

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
FINANCIAL TOWN MEETING
JUNE 20, 2011**

The Town of West Greenwich held its annual Financial Town Meeting on Monday, June 20, 2011 at the Exeter-West Greenwich Jr./Sr. High School, 930 Nooseneck Hill Road, West Greenwich, RI. The Board of Canvassers reported 94 voters.

Moderator Elaine Eccleston called the meeting to order at 8:10 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for the following:

Diane L. Andrews - Former Deputy Town Clerk
Ernest J. Patterson - Former Rescue Person
David Riccitelli - Former Fire Chief Lake Mishnock Vol. Fire Co.
Distinguished West Greenwich Residents
 Raymond Chapman
 Bernard F. Harrington, Sr.
 Edwin Pysz, Sr.
 Olive Pysz
 Patricia Roche
 James Whalen

Moderator Eccleston introduced Town officials present who were Town Administrator Kevin Breene, Town Council President Mark Tourgee, Town Council Vice President Susan Woloohojian, Councilman Robert Andrews, Councilman Paul Kaltschnee, Councilman Robert Smith, Town Solicitor Michael Ursillo, Town Treasurer Colleen Derjue and Town Clerk Janet Olsson.

Council President Tourgee remarked on the proposed budget. He thanked the voters for attending the Financial Town Meeting. He had provided the voters with a comparison chart illustrating tax increases over the past 13 years.

He commented on the overall state of the Town, noting that the poor economy has hit the town hard. A record number of distressed sales have taken place and we've lost a lot of state aid. Taxes have increased about 30% in the last 3 years - with the largest increase (16%) happening in 2008.

He noted the school continues to be the largest benefactor of taxes - approximately 70%. Even though a large percentage of the voter that voted in the all day referendum for the district voted to cut spending at the school level, the school committee members from Exeter out voted the West Greenwich members and approved a \$262,000 increase to the West Greenwich taxpayers. Taxes have continually increased during the last decade. The council vowed to hold the line on spending this year. If the budget and rescue resolution passes tonight, most taxpayers will see a minimal tax increase this year, if they see one at all.

He also noted that the Council voted to use funds from surplus to pay off public works equipment that had been purchased. This is a onetime payment not factored into the budget as an expense for next year. The surplus was collecting very little interest while the town was paying interest at a higher rate against the loans. It made good financial sense to pay them off.

Moderator Eccleston noted that the meeting would be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order and noted other procedures to be followed.

Moderator Eccleston read the following General Resolutions:

I. GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN SOLICITOR, MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND GUESTS BE ADMITTED TO THE MEETING WITHOUT VOTING PRIVILEGES.

RESOLVED, THAT THE READING OF THE WARRANT AND THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING BE OMITTED, SINCE THE MINUTES HAVE BEEN ON FILE IN THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE AND AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW BY ANY REGISTERED VOTER OF THE TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH DURING OFFICE HOURS.

RESOLVED, TO OMIT READING OF THE TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT, SINCE COPIES OF THE CURRENT STATUS AND THE OFFICIAL AUDIT ARE AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN HALL.

RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN TREASURER BE, AND SHE IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED AND EMPOWERED TO PAY SUCH SUMS OF MONEY AS REQUIRED TO MAKE BOND PAYMENTS COMING DUE DURING THE FISCAL YEAR, AND THE INTEREST ON THE BONDS AS THE SAME BECOME DUE.

RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN TREASURER BE, AND SHE IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED AND EMPOWERED TO CREDIT TO ANY APPROPRIATION FUND ANY RECEIPTS OR DONATIONS WHICH APPLY AGAINST THAT FUND.

RESOLVED, THAT THE ACTIONS OF THE TOWN TREASURER IN EXPENDING SUMS OF MONEY IN EXCESS OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2011, BE RATIFIED AND APPROVED, SUCH OVER-EXPENDITURES NOT TO BE CHARGED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2012.

RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN TREASURER BE, AND SHE IS AUTHORIZED TO HIRE SUCH SUMS OF MONEY, IF ANY BE NECESSARY, IN ANTICIPATION OF TAXES, IF AT ANY TIME IT BECOMES NECESSARY TO TAKE THIS ACTION TO MEET CURRENT EXPENSES.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the above General Resolutions were passed on a voice vote.

**II. PROPOSED BUDGET
FISCAL 2011/2012**

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

RESOLVED, THAT THE SUM OF ONE MILLION, TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-TWO THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED TWELVE (\$1,222,712.00) DOLLARS, BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED FOR THE RESPECTIVE LINE ITEMS AS PRESENTED FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

On a motion duly made and seconded the above resolution was passed on a voice vote.

