

**Preston Board of Finance
Special Meeting
Thursday, May 25, 2023
Preston Plains Cafeteria**

- 1. Call to Order** - John Moulson called the meeting to order at 8:15 P.M.

Roll Call

Members

John Moulson - Chairman
Robert Congdon - V. Chairman arrived at 8:35
Kayla Thompson - Clerk
Stacey Becker
Denise Beale
Zachary Maurice

Alternates

Robert Castronova
Andrew Sawyer - seated for Bob Congdon

Also Present

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier - First Selectwoman
Cindy Varricchio - Finance Director

Kimberly Lang - Recording Secretary

Members of the Public - 6

- 2. Public Comment**

Jill Keith, 26 Tanglewood Dr., thanked Sandra Allyn-Gauthier for her communication this past week and would like to see better communication tactics used to get more voter participation in referendums and elections.

- 3. Correspondence - None**

- 4. 2023-2024 Budget**

a. Set Mil Rate (provide referendum passes)

b. Budget Discussion (if necessary)

The results of the Referendum with absentee ballots still to count was that the General Government Budget passed and the Board of Education Budget failed.

The Board members started their discussion by looking at the Revenue Budget.

Andrew Sawyer motioned to increase the Investment Income line by \$60,000. Kayla Thompson seconded the motion.

Cindy Varricchio shared an end of the year Projection chart to help the Board with their discussion. She agreed that the Investment Income is showing tremendous growth at the moment however with a pending significant withdrawal to cover teacher's end of the year balloon checks she felt a \$60,000 increase was too high. She suggested increasing the line to \$90,000.

Andrew Sawyer amended his motion to increase the Investment Income line to \$90,000. Kayla Thompson seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Board then engaged in a discussion concerning the Fund Balance account, what's been used, what's been returned, and projected use. This discussion led to deciding what mil rate would be acceptable to the voters. Any reduction in the mil rate would mean cutting programs for the Board of Education because there were no more areas to increase the Revenue Budget. There was a lengthy discussion on the amount to reduce the Board of Education Budget and the reduction's effect on the mil rate.

The final tally of the Referendum was shared:
General Government Budget 300 in favor and 256 against, the Budget passed.
Board of Education Budget 260 in favor and 297 against, the Budget failed.

Stacey Becker motioned to reduce the Board of Education budget by \$150,000. Kayla Thompson seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

It was determined that with the increase in the Revenue Budget and the decrease in the Board of Education budget that the mil rate would be 22.95.

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared that the Board of Selectmen at their meeting last night had already prepared a Call of Meeting and that the Town Meeting will be June 7th and the Referendum June 15th. The Call will include that the Revenue Budget is \$574,636 and that the Board of Education Budget will be \$14,380,777.

5. Public Comment

Jill Keith, 26 Tanglewood Dr., hopes moving forward that the Board of Education will form a Communication Committee that will actively share information about the variety of programs the school offers in hopes to gain more parental understanding, support, and involvement in their budget process.

Sean Nugent, 164 Watson Road, disagreed.

6. Adjournment

Kayla Thompson motioned to adjourn at 8:40 P.M. Denise Beale seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Lang

Recording Secretary

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Denise Beale
PRESTON TOWN CLERK