

RTM Meeting
June 7, 2011

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING NOTICE

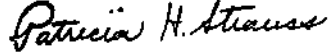
All Representative Town Meeting Members and inhabitants of the Town of Westport are hereby notified that a meeting of the Representative Town Meeting members will be held at Town Hall, 110 Myrtle Ave., on Tuesday, June 7, 2011, at 8 p.m. for the purposes listed below. If necessary, the meeting shall reconvene on Tuesday, June 21, 2011 to deal with any agenda items not disposed of at the adjournment of the June 7, 2011 meeting.

1. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the RTM Library, Museum and Arts Committee, to appoint Peter Flatow to serve as Trustee of the Westport Public Library for the four-year term beginning July 1, 2011.
2. To take such action as the meeting may determine, to acknowledge the 300 year anniversary of Greens Farms Congregational Church.
3. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Public Works Director for an appropriation of \$275,000 to the Sewer Fund Account (Pump Sta.#9, Force Main) for the replacement of the Hillandale Road force main serving Pump Station #9.
4. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Public Works Director for an appropriation of \$500,000 from the fund balance of the Capital & Nonrecurring Expenditure Fund (C&NEF) Account to the Capital & Nonrecurring Expenditure Fund (C&NEF) Account (HVAC Upgrade: Town Hall) for the HVAC upgrade and energy efficiency project for the Town Hall.
5. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Public Works Director for an appropriation of \$425,778 to the Highway Account (Storm Expenses) to cover the expenses incurred during the previous winter.
6. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Human Services Director, to approve programs eligible for investment by business firms under the provisions of CGS Sections 12-630aa et seq, known as the R.E. Van Norstrand Neighborhood Assistance Act.

7. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the First Selectman to approve an ordinance adopting Connecticut General Statutes, Sections 4-124i through 4-124p as amended, providing for the formation of a regional Council of Governments, authorizing the town to join such Council when duly established, designating the First Selectman as the representative of the Town of Westport on such Council and authorizing the Representative Town Meeting to designate an alternate representative from its members for a two-year term or until the next election of the RTM. (First Reading, full text available in the Town Clerk's office.)


Hadley C. Rose, Moderator

This is to certify that I mailed a copy of the above notice, properly prepaid, to each Representative Town Meeting Member on Tuesday, May 31, 2011, and that I caused a copy of said notice to be published in the Westport News in its edition of Friday, May 27, 2011.


Patricia H. Strauss, Town Clerk

RESOLUTIONS

(1)

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the RTM Library, Museum and Arts Committee, the appointment of Peter Flatow to serve as Trustee of the Westport Public Library for the four year term beginning July 1, 2011 is hereby approved.

(2)

RESOLVED: That the 300 year anniversary of Greens Farms Congregational Church is hereby acknowledged by the following proclamation.

Proclamation

WHEREAS the local government we enjoy today had its beginnings in 1711, when the colonial legislature established the West Parish of Fairfield in what today is known as Green's Farms;

WHEREAS the West Parish served as both the spiritual home and governing body for the residents who, collectively, constituted the town meeting;

WHEREAS from that humble start, the Town of Westport was chartered in 1835;

WHEREAS in 1949, the citizens of Westport elected their first Representative Town Meeting to replace the town meeting.

NOW THEREFORE, the Representative Town Meeting members, assembled in Westport Town Hall on June 7, 2011, voted to convey their heartiest congratulations to the Congregational Church of Green's Farms on the 300th anniversary of the first parish meeting on June 12, 1711.

Given this 12th day of June, Two Thousand Eleven

(3)

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Public Works Director, the sum of \$275,000 to the Sewer Fund Account (Pump Station #9, Force Main) for the replacement of the Hillandale Road force main serving Pump Station #9 is hereby appropriated.

(4)

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Public Works Director, the sum of \$500,000 from the fund balance of the Capital & Nonrecurring Expenditure Fund (C&NEF) Account to the Capital & Nonrecurring Expenditure Fund (C&NEF) Account (HVAC Upgrade:Town Hall) for the HVAC upgrade and energy efficiency project for the Town Hall is hereby appropriated.

(5)

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Public Works Director, the sum of \$425,778 to the Highway Account (Storm Expenses) to cover the expenses incurred during the previous winter is hereby appropriated.

(6)

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Director of the Department of Human Services pursuant to CGS Sections 12-630aa et seq., Interfaith Housing Association of Westport & Weston, Inc.'s Bacharach Community emergency shelter for mothers and their children, Positive Directions-The Center for Prevention & Recovery's Family Counseling & Prevention for low Income Families, and Children's Community Development Center's Energy Efficient Appliance Upgrades are hereby approved as programs eligible for investment by businesses under the provisions of the R.E. Van Norstrand Neighborhood Assistance Act .

(7)

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the First Selectman the ordinance adopting Connecticut General Statutes, Sections 4-124i through 4-124p as amended, providing for the formation of a regional Council of Governments, authorizing the town to join such Council when duly established, designating the First Selectman as the representative of the Town of Westport on such Council and authorizing the Representative Town Meeting to designate an alternate representative from its members for a two-year term or until the next election of the RTM is hereby approved. First reading, full text is as follows.