RESOLVED, THAT THE UNEXPENDED BALANCE FOR FY 2011 IN THE REVALUATION/TAX ASSESSOR FUND (INCLUSIVE OF STATE REIMBURSEMENT MONIES) BE TRANSFERRED INTO A DEDICATED ACCOUNT TO BE CALLED WEST GREENWICH REVALUATION FUND.

On a motion duly made and seconded the above resolution was passed on a voice vote.

RESOLVED, THAT THE UNEXPENDED BALANCE FOR FY 2011 IN THE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FUND/SERVER REPLACEMENT FUND BE TRANSFERRED INTO A DEDICATED ACCOUNT TO BE CALLED WEST GREENWICH SERVER REPLACEMENT FUND.

On a motion duly made and seconded the above resolution was passed on a voice vote.

EDUCATION

RESOLVED, THAT THE SUM OF TWELVE MILLION, FOUR HUNDRED ELEVEN THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED FIFTEEN (\$12,411,315.00) DOLLARS, BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED FOR THE RESPECTIVE LINE ITEMS AS PRESENTED FOR EDUCATION.

On a motion duly made and seconded the above resolution was passed on a voice vote.

PUBLIC SAFETY

RESOLVED, THAT THE SUM OF TWO MILLION, THREE HUNDRED FOURTEEN THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHT (\$2,314,558.00) DOLLARS BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED FOR THE RESPECTIVE LINE ITEMS AS PRESENTED FOR PUBLIC SAFETY.

A motion was duly made and seconded on the above resolution.

A motion was duly made and seconded for the following motion:

PRE-FILED MOTION

RESOLVED THAT THE SUM OF \$35,000.00 DOLLARS, BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED TO THE SALARIES/RESCUE PERSONNEL/BASE INC. LONGEVITY 10-03-03-50101-00 LINE ITEM.

Town Administrator Breene explained that even though the school budget was passed for an amended lower amount the school committee was levying the town the higher amount. He noted \$262,000 had to be cut from the Town's budget as a result of this. One such cut was to the salaries/rescue personnel line item. He noted that the Town was in the process of negotiating the union contract for this entity and felt that \$35,000 could be put back in. He noted that he had filed this pre-filed motion.

Mr. Dan Novak, questioned the prospects for next year's budget.

Council President Tourgee noted the burden for pensions and lack of state aid.

Novak noted the establishment of the Economic Development Commission.

Town Administrator Breene noted paying off certain capital improvement loans this year which he would explain the rationale for later.

The above resolution was passed on a voice vote.

RESOLVED, THAT THE SUM OF TWO MILLION, THREE HUNDRED FORTY-NINE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHT (\$2,349,558.00) DOLLARS BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED FOR THE RESPECTIVE LINE ITEMS AS PRESENTED FOR PUBLIC SAFETY.

On a motion duly made and seconded the above resolution was passed on a voice vote.

RESOLVED, THAT REVENUES RECEIVED IN FY 2012 AS A RESULT OF BILLINGS FOR USE OF POLICE DEPT. VEHICLES ON SPECIAL DETAIL DUTY, BE TRANSFERRED INTO A DEDICATED ACCOUNT TO BE CALLED THE POLICE/VEHICLE PURCHASES FUND.

On a motion duly made and seconded the above resolution was passed on a voice vote.

PUBLIC WORKS

RESOLVED, THAT THE SUM OF ONE MILLION, ONE HUNDRED ELEVEN THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED TEN (\$1,111,410.00) DOLLARS, BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED FOR THE RESPECTIVE LINE ITEMS AS PRESENTED FOR PUBLIC WORKS.

On a motion duly made and seconded the above resolution was passed on a voice vote.

RESOLVED, THAT THE UNEXPENDED BALANCE IN THE 2010/2011 ASPHALT/HIGHWAY FUND BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY RE-APPROPRIATED TO THE 2011/2012 ASPHALT/HIGHWAYS FUND.

On a motion duly made and seconded the above resolution was passed on a voice vote.

RESOLVED, THAT THE UNEXPENDED BALANCE IN THE 2010/2011 SEAL COAT/HIGHWAY FUND BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY RE-APPROPRIATED TO THE 2011/2012 ASPHALT/HIGHWAYS FUND.

On a motion duly made and seconded the above resolution was passed on a voice vote.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

RESOLVED, THAT THE SUM OF SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED FOURTEEN (\$715,414.00) DOLLARS, BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED FOR THE RESPECTIVE LINE ITEMS AS PRESENTED FOR COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

On a motion duly made and seconded the above resolution was passed on a voice vote.

