

**Public Hearing**  
March 27, 2018 8:00 PM  
Weston Middle School Library

*Summaries of the budget are available at the Public Hearing and from the Town Clerk. 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 upon request.. The town/school budget summary is attached hereto. The sample of comments and/or questions are not direct quotes from the speakers.*

Present: Board of Finance Chmn Steve Ezzes, board members, Jerry Sargent, Allan Grauberd, Rone Baldwin, Dick Bochinski, Bob Ferguson and Melissa Koller. Donna Anastasia, Clerk of the meeting.

Also present: First Selectman Chris Spaulding, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Dr. William McKersie Superintendent of Schools; Town Hall employees and Department Heads; members of the Board of Education; School Administration personnel. There were approximately 90 others present.

This Public Hearing was called to order by Chmn Ezzes at 8:00 PM

**Town Operating Budget**

Chmn Ezzes welcomed attendees and opened the floor for questions or comments concerning the Town Operating budget.

N Cho, Walnut Lane wished to acknowledge our police department and SRO officer and supports the police budget. Additionally Mr. Cho expressed concern regarding the outplacement tuition costs and the continuing rise in years to come.

Michael Sheff, Lords Hwy expressed deep concern over the reduction in security guards at Hurlbutt Elementary and Weston Intermediate School. Safety for our children should be the first priority. Many items can be removed from the budget i.e. ipads to keep the security guards in place for the safety of our children.

Supt. McKersie explained that information regarding security is discussed in private session. We have a strong police presence but details regarding our security policy can only be discussed in executive session.

Lisa Kessler, Tall Pines Ms. Kessler expressed concern regarding the secrecy of meetings where security is being discussed.

Ms. Kessler mentioned research she has done regarding funding available through the state if certain crisis drills are followed for example.

Effie Thieme, November Trail - supports the school budget and would like to have the BOE explore additional funding possibilities.

Melissa Koller explained that the Board of Education makes the policy, decisions are not made through the Board of Finance.

Ms Wirtenberg asked what if any does the school receive from the State.

Mr. Rudl, School Finance Director explained that the ECS funding from the state is now zero and the school received approximately 500K for Sped reimbursement.

There was general discussion regarding the process of approving the budget and the procedure should a budget not pass. Registrar of Voters Theresa Brasco outlined the procedure.

Mr. Sargent clarified that the BOE budget is approved as a whole and it is the BOE that decides how that budget is allocated, not the Board of Finance.

Chairman Ezzes adjourned the meeting at 8:51 PM

Respectively submitted  
Donna M Anastasia, Town Clerk