



**City of Bristol
Special Board of Finance Meeting
April 1, 2019**

A special meeting of the Board of Finance was held on Monday, April 1, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, Connecticut. The following were in attendance: Chairperson John Smith, Vice Chairman Orlando Calfe, Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Commissioners Jake Carrier, Nicolas Jones, Marie O'Brien and Cheryl Thibeault. Mike LaMothe and Ron Burns were absent. Also present from the Comptroller's Office: Diane Waldron, Robin Manuele, Skip Gillis and Sharon Chaika.

March 25, 2019

Ladies and Gentleman:

The Board of Finance will hold a Special Meeting on Monday, April 1, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, Connecticut.

Agenda

- 1. Call to order.**
- 2. Presentation regarding the 2019-2020 budget and to take any action as necessary**
- 3. To discuss the 2019-2020 budget and to take any action as necessary**
- 4. Adjournment**

**PER ORDER OF THE CHAIRPERSON
John Smith**

- 1. Call to order**

Chairperson Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

- 2. Presentation regarding the 2019-2020 budget and to take any action as necessary**

Comptroller Diane Waldron gave a presentation on the proposed 2019-2020 budget. The Grand List grew 0.72%, which will generate \$1,041,597 in additional tax revenue dollars at the current mill rate. The 2019-2020 Grand List is \$3,945,511,672 and 1 mill is equal to \$3,886,920. The 2018-2019 mill rate is 36.88. After reviewing the requested revenues, there were a few minor increases to revenues totaling \$263,350.

Diane reviewed the budget requests by Departments. The total General Fund request increase is 7.59%, with the General City at 6.75%, Debt Service and Capital Transfer 12.56%

and Education 7.71%. The variance between revenues and expenditures with the grand list growth is \$13,441,793 or 3.46 mills, a 9.38% increase.

Diane discussed the Spending Cap, CGS 4-66(l)(h)(1) which established a municipal spending cap of 2.5% that municipalities are required to certify annually to OPM compliance with this statute. There is a penalty for non-compliance that is a grant reduction equal to fifty cents for every dollar that exceed the 2.5% cap. There are adjustments to the spending cap calculation including changes in Debt Service, changes in Excess Cost or Special Education Costs, Changes in Pension Contributions, Arbitration Awards or Court Orders and any costs related to a disaster emergency declaration by the President or Governor.

Diane reviewed the proposed city expenditure reductions, highlighting a few. Corporation Counsel Professional Fees were reduced as there are currently funds that can be carried over in the account. The Police Department's request for new officers has not been approved by Salary Committee yet, and funding for those positions were removed until approved. Public Works Major Roads was reduced as the City has been receiving the Municipal Grants-in-Aid to assist in roadway maintenance. Bristol Burlington Health reduction is half of the requested increase. St. Vincent DePaul was reduced to current level funding. Parks Department is an increase as a result of the reorganization proposal. Capital Outlay requests for City Departments totaled \$1,301,775 and \$713,915 is proposed to be funded from the Equipment Building Sinking Fund. The Public Works Fleet Capital Outlay account stays in the General Fund, with a request of \$1,256,000 and proposed funding of \$1,138,000.

The Board of Education is presented with a \$4,334,880 reduction, from a 7.71% increase to a 3.82% increase. Diane explained the \$4,334,880, as there is \$900,000 budgeted for a Special Education contingency as well as a reduction based on how the BOE is trending now for Special Education costs. There is an estimated \$120,000 for print management savings and an estimated \$300,000 for retiree savings and \$620,000 in estimated Health Insurance savings.

The total expenditure reductions total 1.92 mills, .80 for City, and 1.12 for Education.

The proposed 2019-2020 City budget is \$201,706,570 an increase of \$7,297,385 or 3.75%; of this increase 1.07% is for the General City, .49% for Debt Service and 2.19% for Education. The mill rate increase is 1.34 mills or a 3.63% tax increase Diane showed the impact to the average taxpayer based on numbers provided by the Assessor for a mill rate of 36.88. The tax increase for motor vehicle would be 3.82% and real estate 3.62% or \$175 in total.

There are still some decision/open issues to discuss such as the follow: 10 Year Capital Transfer, Equipment Building Sinking Fund Transfer, Health Insurance Update, State Budget Update, Budget Adoption Date, Additional Reduction, and Revenue Forecasting. At this point, the Board of Finance is set to adopt the budget on April 23 and a Joint Meeting of City Council and Board of Finance will adopt the budget on May 20.

3. To discuss the 2019-2020 budget and to take any action as necessary

Discussion was held on the 10 Year Capital Improvement Plan, as it is proposed to reduce the Operating Transfer Out to Capital Projects. This would fund two projects, Graham Street for \$100,000 and the Playground project for \$150,000 from the current year. Commissioner O'Brien discussed the fiber project. Commissioner Thibeault did have questions on this project; however IT Director Scott Smith answered, which will be forwarded to the entire Board. Mayor Zoppo-Sassu questioned if the Parks Master Plan project could be bonded, as eventually those projects would be bonded as well and it is part of greater project. Commission O'Brien raised her concerns with doing this as she has seen the State bond projects that could be paid for by cash. Commissioner Smith stated the Board of Education needs to take action on the DRA study for the schools to know what will happen with the schools.

Chairperson Smith stated another workshop is scheduled for April 8, and budget adoption on April 23 however it doesn't appear that workshop will be necessary.

Commissioner Calfe questioned the need to fund the teachers' retirement and the City's status of being a distressed municipality. Mayor Zoppo-Sassu discussed the components that qualify Bristol as distressed by DECD some which include, poverty, unemployment, per capita, tax base, population and housing.

Councilman Dave Preleski stated he encourages the Board to have another workshop as there are some policy issues to discuss this year.

Commissioner O'Brien made a motion seconded by Commission Calfe "To cancel the Board of Finance meeting scheduled for April 8" Motion approved.

Commissioner Calfe made a motion seconded by Commission Thibeault "To schedule a Board of Finance meeting for April 15 at 6 pm" Motion approved.

4. Adjournment

Commissioner Calfe made a motion which was seconded by Commissioner Thibeault

"To adjourn at 7:16 p.m."

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Attest:



Diane M. Waldron
Board of Finance Clerk

