

MEETING DATE:
March 3, 2009
MEETING PLACE:
Auditorium

Polson Middle School

Board of Finance
Budget Public Hearing
Meeting Minutes

Ms. Rossini called the Board of Finance Public Hearing to order at 7:33 p.m. Present for the Board of Finance were Kathleen Rossini, Owen Charles, Peggy Lyons, Fillmore McPherson, Kathleen Stahelski, and Jennifer Tung.

Mr. Al Goldberg, First Selectman, presented the Board of Selectman approved Town of Madison Budget for fiscal year 2009 to 2010. He stated that the budget is will be \$19,727,280, a \$476,920 or 2.48% increase. There are no new programs or staff. He stated that the budget could be changes later by the Board of Finance due to the revenue decrease expected from the State of Connecticut, as the State determines the amounts to reach Madison, plus information from the health insurance actuary and reserve account needs. In addition, the Town's revenue from investment interest rates, Town Clerk fees from real estate, State Aid reimbursements, and building and land use fees have all decreased this year and we expect decreases next year. Small increases in revenue can be expected from Beach and Recreation and Education State aid. Overall, the Town should receive a decrease of \$287,232.

Mr. David Klein, Superintendent of Madison Public Schools, presented the Board of Education budget for fiscal year 2009 to 2010. The approved operational budget is \$40,293,851, an increase of 3.91%. He explained all the different contract requirements and how they are dependent upon them for the budget increase, not new programs or staffing. There was also a detailed explanation about why with a decrease in the number of students in each grade it is not possible to decrease the staffing, as the decrease is spread thin across all grades.

Public Comments:

Emily Eisenlohr of 168 Neck Road, asked the Board of Finance to not cut the Board of Education budget as seen in other Connecticut towns. She emphasized that the students get the best education for very little compared across the state.

Dwight Lopes of 25 Old Farms Road, asked the Superintendent if 10% of the children in Madison currently attend private schools, could we expect an increase in class sizes as some people may be trading in private schools for the Madison public school? Mr. Klein stated that he has no data or information at this time, but this time next year he could have some data to help predict such a trend in the future.

James Farrales 34 Granby Drive, stated that he has two children in the Madison Schools and that the quality in Madison is excellent. He would like the Board of Finance to consider the request from the Board of Education as presented tonight. Meeting was adjourned by Ms. Rossini at 9:11 p.m. Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Tung, Board of Finance Clerk