and settlements as well as transportation costs, noting that there is a decrease in out of district tuitions and a decrease in tuition supplements. Ms. Edwards wanted to highlight the complexity of budgeting in these areas as they depend on individual students. The district is seeing an

increase in out of district placement students resulting in transportation increases. Placements vary in costs so that is why there difference and decrease. In terms of tuition settlements the decrease is attributed to changes in student needs and students exiting the district. These numbers are based on student needs at the time of developing the budget.

- Mr. Imber asked why there was a security decline in the proposed budget. Mrs. Barbiero discussed that this was the result of paying off of a security lease. That is why there is a savings.
- BOF asked why athletic bus transportation has increased 62%. Mr. Cross explained this is based on a widespread driver shortage therefore requiring utilization of a 3rd party.
- Mr. Imber lead a capital budget discussion regarding paving costs and the differentiation from last year's budgeted amount for paving which was deferred to this year and has since seen a decrease. Mr. Cross explained that last year's capital budgeted amount has decreased due to soft costs estimates. Mr. Imber also asked about capital requests. Mr. DelMastro discussed some of the larger consulting projects for the North House HVAC and future projects. Mr. Baldwin said the projects are tracking very closely to what was requested last year and are very consistent.

Other questions and discussions followed by Mr. Baldwin regarding health insurance plan budgeted costs as well as FTE's and grants allocated and supplemented. Discussions continued with Mr. Cross and Ms. Barbiero discussing health insurance cost plans and estimates and the BOF will follow up with future discussions.

Mr. Baldwin had questions regarding open choice enrollments inquiring how the BOE gets funded from the state for open choice students. Ms. Barbiero gave an explanation of how open choice works and the commitment to educate the students K-12. Mr. Cross discussed funding for open choice, the state gives approximately \$3,000 per student.

Discussions continued with Mr. Cross answering questions from Mr. Baldwin regarding consulting services and other pupil services. Mr. Cross discussed the cost is driven by the new initiatives that Dr. Henckel reviewed with the BOF.

Mr. Baldwin asked about the transportation costs and contract renewal dates. Mr. Cross explained that there is not a significant increase in regular transportation based on the fleet reduction. Mr. Baldwin asked about equipment cost increases. Mr. Cross explained that it was due to the multi-year replacement cycle for technology equipment upgrades. Mr. DeVito discussed the replacement technology plans; 2nd grade chrome books, K I pads, wireless access as well as lease options vs. purchasing costs of equipment.

Mr. Baldwin discussed the procurement policy for the BOE. Ms. Barbiero and Mr. Cross explained the current procurement policy in place and bidding process through the finance department and the district policy.

Ms. Gare asked about the budgeting for mental health services as there was a cost savings in the budget request. Ms. Edwards discussed the reallocation of staffing to meet the needs in PPS/SPED. Reallocating Assistant Director positions has lead to a more effective way to meet the staffing needs.

Each Principal then spoke to the importance of a fiscally responsible budget, class sizes being important to have balanced classes.

Mr. Farr asked about Mr. DeVito about purchasing vs. subscription programs. Mr. DeVito said that the majority are subscription based models , most software are yearly fees, not outright purchases. Mr. DeVito discussed that constant evaluations are being reviewed to see if we have overlap or need certain subscriptions. Dr. Henckel and Mr. DeVito consistently look at ways to condense and consolidate. They also look at multiple year subscriptions as well as negotiate for multi-year discounts to reduce costs.

Mr. Farr also discussed the budget request for a track replacement for \$300,000. Mr. Cross noted that the last 4 years funds have been put aside for track replacement. Mr. DelMastro said that in 2019 the quote was \$300,000 to recoat it with the possibility to redo the asphalt. Currently the entire asphalt needs to be replaced. The shared contribution amount is \$300,000 from the town and 300,000 from the schools.

Mr. Rosenthal had comments on the 8 sections of classroom guidelines and the needs of the students and measuring success. He was in agreement with Ms. Gare on mental health and feels that this should be looked at for next year. Ms. Barbiero reiterated her commitment to mental health and how the structures of the teams and Assistant Directors will all be a benefit.

Ms. Brasco had questions relating to classroom size guidelines and provided historical content of classroom projections for the past 6 years. Questions and answers followed regarding classroom size projections and demographer projections. Ms. Brasco discussed the challenge for budgeting purposes noting that budget enrollment projections have exceeded actual enrollments and should be considered.