Regional Council of Governments

Adoption of state law; Authority to join

The Town of Westport hereby adopts Connecticut General Statutes, Sections 4-124i through 4-124p, as amended, providing for the formation of a regional council of governments, and does hereby join such regional council of governments when and as such council is duly established in accordance with said statutes, upon the adoption of said statutes by not less than sixty percent of all municipalities within the Southwestern Connecticut planning region as defined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or designee, and upon certification by the Secretary or designee that a regional council of governments has been duly established.

Designated Representative

The First Selectman shall represent the Town on the regional council of governments. In addition, the Representative Town Meeting may appoint one of its members as an alternate representative to the regional council of governments, which alternate shall serve a term of two (2) years or until the next election of members of the Representative Town Meeting.

RTM Library, Museum and the Arts Committee May 12, 2011 RTM

Nomination of Peter Flatow as Trustee for the Westport Public Library for a four-year term beginning July 1, 2011

Recommendation

The committee recommends the approval of Peter Flatow as a Trustee for the Westport Public Library for a four-year period beginning July 1, 2011.

Background

The Town Charter specifies that half of the Westport Public Library Trustees are to be selected by current members of the WPL Board and half are to be selected by the RTM. For the upcoming term, the RTM needs to appoint one person (to replace Thuy Tranthi who is retiring). Accordingly, members of the RTM Library, Museum and Arts Committee met with members of the Westport Public Library Governance and Nominations Committee to interview candidates for this and other trustee positions becoming available on July 1, 2011. Each applicant had previously attended informational sessions and supplied letters of interest, c.v.'s, and other pertinent information.

Of the several impressive candidates, LM&A Committee members chose to nominate Peter Flatow, who has already been voluntarily sharing his expertise with The Library Director and others for about a year. Mr. Flatow works currently primarily as a consultant and coach to Fortune 100 companies such as AT&T, Johnson and Johnson and Nabisco, focusing on business growth and reinvention. He also works with a number of leading private equity investors such as Blackstone and Allied Capital, in maximizing investment opportunities. His particular business-development and marketing skills and his knowledge of and enthusiasm for the WPL (similar to those of Thuy Tranthi) will make him a valuable Board member.

The motion to nominate Mr. Flatow was made by Kevin Green and seconded by Barbara Levy. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Batteau, Chair and Reporter
Kevin Green
Barbara Levy
Gene Scidman
Cathy Talmadge

Members not present:

Mike Guthman (attending a P&Z meeting on behalf of the WPL)
Arthur Ashman
John Suggs

PETER J. FLATOW

CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

CoKnowledge, Inc.

- President and Founder

Representative Clients:

- American Home Food Products
- AT&T
- Bacardi Imports
- Bayer Corporation
- Blackstone
- Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Brunswick Corporation
- Campbell Soup Co.
- Chartwell Investments
- CitiGroup
- Colgate-Palmolive
- Diageo
- IBM
- Johnson & Johnson Worldwide
- MarineMax
- MasterCard
- MCI Telecommunications
- Miller Brewing Company
- Nabisco
- Neutrogena Corp.
- Procter & Gamble
- Ralston-Purina
- Saab Cars, Inc.
- The Boston Beer Company
- The Cypress Group
- Tropicana

Ryan Partnership

- President, Ryan Management Group

Representative Clients:

- Procter & Gamble
- Campbell Soup Co.
- Labatt's
- Chiquita
- Miles Labs
- Ralston Purina

BrainReserve, Inc.

- President

Representative Clients:

- Sheraton Hotels
- Chesebrough-Ponds
- Nabisco
- IBM
- Citibank
- MCI
- Procter & Gamble
- Kimberly-Clark
- Seagram

MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

Bristol-Myers Squibb Company

- Director of Corporate Development, Consumer Products
 - Acquisitions/Divestitures/Licensing
- Vice President, Business Development, The Drackett Company
 - New Products/Brand Extensions/External Development
- General Manager, O-Cedar

Lever Bros. Company

- Category Marketing Manager
 - Laundry Detergents/Bar Soaps/New Household Products

Johnson & Johnson

- Product Director
- Assistant Product Director

EDUCATION

- The American University 1968 - MBA Business-Government Relations
- The American University 1967 - BS Business Administration

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Strategic Planning
- New Product Development
- Marketing Plan Development
- Acquisition Identification and Due Diligence
- Scenario Planning
- Professional Expert on Marketing and Branding

INDUSTRIES

- Apparel
- Telecommunications
- Food
- Liquor/Beer
- Beverages
- Children's Products
- Health & Beauty Aids
- Recreational Sporting Goods
- Marine
- Financial Services
- Automobile
- Personal Computers
- Software

Peter Flatow began his career working on the client-side with consumer goods companies where he developed and grew businesses for Bristol-Myers Squibb, Lever Bros. and Johnson & Johnson. Prior to founding CoKnowledge, Mr. Flatow gained considerable consulting experience as president of BrainReserve with Faith Popcorn and Ryan Management Group. His consulting has focused on business growth through reinvention. Typical assignments included brand reinvention and new product development to defining areas of new business opportunity.

