

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
TOWN COUNCIL**

**Budget Hearing
April 23, 2012**

A Budget Hearing of the West Greenwich Town Council was held on April 23, 2012. Present were Mark Tourgee, Susan Woloohojian, Robert Smith, and Robert Andrews. Also present were Town Administrator Kevin Breene, Treasurer Colleen Derjue, Deputy Town Treasurer Danielle Andrews, and Tax Assessor Charlene Randall. Present in the audience Acting Chief of Police Craig Barone, Public Works Director Claude Wright, Building Official David Tacey, and Board of Canvasser Holly Howard.

A. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 P.M.

B. BUDGET HEARING ON FY 2012/2013 BUDGET

Woloohojian moved to open the public hearing and dispense of the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. Smith seconded. VOTED: Tourgee – aye, Woloohojian-aye, Smith aye, Andrews - aye

LEGAL NOTICE

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
PUBLIC HEARING**

April 23, 2012

Notice is hereby given that there will be a Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for the Town of West Greenwich for fiscal 2012-2013 on Monday, April 23, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. at the West Greenwich Community Center, 274 Victory Highway, West Greenwich, RI.

The Town of West Greenwich will provide interpreters for the hearing impaired at any meeting provided a request is received three (3) business days prior to said meeting. An audio tape copy of the minutes will be provided if requested by a vision impaired person at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting date.

Erin F. Liese
Acting Town Clerk

Town Administrator Breene and the Council summarized the previous Budget Workshops.

The Public Works budget was reviewed. It was noted that rather than increase the asphalt budget, to take \$80,000 out of the surplus to fund paving and the remainder from 2011/2012 would roll into the General Fund.

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Andrews questioned the cost of paving material. Wright speculated on the cost of oil and how it will affect the price of asphalt.

Town Administrator noted the Public Works salary increase was due to the hiring of a new Highway Worker for the department. The Highway Department has been operating a man short since the retirement of David Andrews in 2008. He also noted that the additional hire would allow the Public Works department to maintain the Town Hall landscape including mowing of the lawn and that the maintenance man hours would be reduced.

The Budget Summary was reviewed as follows: The General Government overall budget would increase by 8%, Public Safety overall budget would increase by 1.9%, Public Works overall budget would increase 3.9 %, and the Community and Social Services budget would increase by 8.2%.

Tourgee questioned the increase on the Community and Social Services overall budget. Deputy Treasurer Andrews noted that the increase was due to the Library and the Open Space GO Bond Debt Service.

The overall budget was reviewed and the Municipal total would be increased by 2.9 % and Education would be increased by .9 %. Town Administrator noted that this is the first time in years that the increase was higher on the Municipal side.

Smith questioned whether the education side would decrease due to the decrease in enrollment and if future trend of the school budget would continue to decrease. Town Administrator discussed the legislation that would affect the school budget.

The General Government budget was reviewed and it was noted that as presented employees would receive a two percent increase and Administrator and the Human Services Director waived their two percent increase. Andrews noted that the Town Council also received no increase.

The Finance, Town Clerk, Tax Assessor, Collector, IT, Website, and Planning department's budgets were reviewed.

The Board of Canvassers budget was reviewed.

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Howard explained the increase was due to the change in the redistricting and that four districts will now need to be maintained. She explained that Charlene and Robert Butler have been working diligently on reverting back to three districts and having the plan pass in legislation.

Robert Butler updated the Council on the status of the redistricting.

Discussion was held on the redistricting.

The Inspectors, Tax Board of Review, Town Sergeant, Zoning Board of Review, and Development Commission, budget was reviewed.

The Police department budget was reviewed. It was noted that the department would remain level funded and the hope is through negotiations, retirement, and injured returning to work no one would be laid off.

The General Fire budget was reviewed.

The Public Works budget was reviewed. It was noted that a Resolution would be needed to move \$80,000 out of surplus to fund asphalt.

Discussion was held on bidding an excavator for the department. Wright explained to the Council the difficulty of bidding used equipment. Smith questioned the longevity of the machine. Wright noted that it could last 20-30 years.

Discussion was held on reasons for purchasing new or used excavator. The Council consensus was to bid a new excavator and with a Resolution remove \$45,000.00 from the surplus to purchase the excavator.

The Maintenance budget was reviewed and salaries reduced due to the decrease in hours.

The Sanitation and Water department budget was reviewed.

The General Community budget was reviewed and it was reduced by 1%.

The Library budget was reviewed and it had increased by 3 %.

The Conservation Commission, Land Trust, Sports, Health and Human Services budget was reviewed.

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Derjue updated the Council on Revenue, License and Fee's, Interest on Investments, Unreserved Fund Balance, Open Space and Recreation Fund.

Discussion was held on Open Space and Recreation Fund and using the \$20,000.00 to off set the budget.

Discussion was held that the overall budget and the increase of 1.6 %.

Randall and Derjue explained that the budget would be level funded to the tax payers even with the 1.6 % increase and the difference would come from surplus.

Tourgee clarified how the budget would remain level funded. Town Administrator explained that you are level funding the tax rate and not the budget.

Discussion was held on the use of surplus and the importance of using surplus for one time costs and not salaries.

Andrews moved to adopt the Budget as presented. Smith seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee – aye, Woloohojian-aye, Smith aye, Andrews - aye

Andrews moved to adjourn at 7:46 P.M. Smith seconded

VOTED: Tourgee – aye, Woloohojian-aye, Smith aye, Andrews - aye

**ERIN F. LIESE
ACTING TOWN CLERK**