In conclusion Mr. Imber discussed that the BOF is reviewing incremental investments in education. The BOF will listen to public comment at the public hearing on March 28th and will deliberate on March 30th and will have continuing discussions with Ms. Barbiero and Mr. to understand what the metrics are and benchmarks and academic return on investments.

4. **Adjournment:** Mr. Imber asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Baldwin made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Gare seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Minutes Submitted By: Shawn Amato, Recording Secretary

Board of Finance Special Meeting
March 14, 2023 5 P.M.
Meeting held remotely

1. Call to Order: Board of Finance Chair Michael Imber called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm. Attendees were Vice Chair Rone Baldwin, Theresa Brasco, Jeffrey Farr, Amy Gare, Jeffrey Goldstein and Maxwell Rosenthal. Also in attendance were First Selectwoman Samantha Nestor, Rick Darling Finance Director, Jonathan Luiz Town Administrator.
2. **Discussion/Decision regarding a supplemental appropriation request in the amount of \$20,000 to engage the services of Randi Frank Consultants for the purpose of recruiting the Town Administrator position. Samantha Nestor, First Selectwoman.** Ms. Nestor discussed that Randi Frank Consultants have been selected unanimously with the BOS to conduct a search for the Town Administrator. Selectwoman Nestor discussed details of the search timeline with the BOF and reviewed the consultant selection process and referred to the presentation in the back-up materials that documented the process. She discussed the interim Town Administrator needs. Mr. Baldwin had questions about the August 1 completion/timeline date. Suggestions were made to look to hire an interim manager. Mr. Imber asked for a motion to approve a supplemental appropriation request in the amount of \$20,000 to engage the services of Randi Frank Consultants for the purpose of recruiting the Town Administrator position. Ms. Brasco made a motion to approve. Ms. Gare seconded. All in favor. Motion carries unanimously.
3. **Discussion/Decision regarding a supplemental appropriation request in the amount of \$7,341 to provide facilities projects supervision and other special projects oversight in the absence of the Town Administrator position. Jonathan Luiz, Town Administrator; Samantha Nestor, First Selectwoman.** Ms. Nestor reviewed the additional and supplemental appropriation application discussing additional responsibilities that Larry Roberts would manage for facilities projects through June 30, 2023. Mr. Imber asked Mr. Roberts for assurances that his responsibilities in managing Weston's public safety communications & dispatch center would not be compromised by these additional responsibilities. Mr. Roberts described how he is available at all times – whether in person or remotely – to help respond to dispatch needs and assured the BOF that his dispatchers were well trained. He did not anticipate any compromise to public safety. Mr. Imber asked for a motion to approve the BOS supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$7341 to provide facilities projects supervision and other special projects oversight in the absence of the Town Administrator position. Motion made by Mr. Rosenthal. Seconded by Mr. Farr. All in favor. Motion carries unanimously.
4. **Discussion/Decision concerning the Board of Selectmen's proposed operating, capital and debt service budgets for FY 2023-24. First Selectwoman Nestor; Jonathan Luiz, Town Administrator; Rick Darling, Finance Director.** Ms. Nestor provided a presentation on the proposed Board of Selectmen Budget. The proposed budget goals are to maintain town services at reasonable costs, address infrastructure needs (roads, bridges, sidewalks), minimize the mill rate impact, and assess both expenditures and revenues realistically while recognizing that the grand list has recently increased, which is helping to offset several

contractual increases in the budget. The current fiscal year forecast was reviewed, noting that the projected fund balance after revenues and expenditures for 6/30/23 is \$20,038,296. Ms. Nestor explained that if the Land Mobile Radio Project is funded from the fund balance prior to 7/1/23, that the estimated \$4 million for the project is not reflected in the 6/30/23 projected amount. Therefore the fund balance would be \$16,038,296. Mr. Imber clarified that approval for the Land Radio Mobile Project would need to go to a Special Town Meeting for approval first. Ms. Nestor then discussed the revenue outlook of the Town's grand list growth which is budgeted at 1.2%. Revenue from building permit fees, investments, tax collections and delinquent taxes and the supplemental auto levy have all contributed to the revenue. Most of our revenue is from personal real estate and auto taxes.