While primarily a consultant and coach to Fortune 100 companies he has experience as a professional witness and executive coach. He also works with a number of leading private equity investors (Blackstone, Cypress Group, Harvest Partners and Allied Capital) on due diligence and maximizing investment opportunities. He is an advisor and Board member for a number of entrepreneurial companies. He currently publishes a blog with a focus on applying the principals of reinvention, the making of the old new again, to current events at www.peterflatow.com/blog.

Proclamation

WHEREAS the local government we enjoy today had its beginnings in 1711, when the colonial legislature established the West Parish of Fairfield in what today is known as Green's Farms;

WHEREAS the West Parish served as both the spiritual home and governing body for the residents who, collectively, constituted the town meeting;

WHEREAS from that humble start, the Town of Westport was chartered in 1835;

WHEREAS in 1949, the citizens of Westport elected their first Representative Town Meeting to replace the town meeting.

NOW THEREFORE, the Representative Town Meeting members, assembled in Westport Town Hall on June 7, 2011, voted to convey their heartiest congratulations to the Congregational Church of Green's Farms on the 300th anniversary of the first parish meeting on June 12, 1711.

Given this 12th day of June, Two Thousand Eleven

Hadley C. Rose, Moderator



WESTPORT CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

TOWN HALL, 110 MYRTLE AVE.

WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT 06880

Approved BOF 5/18/11
\$ 275,000 Appropriation to
Sewer Fund Account;
Pump Sta. # 9, Force Main

To RTM 6/7/11

RECEIVED

MAR 31 2011

TOWN OF WESTPORT
SELECTMAN'S OFFICE

March 31, 2011

Mr. Gordon F. Joseloff
First Selectman
Town Hall
Westport, CT 06880

BACK UP MATERIAL
RTM ITEM # 3

Re: Appropriation from Sewer Reserve Fund
Force Main Maintenance
Pump Station #9 Force Main Sewer Line Rehabilitation

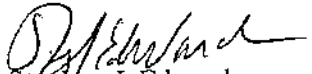
Dear Mr. Joseloff:

This office, herein, requests an appropriation from the Sewer Reserve Fund in the amount of two hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$275,000.00) for the replacement of the existing 40 year-old Hillandale Road force main serving Pump Station #9. This project is the second force main upgrade of several such projects that will be conducted over the next five or six years to address deterioration of lines or increase flow requirements.

The Pump Station #9 force main runs from the pump station on Center Street cross country to Hillandale Lane, under the Sherwood Island connector, unto Hillandale Road, across Hillspoint Road and up Spicer Road to terminate at a gravity manhole at Park Lane and Spicer Road. The force main is a 12 inch diameter concrete lined ductile iron line. Over the past five years this office has experienced four minor leaks of the force main in the vicinity of Hillandale Road. It appears that the hydrogen sulfide in the effluent has attacked the ductile iron and created "soft spots" that develop into pin holes that subsequently require excavation and repair with a clamp.

The proposal is to replace approximately 1300 linear feet of existing pipe with new 12 inch C900 plastic pipe that is not subject to the hydrogen sulfide. Funds have been projected in the Sewer Reserve Fund for this work.

Respectfully,


Stephen J. Edwards
Director of Public Works

Approved for submission to the
Board of Finance (5/18/11)


Gordon F. Joseloff
First Selectman

cc: John Kondub, finance Director

G:\PW_OFFS\JE\F\APP\Sta 9 force main

CONTRACT #67

Cost Estimate

Pump Station 9, Force Main Replacement, Hillandale Road

ITEM #	DESCRIPTION OF ITEM	QUANTITY	UNIT	UNIT COST	ITEM TOTAL
1	Site Preparation	1	LS	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
2	Trafficmen	1	LS	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
3	Pavement Repair	800	SY	\$40.00	\$32,000.00
4	12" C900 Sanitary Sewer Force Main 5' Deep	1300	LF	\$110.00	\$143,000.00
5	Class "A" Concrete	1	CY	\$135.00	\$135.00
6	Air Release Manhole - 48"Dia	1	EA	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
3	Trench Excavation - ROCK	10	CY	\$150.00	\$1,500.00
7	Restoration	1	LS	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
8	Catch Basin	2	EA	\$3,500.00	\$7,000.00
9	15"HPDE Drainage Pipe	80	FT	\$80.00	\$6,400.00
	12" Insertion Valves (Jack Farrelly) (Pre Purchase Direct)	2	EA	\$9,980.00	\$19,960.00
	Excavation & Resoration for Insert Valve Install (Kowalsky)	2	EA	\$1,790.00	\$3,580.00
	Air Release Valves (Pre Purchase Direct)	2	EA	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00
	Pumper Trucks (during change over) (Kaiser Battistone)	25	HRs	\$175.00	\$4,375.00
	Testing (A&C Connection Inspection)	1	LS	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00

Estimate TOTAL = \$240,650.00
10% Contingency = \$24,065.00
\$264,715.00

Funding Request \$275,000.00



WESTPORT CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
TOWN HALL, 110 MYRTLE AVE.
WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT 06880

Approved BOF 5/18/11
\$ 500,000 Appropriation
to C+NEF Account:
HVAC Upgrade: Town Hall

RECEIVED

APR 29 2011

TOWN OF WESTPORT
SELECTMAN'S OFFICE

To RTM 6/7/11

April 29, 2011

The Honorable Gordon F. Joseloff
First Selectman
Town Hall
Westport, CT 06880

BACK UP MATERIAL
RTM ITEM # 4

Re: **Appropriation from Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund
HVAC Upgrade and Energy Efficiency Project – Town Hall**

Dear Mr. Joseloff:

This office, herein, requests an appropriation from the Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund (C&NREF) in the amount of Five hundred thousand dollars (\$ 500,000.00) for the upgrade and modernization of the 1978 air conditioning system and replacement of the heating and cooling control system. The project consists of upgrading and replacing the HVAC controls with a building-wide Building Automation System (BAS) and variable frequency drives for the supply and return fan motors. Additionally, this project will include new condenser units for the six air handling units and the upgrade of 32 pneumatic zone heating valves to electronic valves which will then be integrated into the new BAS.

