

Lebanon Board of Finance
Special Meeting March 2, 2024 at 8:30 am
MINUTES

Present: M. Ninteau chair, Philip Johnson vice chair; Diane Malozzi secretary, Gregg LaFontaine, Justine Spielman, Harold Nelson.

Alternates Present: Giselle Russo, John Noblet

Absent: Haley Messier alternate.

1.0 Call to order

A quorum being established, M. Ninteau called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

2.0 Discuss the following FY 2024-25 operating and capital budget areas. After each discussion there will be an opportunity for public input.

The following departments presented their FY 2024-2025 proposed budgets to the Board of Finance

Dept 402 Elections

Budget presented by Berkely Nowosad and Kim Latrobe

Significant increase in budget due to the State passing early voting in Connecticut which increases need for election site workers, ballots and hours. This is an unfunded mandate.

No public comment.

Dept 410 Assessor

Budget presented by Gail Gwiazdowski

Assessor at lower salary than previous assessor and clerical hours adjusted. Increases to line Supply & Expense lines and misc. dues lines. Overall, a decrease from the previous budget.

No public comment.

Dept 407 Tax Collector

Budget presented by Kelly Lawer

Increase in budget due to contractual salary and minor increases to other line items. Approximately 2.9% increase.

No public comment.

Dept 409 Town Clerk

Budget presented by Mary Ellen Wieczorek

Increase in budget due to contractual salary and minor increases to other line items. Approximately 2.9% increase.

No public comment.

Dept 423 Fire Marshal

Budget presented by Mark Waters

Minor increases in salaries, supplies, supplies equip., misc. maintenance and misc. conference lines.

Largest budget driver is Fire Prevention programs. Significant decrease in Transportation/mileage due to used police vehicle being moved to Fire Marshall department.

No increase to Burning Official, Dept. 424.

Public Comment: Eileen Weinstein, Goshen Hill Rd., Would like to see Fire Prevention programs in other town buildings, as well as schools. Such as Senior Center etc.

*Board suspends meeting for short break at 9:02 am.
Meeting resumes at 9:13 am.*

Dept 422 LVFD

Budgets 422,449,446 presented by Brandon Dominique, Todd Kulman, Jay Schall, Mark Elliot

Budget has an increase of \$30,365.00. Budget drivers are protective equipment, training, and physicals due to the addition of seven new members and to maintain OSHA compliance. Other drivers are repair/maintenance for Communication/Facilities and repairs/maintenance for apparatus and equipment.

Capital requests, \$120,000.00 lease payment approved for the acquisition of a new ET-106 fire truck.

No public comment.

Dept 446 Paramedic Program

Increase in MISC/Contractual Services with Windham Hospital. Per capita charge increases to .25 and is based on population cost pp.

Public Comment: Eileen Weinstein, Goshen Hill Rd., concerned if someone had to be sent to a different hospital. *Response:* Any hospital under Hartford Healthcare would not incur additional charges.

Dept 449 Switchboard

This is a MISC. services contractual budget. Budget was increased 5% as a placeholder. Actuals for the service have not been received so this number most likely will change.

No public comment.

Dept 420 Police Services

Budget presented by RST Andrew Eckman

Budget increased due to contractual salary and overtime. Overtime constable hours increased by 4 hrs. of 501c3 town events. State mandated accreditations, training, drug testing, and psych evaluations.

Private duty is billed out which results in revenue offsetting the budget. This year Eversource is replacing 158-line poles on Beaumont Highway (Rte.289). The Board asked if there are any grants for police services. K.

Cwikla said based on recent training he attended in Middletown no grants are available.

No public comment.

Dept 439 Cemetery Comm

Budget presented by Jim Barrett and Keith Laporte

Increase in budget due to salary increases determined by the nonunion matrix. Remainder of budget seems to have remained flat. Capital request for \$100,000.00 to improve traffic flow on the road in the North Lebanon Cemetery.

No public comment.

Fund 213 Library

Budget presented by Lindsey Delligan

Increase in budget with main drivers being salaries, Misc. services, repairs and maintenance, and supplies. A contract for maintenance of the multiple mini splits is a new addition to the budget. All lines under Misc saw increases. Supply increases due to rising costs and rising use of supplies to the restroom as it is the only public restroom convenient to the walking path on the green.

Public Comment: Eileen Weinstein, Goshen Hill Rd., member of the library committee spoke to the work and on-going efforts and improvements by the Library Director and the significant walkway traffic use of the public restrooms. She spoke to the library board's support of the Director and addressed the legal line budget item.

Meeting suspended for short break at 10:45 am

Meeting resumes at 10:53 am.

Fund 206 Recreation Comm

Budget presented by Sandy Tremblay and Nick Poppiti

Increase in budget with main drivers being field maintenance, mowing and salaries. Mowing and field does not contain extras for rolling, aerating and brush hogging. Quotes have come in for field drainage work. May

come from the Town Improvement Program. Copies of quotes for the pool repair and maintenance, and field drainage were provided to the Board of Finance.

Capital request of \$60,000.00 for community pool repair.

No public comment.

Dept 436 Solid waste

Budget presented by Mike Rota and Dean Hunniford

Budget has decreased. The Town contracted with a different company for trash and recycling removal, resulting in lower costs.

Utility portable costs increased to improve sanitary working conditions for staff.

Repairs for loader to maintain functionality. Replacement would be \$250,000.00.

No public comment.

Dept 437 WPCA

Budget presented by Gregg Lafontaine.

Increase in clerk fees. \$1000.00 added to legal for review of regulations. This is a one-time fee and not an added annual increase.

No public comment.

Dept 458 Senior Center/Comm on Aging

Dept. 458 and Fund 221 budgets presented by Darcy Battye.

Budget drivers are salary, supplies, meals on wheels, custodial fees. The senior center is very active Mon. thru Thurs. with good attendance and programs. Due to the aging town population the demand for meals has increased as many seniors strive to remain in their homes. Gas Heat utility decreased due to mindful management.

Fund 221 Senior Van Program

Funding has remained flat.

No public comment.

3.0 Adjourn

M. Ninteau adjourned the meeting at 11:54 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Malozzi, Secretary
Board of Finance

Please see the minutes of subsequent meetings for the approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.