Ms. Nestor explained that the proposed budget calls for a .73% mill rate increase, highlighting that this would be the second year in a row keeping the mill rate relatively flat. The proposed budget operating expense totals \$15,298,781 (4.17%). 90% of the proposed increase can be attributed to obligatory contractual staffing increases, pension cost increases, health insurance, contractual services, workers compensation insurance, electricity, heat, and fuel.

The proposed BOS and BOE capital budgets requested is \$3,465,408. Ms. Nestor detailed offsets from recently closed outs from the prior capital balances which result in a decrease from the \$3,500,000 requested. Ms. Nestor also explained that projects are supported by approved grants for police bathrooms and locker renovations (\$500,000) and police records room (\$128,000) as well as projects that are supported by ARPA funds which include replacement of the fire engine (\$535,000) and road repaving (\$575,000) Ms. Nestor explained that the annual debt service payment effectively decreased in 2023, due to the utilization of proceeds from the Fromson-Strassler sale.

Ms. Nestor reviewed budgetary developments such as the MERS pension plan requiring participating municipalities of increases to employer contribution rates which will estimate an increase of \$84,000. She also noted that we have locked in favorable rates for diesel fuel for FY 2024. Also noted is the regional paramedic fly car that is being removed from the capital budget.

The Board of Finance asked questions on the budget with Ms. Nestor, Rick Darling, Jonathan Luiz as well as Town staff department heads all answering questions:

- Mr. Imber asked about the municipal revenue sharing grant inquiring as to why is it not being budgeted for FY24. Mr. Darling answered that this was first year we received any state revenue sharing. It is not a guarantee that we can count on based on the Governor's budget.
- Mr. Baldwin asked questions on the investment income and wanted clarification on the assumption for the increase. Mr. Darling responded. Mr. Baldwin also asked about auto tax revenues and anticipation for forecasting for fy 24 considering the used car prices have gone down. Mr. Darling responded that a reduction has been built in.
- Mr. Baldwin asked about the fund balances and wanted to know if we received the second installment of the ARPA funds. Mr. Darling responded yes. Mr. Baldwin asked about the police special duty vehicle fund and inquired about the history data

- of this fund to see whether there is an increase or decrease going in to that fund for an understanding of the trends there. The trend is favorable responded Mr. Darling.
- General Government Administration and Finance – Mr. Farr asked about current contracts and wanted to know if any upcoming are renewable. Mr. Luiz said we are current and there are no contraction renegotiations for this fiscal year or next.
 - General Administration –
 - Mr. Imber had questions on contractual services and wanted to know why there is an increase. Mr. Luiz answered that the Georgetown fire district is the biggest driver of this increase. Noting that we get assessed and the town of Weston is billed based on the grand list of Wilton/Weston/Redding. The Town estimates how much we put in and came up short this year resulting in the increase.
 - Mr. Imber had questions on property liability insurance and health insurance, asking when was the last time we put insurance quotes out to bid to see if we are getting the best prices. Mr. Luiz suggested that next year the town should go out to bid again. Mr. Imber reflects in the minutes his agreement and thoughts that we should be putting this out to bid next year.
 - Mr. Imber asked about health insurance and wanted to know if it includes premiums as well as health care expenses for retirees. Mr. Darling said yes. Discussions regarding the general fund budget and OPEB trust fund was discussed. Mr. Imber stated that OPEB funding is at or near 100%. Mr. Imber suggests utilizing the trust for the intended purpose of town contributions annually as well as employee contributions. Actuaries will go through for next year for funding purposes if needed. Considering the OPEB direct funding contribution currently budgeted at zero, Mr. Imber suggesting to put \$117,000 in there. That number comes from our actuarial report from July 2021. Mr. Imber also pointed out that some of the retiree expenses and actuarial contribution are attributable to the Board of Education and that additional work is required to refine those numbers in both the TOW and BOE budgets. Mr. Imber and Mr. Darling agreed to follow-up on this point with Phil Cross from BOE.
 - Mr. Baldwin had questions on electricity assumptions. Mr. Luiz and Mr. Darling answered on locked in rates.
 - Mr. Imber asked about an increase in contractual services for information systems. Mr. Luiz explained that cyber security measures are the drivers, software subscriptions etc., licenses are ongoing costs.
 - Mr. Imber discussed the Assessor budget. The BOF recently approved the Assistant Assessor to full time status. Budget line correction needed to move from part time to full time.
 - Mr. Imber discussed Tax Collector and confirmed that Tax Collector and Assistant Tax Collector are both part time. Mr. Farr asked what percentage of tax collection is actually done in person. It was discussed that the office has continuous hours of coverage so they are continuously staffed. 30-35% of the public comes in seeking information.
 - Ms. Gare wanted clarification on the assumptions of exceeding current budgeted expectations in legal expenses. Ms. Nestor answered that expectations are due to litigations with the dog park and FOIA hearings, some land use issues, FIC, and Lachat agreement as well.