The BAS system will provide complete control and central monitoring of the HVAC systems. The control system will provide:

Occupied/setback control to insure that the units run only during specified occupied periods.

Demand-Based Ventilation will provide ventilation based on occupancy through carbon dioxide measurement, thus eliminating over-ventilation and wasted energy.

Dual enthalpy control will provide free cooling through modulation of the economizer dampers.

Motion sensors will allow certain units to shut off during non-use thereby saving energy.

Variable flow control on the fans will be based on demand and will allow significant energy use reductions during mild conditions.

Page 2
Gordon F. Joseloff
April 29, 2011

Last year this office applied for and received an Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) for the sum of \$101,756.00 for the replacement of the Town Hall HVAC control system. Additional funds are available through the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund for the replacement of specific motors and condensers with new energy efficient units and the incorporation of variable frequency drives on units that presently have none. These incentives from the Clean Energy Fund are estimated at \$38,000.

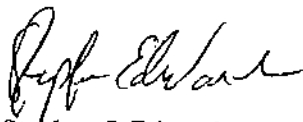
Energy savings from the improvements have been estimated at \$42,500 per year and the current \$15,388 annual repairs to the antiquated equipment should be significantly reduced if not eliminated for the next four to five years. Upon completion of the project, the approximately \$140,000 in direct grant funds will be returned to the C&NREF.

Based on the grants, annual energy savings, and reduced repair costs, it is anticipated that the initial investment will be paid back in approximately 5.5 years.

Engineers Estimate:	\$453,586.00
10% Contingency	<u>\$ 45,359.00</u>
Project Total	\$498,945.00

Project Cost	EECBG Grant	Est. Incentive	Annual Energy	Annual Repairs	Est. Payback
\$453,586.00	\$101,756	\$38,020	\$42,504	\$15,388	5.5 yrs

Respectfully,



Stephen J. Edwards
Director of Public Works

Approved for submission to the
Board of Finance (5/18/11)

cc: John Kondub, Finance Director
G:\PW_OFF\ASJE\FS\APP\Town Hall HVAC


Gordon F. Joseloff
First Selectman



WESTPORT CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
TOWN HALL, 110 MYRTLE AVE.
WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT 06880

Approved BOF 5/18/11
\$ 425,778 Appropriation to
Highway Budget Account:
Storm Expenses

To RTM 6/7/11

RECEIVED

MAY ' 4 2011

TOWN OF WESTPORT
SELECTMAN'S OFFICE

May 4, 2011

Mr. Gordon F. Joseloff
First Selectman
Town Hall
Westport, CT 06880

BACK UP MATERIAL
RTM ITEM # 5

Re: **APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS - STORM ACCOUNT '10-11**

Dear Mr. Joseloff:

This office hereby requests an appropriation of \$425,777.12 into Account No. 10103320-588000 (Highway Division, Program Expenses) to provide for the expenses incurred during the previous winter.

The following table summarizes the costs incurred under the Storm Account:

10103320 -	588001 Equipment Repair	49,754.18
	588002 Overtime	142,768.36
	588003 Meals	1916.00
	588004 Miscellaneous	1995.25
	588005 Outside Contractors	383,406.40
	588006 Salt	244,093.17
	588007 Sand	11,843.76
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 835,777.12
	APPROPRIATED FUNDS	\$ 410,000.00
	BUDGET SHORTFALL	\$ 425,777.12

In response to the FEMA emergency declaration for the January storm, this office has prepared a request for assistance. The value of this request has not been tallied as of yet but it should be in the vicinity of \$170,000.00. The application is being reviewed by FEMA and we anticipate receipt of the funds mid to late summer.

Respectfully,

Stephen J. Edwards
Director of Public Works

Approved for submission to the
Board of Finance (5/18/11)

Gordon F. Joseloff
First Selectman

cc: John Kondub, Finance Director



WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT

GORDON F. JOSELOFF
First Selectman

BACK UP MATERIAL
RTM ITEM # 6

May 24, 2011

Mr. Hadley Rose
Moderator, RTM
Town of Westport
Westport, CT 06880

Dear Hadley:

Attached are applications for the 2011 Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit Program which must be approved by the local legislative body before submitting to the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services.

I respectfully request that the applications be placed on the agenda of the Representative Town Meeting for approval.

If I can provide any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Joseloff".

