

**BOARD OF FINANCE  
BUDGET MEETING  
(HELD JOINTLY WITH THE TOWN COUNCIL)  
Thursday, February 22, 2007**

**BOARD OF FINANCE**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mary Cody	Susan LaPerla
Kathleen Corbet	Roger Smith
Robert DiPanni	Dan Ward
John Laird	

Judy Neville, Chairman

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Virginia Lastner; Robert Spangler

**TOWN COUNCIL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Lewis Annunziato, Chairman	John Emert
Barbara Beall	Paul Foley
Ken Campbell	Ruth Smithers
Kit Devereaux	Dick White
Mark DeWaele	Penny Young

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ms. Hussey; Mr. O'Dea

**ALSO PRESENT:** George Maranis, Administrative Officer; Gary Conrad, Chief Financial Officer; Carol McDonald, Director of Human Services; Tony Phillips, Director of Youth Services; Joyce Sixsmith, New Canaan Coalition; Jim Cole, Police Commissioner; Gail Stafford, Co-President, Outback Teen Center; Eric Twerdahl, Chairman, Emergency Medical Services; Dr. David Abbey, Superintendent of Schools; Christine Wagner, Chairman, New Canaan High School Building Committee; Ditte Reifsnyder, Chairman, and Tucker Murphy, member, Board of Education; representatives of the press.

Judy Neville called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and called the roll, noting the absence of Ms. Lastner and Mr. Spangler. Ms. Young called the roll of the Town Council, noting the absence of Ms. Hussey and Mr. O'Dea.

Ms. McDonald and Mr. Phillips then presented the budgets for Human Services Administration, Youth Services, and Human Services Agencies. They described in some detail the programs and services offered, including the budget requests for Outside Agencies. Joyce Sixsmith also commented on the request for the New Canaan Coalition. Some discussion was held on the matter of why the budget request for Meals-on-Wheels had been reduced from \$7,000 to \$3,000, and Ms. McDonald addressed this issue.

Gail Stafford then presented a request for \$28,000 for the Outback Teen Center, comprising \$16,000 towards employee health benefits and \$12,000 for programming. The Board seemed receptive to this request.

Mr. Twerdahl next presented the EMS/Ambulance budget, and Mr. Cole the Emergency Preparedness budget. Considerable discussion ensued on the latter's request for \$50,000 representing Mr. Twerdahl's compensation for his services. This item is being considered for further discussion.

Mr. Foley, Chairman of the Asbestos Abatement Oversight Committee, then gave a short report on developments in the asbestos removal litigation. He disclosed that the Committee had unanimously recommended to the First Selectman that the Town terminate its relationship with its present attorneys, Pepe & Hazard, and enter into an agreement with Silver, Golub & Teitell LLP, contingency attorneys. He described the contingency arrangement, and Ms. Neville read a press release announcing the change.

Mr. Conrad next opened a discussion on the proposed increase in pension payments to current pensioners applicable to the calendar years 2004, 2005, and 2006. He referred to the material sent to the Council members and asked for the Council's recommendation. It was the consensus of the Council that the members needed more guidance on the matter, and this was promised to them. It is expected that the Council will be able to act on this matter at the March 1<sup>st</sup> joint meeting of the Board and the Council.

The Board then returned to budget deliberations and discussed the capital requests of the Board of Education. The focus was on the request for \$725,000 for elementary school interior door and hardware upgrade and, to a lesser extent, elementary school and Saxe entry access control. It was generally agreed that more information was needed, particularly on the interior door and hardware upgrade, and there was discussion of the mechanics of further investigation into this request.

There being no further business, the Board and the Council unanimously agreed to adjourn at 9:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert DiPanni, Secretary, Board of Finance

Penny Young, Secretary, Town Council