

MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
BOARD OF FINANCE
LISBON CENTRAL SCHOOL
TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2023
7:00 P.M.

The Board of Finance held a public hearing at the Lisbon Central School Cafeteria/Gymnasium, 15 Newent Road, Lisbon, CT on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 7:00 PM on the following:

1. To present and to solicit comments from taxpayers on the proposed Fiscal Year 2023/2024 General Government and Education budgets.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wayne Donaldson, Randall Baah, Susan Hull, Thomas Wakely, Philip Kinslow (Alt)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Zelasky, Frank Burzycki, Kenneth Washburn (Alt)

ALSO PRESENT: Sally Keating, Superintendent, Scott Trepanier, Special Education Director

Available to the public at the Public Hearing were the following documents

- a. Proposed FY 2023/2024 General Government Budget - \$3,192,393.00
- b. Proposed FY 2023/2024 Board of Education Budget - \$10,685,997.00

Chairman Wayne Donaldson presented a report on the proposed General Government and Education Budget. He acknowledged a significant increase in the BOE budget proposal as well as a reduction in Educational Cost Share and State funding. There are payments due for the new Fire truck that was purchased and the first payment of \$636,000 due for the fire house. To maintain the financial obligations would require a mill rate of about 24. This would be about an 8% increase. He cautioned that there was still 5-million-dollar bonding for the fire house to come in two or three years that will add 1 to 1 ¼ mil just for that. This is a 1.7 mil increase, 1.2 of which is BOE.

Chairman Donaldson asked for public comment on the General Government Budget. NONE
Chairman Donaldson asked for public comment on the BOE budget

Brandi Larkin, 202 Preston Allen Road, asked about a 13% increase in salary for the principal's secretary Line Item. S. Keating responded there was a mix up initially, and the increase was accurate for the position. Next Ms. Larkin questioned a 45% increase in legal fees Line Item. S. Keating responded that was due to special education and other situations going on. Also questioned the Increase in health supplies over last year since COVID supply costs have been eliminated. S. Keating responded this is in planning for the future, to replenish funds.

Karen Arremony, 60 Town House Road, asked for specifics on the special ed budget. S. Keating stated that they are now dealing with students with more complex needs that require programs outside of the district. Special Ed Director Scott Trepanier responded that costs have increased to transport students offsite to special services. Currently about 85 students are in special education, altogether about 135 students are enrolled in programs. About 12 students between elementary and High school are receiving

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alternative off site schooling and social services at a cost range between \$27, 000 and \$80,000 per student not including transportation and aides if required. Currently the Lisbon School System serves about 430 grammar school students and 214 high school students.

Holly Smelser, 74 Newent Road, asked if the goal of the alternative schooling is to reintegrate students back into the public school system, how the budget is planned for special ed. S. Trepanier replied that progress reports, annual review, 3 year re evaluation reports, are used to project the budget for the FY. Some students who meet the criteria are eligible for services until they are 22 years old. Additionally, S. Keating noted that special needs students moved into the Lisbon School district after the budget had been set last year.

Karen Arremoney asks if there was an increase in the number of special ed students over last year. S. Trepanier stated that even if the number of students stayed the same, the level of disability they are dealing with has increased as well as transportation costs, tutoring, physical and occupational therapy and social service costs increases.

Susan Hull, BOF member, asked if the State contributes for this funding. There is a formula for State reimbursement on excess costs. 8 students qualify for this State funding. Medicaid reimbursements are also used for qualifying services.

Brandi Larkin asked since there was a mistake in the custodian contract and an apparent mistake in the principal's secretary contract, if there was someone checking that all contracts are where they should be. S. Keating answered that there was a cross check in place.

Bob Browne, 84 Preston Allen Road, inquired if there are safety and security measures in the budget for the protection of the children in light of the incidents happening around the country. S. Keating responded that there were safety systems in place including ID systems and bullet proof glass but specific safety measures are not publicly broadcast. The BOE didn't feel that law enforcement in the school was the solution, as it is more a mental health issue. But they were looking into ways of possibly improving the alarm system. T. Sparkman explained that safety protocol is constantly being reevaluated and the safety and security plan is signed off by State Trooper.

S. Keating also mentioned that there is a School psychologist, Guidance counselor and a new Social Worker at the school for mental health issues.

This Public Hearing was closed at 7:25 p.m.


Janet Lefevre, clerk

APPROVED: _____
Wayne Donaldson, Chairman

RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT LISBON, CT
ON 4/6/23 AT 9:27 AM
ATTEST. MICHELLE GRANT, TOWN CLERK