Gordon F. Joseloff
First Selectman

GFJ:ps
Attachment

cc: Michael Rea, RTM Finance Committee
Barbara Butler, Human Services Director
Patricia Strauss, Town Clerk



WESTPORT CONNECTICUT
THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
TOWN HALL, 110 MYRTLE AVENUE
WESTPORT, CT 06880
(203) 341-1050 FAX (203) 341-1073
HUMANSRV@WESTPORTCT.GOV

TO: Gordon Joseloff, First Selectman
FROM: Barbara H. Butler, Human Services Director
DATE: May 18, 2011
RE: Neighborhood Assistance Act

BHB

RECEIVED
MAY 23 2011
TOWN OF WESTPORT
SELECTMAN'S OFFICE

I respectfully request that the attached applications to the 2011 Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit Program from Interfaith Housing Association of Westport and Weston, Inc. dba Homes with Hope, Inc. and Positive Directions - The Center for Prevention & Recovery be placed on the RTM agenda for approval at its June 7th meeting.

It is my recommendation that pursuant to CGS 12-630aa et seq., Homes with Hope's emergency shelter for families headed by single women known as The Bacharach Community is a program eligible for investment by businesses under the provisions of the R.E. Van Norstrand Neighborhood Assistance Act as is Positive Directions Family Counseling & Prevention program for low income families. Both are appropriately recognized as such by the RTM.

As you know according to statute NAA applications must be approved by the local legislative body and submitted to the Department of Revenue Services no later than July 1, 2011.



Municipality: Town of Westport

Form NAA-01
2011 Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA)
Program Proposal

Complete this form in blue or black ink only.

This form **must** be completed and submitted to your municipality for approval. All items **must** be completed with as much detail as possible. If additional space is needed, attach additional sheets. Please type or print clearly. See attached instructions before completing. **Do not submit this form directly to the Department of Revenue Services.**

Part I — General Information

Name of tax exempt organization/municipal agency: Interfaith Housing Association of Westport and Weston, Inc. dba Homes with Hope, Inc.

Address: 49 Richmondville Ave, Suite 112
Westport, CT 06880

Federal Employer Identification Number: 22-2534326

Program title: Bacharach Community

Name of contact person: Karen Mahar, Director of Resource Development

Telephone number: (203) 226-3426 ext 15

Email address: kmahar@hwhct.org

Total NAA funding requested (\$250 minimum, \$150,000 maximum): \$ 35,000

Credit percentage for which your organization is applying:

X 60% 100% (Energy conservation programs only)

Is your organization required to file federal Form 990 or 990EZ, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax?

Yes No

If **Yes**, attach a copy of the **first page** of your most recent return.

If **No**, attach a copy of your determination letter from the U.S. Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service.

Please check the appropriate description of your program:

- Job training/education for unemployed persons aged 50 or over;
 Job training/education for disabled persons;
 Program serving low-income persons;
 Energy conservation;
 Child care services;
 Open space acquisition fund; or
 Other: Specify _____

Part II — Program Information

Description of program: The Bacharach Community is Homes with Hope's emergency shelter for families headed by single women. The mothers and their children have struggled with a number of issues, which ultimately led to their becoming homeless. Their challenges can include economic hardship, mental illness, substance abuse, medical issues or domestic violence.

Need for program: In CT 73% of homeless families are headed by a female, single parent. Last year 1,039 families including 1,497 children were served by emergency shelters alone in CT. In the 4th Congressional district 2,298 people used emergency shelters, 438 were homeless children and 256 families.

Neighborhood area to be served: Lower Fairfield County including Westport, Norwalk, Bridgeport, Fairfield, Weston and Wilton.

Total number of recipients: Approximately 45

Administration of Program:

Identify every person or organization involved in the implementation and administration of the program. Use additional sheets if necessary.

1. Name: Paris Looney, MSW - Bacharach Community Program Director

Address: 3 Wassell Lane
Westport, CT 06880

Duties and responsibilities: Responsible for the program, clients and staff. Providing case management & support services to clients.

2. Name: Audrey Sparre, MA, MFT - Vice President & Chief of Operations

Address: 49 Richmondville Avenue, Suite 112
Westport, CT 06880

Duties and responsibilities: The VP/COO is responsible for the operations of all programs and facilities, including program staff.

Timetable:

Program start date: September 2011
Program completion date: September 2013

A certified post-project review is due to the municipality overseeing implementation no later than three months after program completion date for all projects receiving \$25,000 or more in NAA funding.

Month your annual accounting period ends: December

Method of accounting: Cash Accrual

Part III — Financial Information

Program Budget:

Complete in full. Expenditures must equal or exceed total funding.

Sources of Revenue:

NAA funds requested	<u>\$35,000</u>
Other funding sources - itemized sources:	
a) Foundations, business & service clubs	<u>\$144,000</u>
b) CT DSS - Emergency Shelter Services	<u>\$82,699</u>
c) Client Fees	<u>\$5,760</u>
d)	<u> </u>
	<u> </u>
Total Funding:	<u>\$232,459</u>

Proposed Program Expenditures:

Direct operating expenses - itemized description:	
a) Personnel	<u>\$204,820</u>
b) Program & Office Related Expenses	<u>\$25,138</u>
c) Maint, Build, Util, Phone, Capital Additions	<u>\$53,957</u>
d) Insurance & Other	<u>\$15,331</u>
	<u> </u>
Administrative expenses:	
Professional fund-raising fees	<u> </u>
Accounting/legal & other expenses - itemized:	
a)	<u> </u>
b)	<u> </u>
c)	<u> </u>
d)	<u> </u>
	<u> </u>
Total Proposed Expenditures:	<u>\$299,246</u>

Part IV — Municipal Information

To be completed by the municipal agency overseeing implementation of the program

Name of municipal agency overseeing implementation of the program:

Department of Human Services, Town of Westport

Mailing address:

110 Myrtle Avenue, Westport, CT 06880

Name of municipal liaison:

Barbara H. Butler, Director – Department of Human Services

Telephone number:

(203) 341-1050

Fax number:

203-341-1073

Email address:

bbutler@westportct.gov

Post-Project Review

Is a post-project review required for this proposal?