- Public Safety - Ms. Brasco had questions about budgeting for possible new hires . Chief Henion said there are two officers eligible to retire so budgeting in the event of a hire is a necessity.
 - Fire Department - Mr. Imber discussed the Capital Budget request for the purchase of a rescue truck. \$400,000 is the town contribution requested. \$535,000 ARPA funds are also being used for the contribution. \$165,000 would be used from a fire department fund that is maintained to help augment the purchase. Mr. Baldwin discussed the procurement process for the purchase. Mr. Baldwin requests a procurement process as a necessity and requests to look for other areas to fund the purchase for the additional \$400,000 requested. Discussions to continue with a subcommittee.
 - Fire Marshall budget - Chief Pokorny explained that \$120,000 being paid for Georgetown includes the cost of Fire Marshall.
 - Animal Control - Ms. Brasco asked why there is an increase. Mr. Luiz explained that the Animal Control Officer is currently on light duty resulting in a lower rate of pay. There is a CIRMA reimbursement as well.
 - Communications Center – Mr. Luiz discussed the tower expenditure due to the potential loss of a carrier and that he is looking to get a replacement. The town will get ownership of the tower in December, currently the Town only receives a share of the revenue at the tower. In the future we will see revenue.
 - Public Works/Highway - reduction in paving is a result of putting paving in the capital budget and funds from ARPA. Mr. Imber asked about repairs to vehicles and equipment and wanted to know why the budgeted amount has increased. Mr. Luiz and Mr. Conte discussed repairs to assessor's town vehicle as well as routine maintenance on public works/highway vehicles.
 - Social Services: Mr. Imber asked about Social Services. Ms. Lisbon responded regarding a database tracking for those that need assistance – mental health, domestic violence, senior services referrals etc.
 - Library - Ms. Brasco asked about the Library Board's request to fully fund the Children and Makerspace programming. Ms. Goertz & Ms. Sanborn explained that funding is requested based on programming needs that fall under the job description of the Children's librarian.
 - Parks & Recreation - Mr. Imber asked about the recreation enterprise fund . Mr. Darling explained it has been generating a surplus since the pandemic. Mr. Darling also discussed a transfer of the Youth Services program into Parks and Rec.
 - Municipal Debt - Mr. Imber discussed that the Town is making a large payment on debt .
 - Capital budget -
 - Town vehicle sinking fund/police vehicles was discussed.
 - Town building repair budgeted. Mr. Luiz discussed items for repair.
 - Road paving discussed. Capital funding combined with ARPA funding. Mr. Farr asked questions and a subcommittee will be used to discuss paving needs and priority.
- Police Department records room and locker room. Mr. Imber asked if these will be fully bid out and Mr. Luiz confirmed. Mr. Baldwin asked about the records room project costs. Mr. Luiz discussed the contractor's change order.

-Front end pay loader replacement. Mr. Farr discussed costs associated with fixing the older one a few years ago and inquires if it is a good investment to get a new one. Mr. Conte was asked to get a price for a trade in price for the payloader.

In closing, Mr. Imber discussed two areas of follow up; the fire truck procurement process and an additional analysis on the Beta Group's recommendations for paving. Ms. Nestor reminded Mr. Imber that additional work was necessary on the OPEB calculation. Mr. Imber acknowledged and thanked Ms. Nestor.

Mr. Imber acknowledged and thanked First Selectwoman Nestor, Town Administrator Luiz, Finance Director Darling, and all of the Departments Heads that contributed to the assembly of the proposed budget.

5. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Minutes Submitted By: Shawn Amato, Recording Secretary

Public Hearing Weston 2023-2024 Budget

March 28, 2023 6:00 PM via Zoom

A copy of the detailed budget is available for public inspection in the office of the Town Clerk. This meeting was videotaped and is available on the town website.

Present: Board of Finance Chairman Mike Imber, board members, Rone Baldwin (by phone), Jeffrey Farr, Amy Gare, Max Rosenthal (by phone), Jeffrey Goldstein and Theresa Brasco. Donna Anastasia is Clerk of the meeting.

Also present: First Selectwoman Sam Nestor, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Superintendent of Schools Lisa Barbiero, Finance Director for Schools Phil Cross; Present are approximately 34 attendees via zoom.

This Public Hearing was called to order by Chairman Imber at 6:01 PM

Chairman Imber gave a brief summary of the budget process and noted that all related meetings are available on the town website. Chairman Imber introduced the board members and went over the rules of the meeting according to Town Charter.

The meeting was then turned over to Lisa Barbiero, Superintendent of Schools for an overview of the BOE budget. *(BOE budget presentation is made part of these minutes)*

Chairman Imber then turned the meeting over to First Selectwoman Nestor to give a presentation of the Town Budget. *(First Selectwoman Nestor's report is made part of these minutes)*

Concluding the First Selectwoman's presentation, Chairman Imber opened the meeting to public comment. Jonathan Luiz, Town Administrator was moderator of the meeting.

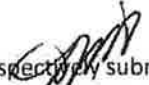
Chairman Imber invited those in attendance to please come forward with any comments for the board.

Jonathan confirmed that all equipment was in working order and once again Chairman Imber urged the attendees to speak up with any comments or recommendations.

First Selectwoman Nestor relayed that if someone did not want to speak publically that all town officials can be reached via email which is available on the town website.

Chairman Imber once again encouraged attendees to comment and with no comments from the floor; Jeff Goldstein made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Amy Gare

Motion: *With all in favor and none opposed motion carries unanimously to adjourn at 6:45PM.*


Respectfully submitted
Donna M Anastasia, Town Clerk

Board of Finance Special Meeting
March 30, 2023 6 P.M.
Meeting held virtually

1. **Call to order:** Board of Finance Chair Michael Imber called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Attendees were Vice Chair Rone Baldwin, Theresa Brasco, Jeffrey Farr, Amy Gare, Jeffrey Goldstein and Maxwell Rosenthal. Also in attendance were First Selectwoman Samantha Nestor, Finance Director Rick Darling, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, WPS Superintendent Lisa Barbiero, WPS Finance Director Phil Cross and BOE Chair Steve Ezzes.

2. **Discussion/Decision regarding the proposed Board of Education's operating budget for FY 2023-24.** Mr. Farr discussed the initiatives to move the CIL's to full time (2.6 FTE) for next year's budget. Mr. Farr discussed the \$360,000 investment noting the potential long term impact as a result. Ms. Barbiero discussed CIL's positions and discussed that the increase of the 2.6 FTE's gives more availability to resources for teachers. Mr. Imber noted that the changes to FTE can be revisited next year and is not necessarily long term. Ms. Barbiero agreed and discussions continued.

The BOF also discussed AFSME negotiations. Mr. Imber asked if there was a risk that the final collective bargaining agreement could adversely impact the budget, if the requested amount is approved at tonight's meeting. Mr. Ezzes answered "no", stating that negotiations are continuing and the BOE is confident that they will settle with numbers budgeted. Mr. Farr asked about the \$40,000 differential that was budgeted. Mr. Cross discussed that that it has to do with AFSME, plus adjustments made for next year.

Net reduction of .18% was discussed due to a decrease in utilities, an increase in paper, state pension costs increase which is mandated by the state, health insurance decrease and diesel costs decreases.

Mr. Farr asked to consider the BOE budget request in the context of the long-term view in the 10 year projections. Discussions continued and Mr. Imber asked about projections Mr. Farr was referring. Mr. Farr explained that several members of the BOF had looked at a 10 year forecast. Mr. Imber noted that no such projections had been included in any of the back-up material and had not been uniformly shared with all members of the BOF. Upon inquiry, Mr. Darling had confirmed that these were high level 10 year projections he had put together that consisted of a single line item for the BOE budget and had been shared in draft format and noted he had not historically included such a forecast in the deliberation meeting back-up materials. Upon inquiry, Mr. Cross confirmed that his own projections only extended two or three years and was not sure how his figures may have been captured in the 10 year forecast. Mr. Farr made a motion, seconded by Mr. Baldwin, to delay the budget vote until April 4th subject to a review of the 10 year projection. The motion failed with 5 "no" votes, 1 "yes" vote, and 1 abstention. Mr. Imber subsequently asked for a motion to approve the revised BOE operating budget of \$57,945,055. Mr. Goldstein made the motion which was seconded by Ms. Gare. The motion was approved with 5 "yes" votes and 2 abstentions.