RESOLVED, THAT THE SECOND TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND (\$25,000.00) DOLLARS OF THE FY 2012 FUNDS ANNUALLY COLLECTED THROUGH THE REAL ESTATE CONVEYANCE FEE PAID ON REAL ESTATE TRANSFER SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO A DEDICATED ACCOUNT TO BE CALLED THE OPEN SPACE PROTECTION FUND. ALL MONIES COLLECTED WITHIN FY 2012 EXCEEDING FIFTY-THOUSAND (\$50,000.00) TO BE DIVIDED BETWEEN THE TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND THE OPEN SPACE PROTECTION FUND.

On a motion duly made and seconded the above resolution was passed on a voice vote.

IV. UNRESERVED FUND

RESOLVED, THAT THE SUM OF NOT MORE THAN FIFTY-SEVEN THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-TWO (\$57,482.00) DOLLARS OF UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE BE, AND THE SAME IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADJUSTING THE TAX LEVY TO SET THE TAX RATE.

On a motion duly made and seconded the above resolution was passed on a voice vote.

RESOLVED, THAT THE SUM OF NOT MORE THAN FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-THREE (\$435,493.00) DOLLARS BE, AND THE SAME IS HEREBY ENCUMBERED TO BE REFLECTED WITHIN THE FY11 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO PAY OFF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT LOANS FOR REPLACEMENT RESCUE FOR LAKE MISHNOCK FIRE & RESCUE CO.; HIANLOLAND TANKER PAYMENT FY12 FINAL; HIGHWAY/TRUCK PKG FY12 FINAL; HIGHWAY/9 CU YD DUMP FY12-FY15 PAYMENTS; HIGHWAY/CATERPILLAR LOADER FY12-FY15 PAYMENTS.

A motion was duly made and seconded for the above resolution.

Town Administrator Breene explained the rationale for paying off the loans on equipment as the interest rate was higher than what was being earned on the money and that money would not have to be included in next year's budget.

Mr. Dan Novak questioned what else was being done to control the budget.
Council President Tourgee noted that school dept. was the bulk of the town's budget.

The above resolution was passed on a voice vote.

V. SPECIAL REVENUES

RESOLVED, THAT THE SUM OF NOT MORE THAN FIFTY-TWO THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVEN (\$52,727.00) DOLLARS OF THE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FUND BE, AND THE SAME IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED TO FY12 GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND PAYMENT.

On a motion duly made and seconded the above resolution was passed on a voice vote.

An updated count of 111 voters was obtained from the Board of Canvassers.

IV. TAX RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the electors of the Town of West Greenwich qualified to vote on any proposition to impose a tax or for the expenditure of money, in town meeting assembled on the twentieth day of June, A. D. 2011, hereby order the assessment of collection of a tax on the ratable real estate and tangible personal property in a sum

not less than \$17,504,006.00
nor more than \$17,729,006.00

Said tax is for ordinary expenses and charges and sinking funds, for the payment of interest and indebtedness in whole or in part of said town and for other purposes authorized by law. The Tax Assessor shall assess and apportion said tax on the inhabitants and ratable property of said town as of the thirty-first day of December, 2010, at twelve o'clock midnight according to law (the date of assessment), and on completion of said apportionment date, verify and sign the same and deliver the same to the office of the Town Clerk on or before the thirtieth day of June, 2011.

Said tax shall be due and payable on and between the first day of August, 2011 and thirty-first day of August 2011, and all taxes remaining unpaid on the last named day shall carry, until collected, a penalty at the rate of ten (10%) per centum upon said unpaid tax.

Said tax may be paid in four installments, the first installment of twenty-five per centum on or before the thirty-first day of August, 2011; twenty-five per centum or before the thirtieth day of November, A. D. 2011; twenty-five per centum or before the twenty-ninth day of February, A. D. 2012; twenty-five per centum or before the thirty-first day of May, A. D. 2012.

Said installment of taxes if paid on or before the last day of each installment period successively and in order, shall be free from any charge of interest. If the first installment or any succeeding installment of taxes is not paid by the last date of the respective installment period or periods as they occur then the whole tax or remaining unpaid balance of the tax, as the case may be, immediately become due and payable and shall carry until collected a penalty at the rate of ten (10%) per centum per annum on any unpaid quarterly installment(s) and only the unpaid quarterly installment(s) shall be due and payable. Interest rate on excise tax on motor vehicles tax shall be assessed at the rate of ten (10%) per centum per annum.

On a motion duly made and seconded the above resolution was passed on a voice vote.

A motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. was duly made and seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Attest:

Janet E. Olsson, CMC
Town Clerk