Yes No

If Yes, date post-project review due:

December 2013

Date

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax
Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)

OMB No. 1545-0047

2009

Open to Public Inspection

The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements.

A For the 2009 calendar year, or tax year beginning and ending

B Check if applicable: <input type="checkbox"/> Address change <input type="checkbox"/> Name change <input type="checkbox"/> Initial return <input type="checkbox"/> Terminated <input type="checkbox"/> Amended return <input type="checkbox"/> Application pending	Please use IRS label or print or type. See Specific Instructions.	C Name of organization INTERFAITH HOUSING ASSOCIATION OF WESTPORT AND WESTON, INC.		D Employer identification number 22-2534326
		Doing Business As		E Telephone number (203) 226-3426
		Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite 49 RICHMONDVILLE AVENUE, SUITE 112		G Gross receipts \$ 1,385,138.
		City or town, state or country, and ZIP + 4 WESTPORT, CT 06880		H(a) Is this a group return for affiliates? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No H(b) Are all affiliates included? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If "No," attach a list. (see instructions) H(c) Group exemption number ▶
F Name and address of principal officer: JEFFREY WIESER 49 RICHMONDVILLE AVE, WESTPORT, CT 06880		I Tax-exempt status: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 501(c) (3) (insert no.) <input type="checkbox"/> 4947(a)(1) or <input type="checkbox"/> 527		
J Website: WWW.IHAWESTPORT.COM		L Year of formation: 1984 M State of legal domicile: CT		
K Form of organization: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Trust <input type="checkbox"/> Association <input type="checkbox"/> Other ▶				

Part I Summary

Activities & Governance	1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: <u>PROVISION OF EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR MEN, WOMEN AND WOMEN WITH CHILDREN INCLUDING A FOOD PANTRY AND</u>		
	2 Check this box <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.		
	3 Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3	19
	4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	19
	5 Total number of employees (Part V, line 2a)	5	27
	6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	450
	7a Total gross unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a	0.
b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34	7b	0.	
Revenue	8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	Prior Year 1,075,804.	Current Year 1,043,024.
	9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	59,630.	111,199.
	10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	9,795.	2,917.
	11 Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	191,878.	75,085.
	12 Total revenue - add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1,337,107.	1,232,225.
Expenses	13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)		
	14 Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)		
	15 Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)	827,161.	859,125.
	16a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)		
	b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶ 177,076.		
17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24f)	319,765.	463,356.	
18 Total expenses. Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	1,146,926.	1,322,481.	
19 Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	190,181.	-90,256.	
Net Assets or Fund Balances	20 Total assets (Part X, line 16)	Beginning of Current Year 3,314,503.	End of Year 3,788,996.
	21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	1,156,351.	1,721,100.
	22 Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	2,158,152.	2,067,896.

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here

Signature of officer: JEFFREY WIESER, PRESIDENT/CEO Date: _____
Type or print name and title

Preparer's Use Only

Preparer's signature: MARCUM LLP Date: 11/15/10 Check if self-employed: Preparer's identifying number (see instructions): _____
Firm's name (or yours if self-employed), address, and ZIP + 4: CITY PLACE II 185 ASYLUM STREET HARTFORD, CT 06103 EIN: _____
Phone no.: 860-549-8500

Department of Revenue Services
State of Connecticut
(Rev. 03/11)



Municipality: Westport

Form NAA-01
2011 Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA)
Program Proposal

Complete this form in blue or black ink only.

This form must be completed and submitted to your municipality for approval. All items must be completed with as much detail as possible. If additional space is needed, attach additional sheets. Please type or print clearly. See attached instructions before completing. Do not submit this form directly to the Department of Revenue Services.

Part I — General Information

Name of tax exempt organization/municipal agency: POSITIVE DIRECTIONS - THE CENTER FOR PREVENTION & RECOVERY

Address: 420 POST ROAD WEST WESTPORT CT 06880

Federal Employer Identification Number: 06-0935732

Program title: FAMILY COUNSELING & PREVENTION FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES

Name of contact person: MARTY HAUTUTH

Telephone number: (203) 227-7644 Ext 123

Email address: MHAUTUTH@POSITIVE DIRECTIONS.ORG

Total NAA funding requested (\$250 minimum, \$150,000 maximum): \$ 5,800.

Credit percentage for which your organization is applying:

60% 100% (Energy conservation programs only)

Is your organization required to file federal Form 990 or 990EZ, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax?

Yes No

If Yes, attach a copy of the first page of your most recent return.

If No, attach a copy of your determination letter from the U.S. Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service.