3. **Discussion/Decision regarding the proposed Town operating budget for FY 2023-24.** Mr. Darling reviewed the proposed budget adjustments resulting in a \$70,775 net increase to the town budget due to employer pension contribution increases, OPEB contributions and payments to/from the OPEB Trust as well as retiree expense offsets. He also discussed decreases to the Fire Department and Public Works budget due to locked in prices for diesel fuel. Discussions continued. Mr. Imber asked for a motion to approve the \$15,369,556 revised Town operating budget for FY 2023-24. Motion made by Mr. Goldstein, seconded by Ms. Gare. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. **Discussion/Decision regarding the proposed Town and Board of Education capital budget for FY 2023-24.** The BOF had detailed discussions on road paving recommendations from Beta Group and procurement policies for the fire truck purchase requested in the budget. Mr. Farr and Mr. Rosenthal discussed road paving recommendations from Beta Group and inquired as to why there was a deviation from the consultants recommendations. Mr. Luiz addressed prioritization and careful consideration as to the recommended schedule. Discussions continued regarding future policies and maintenance components. Mr. Farr asked Mr. Luiz if DPW had the necessary bandwidth to do the prep and maintenance on the planned five miles of roads given that the road budget is twice what it had been last year. Mr. Luiz confirmed that DPW was ready.

Mr. Goldstein described how he and Mr. Baldwin had met with Chief Pokorny to better understand the procurement process for the Rescue 5 fire truck. Chief Pokorny said that traditionally the fire department utilizes a RFP process. The specs for the truck coupled with the escalating price of the truck made the process difficult. There was a sense of urgency to get the bid in. Mr. Goldstein asked if Larry Roberts might be available to help supervise the final execution on the bidding. Mr. Imber asked if Mr. Goldstein and Mr. Baldwin were comfortable with the purchase of the truck in the absence of the RFP and how it is being financed. Neither Mr. Goldstein nor Mr. Baldwin expressed discomfort with the process.

Mr. Farr inquired about the payloader at the transfer station. Mr. Luiz discussed options for fixing the current payloader, trading it in or getting a new one. His recommendation is to purchase a new one.

Mr. Imber asked for a motion to approve the town capital expenditure budget of \$2,618,138 FY 2023-24. Mr. Goldstein made such a motion which was seconded by Ms. Gare. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Imber asked for a motion to approve the BOE capital expenditure budget of \$833,450 for FY 2023-24. Mr. Goldstein made such a motion which was seconded by Ms. Gare. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Darling suggested a motion to approve as a net capital budget line item totaling \$3,416,996 due to a \$34,000 offset. Mr. Imber clarified this motion to vote on a combination of the total capital budget reflecting the offset. Mr. Imber called for a motion to approve a net total capital budget including the town budget previously approved and the BOE budget previously approved net of capital reserve offsets, total capital budget of \$3,416,996. Mr. Goldstein made such a motion which was seconded by Ms. Gare. Motion passed unanimously.

5. **Discussion/Decision regarding the proposed Town Debt Service budget for FY 2023-24.** Mr. Darling gave an overview of the debt service budget noting that the FY 22-23 debt service budget included the offset of the Fromson Strassler sale proceeds, which affects the year to year variance. Town portion and the BOE portion is \$2,967,825. Mr. Imber asked for a motion to approve the Town Debt Service budget of \$2,967,825 for FY 2023-24 Mr. Farr made such a motion and Ms. Brasco seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. **Summary remarks:** Mr. Imber stated that the sum of the FY 24 budget is \$75,903,932. This represents a .39% increase in the mill rate. The impact on the mill rate subject to town approval is .13. The mill rate for FY 24 will be 33.10.
7. **Adjourn.** Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Goldstein. Ms. Gare second. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.