Please check the appropriate description of your program:

- Job training/education for unemployed persons aged 50 or over;
- Job training/education for disabled persons;
- Program serving low-income persons;
- Energy conservation;
- Child care services;
- Open space acquisition fund; or
- Other: Specify _____

Part II — Program Information

Description of program: POSITIVE DIRECTIONS WILL PROVIDE OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT FOR ADOLESCENTS FROM LOW INCOME OR INDIGENT FAMILIES EXPERIENCING SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES SUCH AS ANXIETY OR DEPRESSION. THE ADOLESCENTS WILL BE REFERRED FOR TREATMENT BY WESTPORT HUMAN SERVICES OR SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS.

Need for program: THERE IS A SEVERE SHORTAGE OF ACCESSIBLE OUTPATIENT TREATMENT CAPACITY FOR LOW INCOME/INDIGENT FAMILIES. POSITIVE DIRECTIONS IS LICENSED BY THE STATE OF CT TO PROVIDE OUTPATIENT CLINICAL TREATMENT FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS AND COLLABORATES WITH COMMUNITY FOUNDERS SUCH AS UNITED WAY TO PROVIDE SUBSIDIZED TREATMENT SERVICES FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES WHO MAY NOT HAVE OTHER TREATMENT OPTIONS.

Neighborhood area to be served: LOW INCOME FAMILIES RESIDING IN WESTPORT

Total number of recipients: 6

Administration of Program:

Identify every person or organization involved in the implementation and administration of the program. Use additional sheets if necessary.

1. Name: DR. KATIE LIEBENBERG (PSY.D)
Address: POSITIVE DIRECTIONS - 420 POST ROAD WEST
WESTPORT CT 06880

Duties and responsibilities: EVALUATION AND COUNSELING; CASE MANAGEMENT

2. Name: MORTY NAUHUTL (BS, CPP-R)
Address: POSITIVE DIRECTIONS - 420 POST ROAD WEST
WESTPORT CT 06880

Duties and responsibilities: BUDGETING AND ADMINISTRATIVE -
REFERRAL MANAGEMENT

Timetable:

Program start date: SEPTEMBER 2011
Program completion date: JUNE 2012

A certified post-project review is due to the municipality overseeing implementation no later than three months after program completion date for all projects receiving \$25,000 or more in NAA funding.

Month your annual accounting period ends: JUNE
Method of accounting: Cash Accrual

Part III — Financial Information

Program Budget:

Complete in full. Expenditures must equal or exceed total funding.

Sources of Revenue:

NAA funds requested

\$ 5,800.

Other funding sources - itemized sources:

- a) UNITED WAY OF COASTAL FAIRFIELD COUNTY
- b) POSITIVE DIRECTIONS ANNUAL APPEAL
- c)
- d)

2707

1,160

\$ 9,667

Total Funding:

Proposed Program Expenditures:

Direct operating expenses - itemized description:

- a) EVALUATION & DIAGNOSTIC
- b) INDIVIDUAL TREATMENT SERVICES
- c) 48 TREATMENT SESSIONS
- d)

1,740

6,960

Administrative expenses:

Professional fund-raising fees

967

Accounting/legal & other expenses - itemized:

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)

-

-

-

-

Total Proposed Expenditures:

\$ 9,667.

Part IV — Municipal Information

To be completed by the municipal agency overseeing implementation of the program

Name of municipal agency overseeing implementation of the program:

Department of Human Services, Town of Westport

Mailing address:

110 Myrtle Avenue, Westport, CT 06880

Name of municipal liaison:

Barbara H. Butler, Director – Department of Human Services

Telephone number:

(203) 341-1050

Fax number:

203-341-1073

Email address:

bbutler@westportct.gov

Post-Project Review

Is a post-project review required for this proposal?

Yes

No

If Yes, date post-project review due:

n/a

Date

efile GRAPHIC print - DO NOT PROCESS As Filed Data - DLN: 93493035008611

Form 990

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

CMB No 1545-0047

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)

2009

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements

Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2009 calendar year, or tax year beginning 07-01-2009 and ending 06-30-2010

- B Check if applicable: Address change, Name change, Initial return, Terminated, Amended return, Application pending

C Name of organization: Positive Directions-The Center for Prevention & Recovery Inc. Doing Business As: Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address): 420 Post Road West. Room/suite: City or town, state or country, and ZIP + 4: Westport, CT 06880

D Employer identification number: 06-0935732. E Telephone number: (203) 227-7644. F Gross receipts: \$ 670,289

F Name and address of principal officer: Martha Hauhuth, 420 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06880

H(a) Is this a group return for affiliates? Yes No. H(b) Are all affiliates included? Yes No. H(c) Group exemption number

I Tax-exempt status: 501(c)(3) (insert no.) 4947(a)(1) or 527. J Website: www.positivedirections.org

K Form of organization: Corporation. L Year of formation: 1973. M State of legal domicile: CT

Part I Summary

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Rows include: 1. Briefly describe the organization's mission... 2. Check this box if discontinued... 3. Number of voting members... 4. Number of independent voting members... 5. Total number of employees... 6. Total number of volunteers... 7a. Total gross unrelated business revenue... 7b. Net unrelated business taxable income...

Table with 3 columns: Description, Prior Year, Current Year. Rows include: 8. Contributions and grants... 9. Program service revenue... 10. Investment income... 11. Other revenue... 12. Total revenue... 12a. 721,258. 12b. 665,110

Table with 3 columns: Description, Prior Year, Current Year. Rows include: 13. Grants and similar amounts paid... 14. Benefits paid to or for members... 15. Salaries, other compensation... 16a. Professional fundraising fees... 16b. Total fundraising expenses... 17. Other expenses... 18. Total expenses... 19. Revenue less expenses... 19a. -15,375. 19b. 812

Table with 3 columns: Description, Beginning of Current Year, End of Year. Rows include: 20. Total assets... 20a. 35,376. 20b. 31,455. 21. Total liabilities... 21a. 7,230. 21b. 2,497. 22. Net assets or fund balances... 22a. 28,146. 22b. 28,958

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge. Signature of officer: Martha Hauhuth Executive Director. Date: 2011-02-04

Preparer's information: Preparer's signature: William A Dylowsky. Date: Firm's name (or yours if self-employed): Dylowsky Goldberg & Brenner LLC. Address and ZIP + 4: 30 Oak Street, Stamford, CT 06905. Preparer's identifying number: EIN: Phone no: (203) 975-8030

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions) Yes No



Municipality: Westport

Form NAA-01
2011 Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA)
Program Proposal

Complete this form in blue or black ink only.

This form **must** be completed and submitted to your municipality for approval. All items **must** be completed with as much detail as possible. If additional space is needed, attach additional sheets. Please type or print clearly. See attached instructions before completing. **Do not submit this form directly to the Department of Revenue Services.**

Part I — General Information

Name of tax exempt organization/municipal agency: The Children's Community Development Center, inc.

Address: 90 Hillspoint Road Westport CT 06880

Federal Employer Identification Number: 06-1030028

Program title: Energy Efficient Appliance Upgrades

Name of contact person: Eileen Ward

Telephone number: (203) 226-8033

Email address: director@myccdc.org

Total NAA funding requested (\$250 minimum, \$150,000 maximum): \$ 16,400

Credit percentage for which your organization is applying:

60% 100% (Energy conservation programs only)

Is your organization required to file federal Form 990 or 990EZ, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax?

Yes No

If **Yes**, attach a copy of the **first page** of your most recent return.

If **No**, attach a copy of your determination letter from the U.S. Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service.

Please check the appropriate description of your program:

- Job training/education for unemployed persons aged 50 or over;
- Job training/education for disabled persons;
- Program serving low-income persons;
- Energy conservation;
- Child care services;
- Open space acquisition fund; or
- Other: Specify _____

Part II — Program Information

Description of program: Replacement of three 10 to 15 year old air conditioners with ductless high efficiency units.

Replacement of four 10 year old refrigerators with new energy efficient models.

Need for program: We operate 10 hours per day, 12 months a year. The new units will result in lower energy usage and significant financial savings, particularly during the summer months.

Neighborhood area to be served: Westport and surrounding communities.

Total number of recipients: 65 children, 120 parents and 25 staff per year. Total: 210

Administration of Program:

Identify every person or organization involved in the implementation and administration of the program. Use additional sheets if necessary.

1. Name: Air Perfect, Inc.

Address: 7 Pearson Avenue Milford CT 06460

Duties and responsibilities: Provide and install new units.

2. Name: James Izzo Electric

Address: 2 Izzo Lane Westport CT 06880

Duties and responsibilities: Wiring for new systems.

Timetable:

Program start date: June 30, 2011
Program completion date: August 26, 2012

A certified post-project review is due to the municipality overseeing implementation no later than three months after program completion date for all projects receiving \$25,000 or more in NAA funding.

Month your annual accounting period ends: August 31, 2011
Method of accounting: Cash Accrual

Part III — Financial Information

Program Budget:

Complete in full. Expenditures must equal or exceed total funding.

Sources of Revenue:

NAA funds requested	\$16,400
Other funding sources - itemized sources:	
a)	
b)	
c)	
d)	
Total Funding:	\$16,400

Proposed Program Expenditures:

Direct operating expenses - itemized description:	
a) Air conditioners	\$12,900
b) Electrical and contracting	\$1,500
c) Four refrigerators	\$2,000
d)	
Administrative expenses:	
Professional fund-raising fees	
Accounting/legal & other expenses - itemized:	
a)	
b)	
c)	
d)	
Total Proposed Expenditures:	\$16,400

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)

2009

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements.

Open to Public Inspection

For the 2009 calendar year, or tax year beginning 9/01, 2009, and ending 8/31, 2010

Form header section containing organization name (THE CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INCORPORATED), address (90 HILLSPOINT ROAD, WESTPORT, CT 06880), EIN (06-1030028), and other identifying information.

Part I Summary table with columns for Revenue, Expenses, and Not Assets or Fund Balances. Rows include mission statement, governing body details, and financial data for 2009 and 2008.

Part II Signature Block section with a declaration of preparer and signature of officer EILEEN WARD, Executive Director.

Paid Preparer's Use Only section with preparer signature of John M. Roller CPA, date 1/4/11, and firm information (MICHAEL J. KNIGHT & COMPANY CPAS).



WESTPORT CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF THE
TOWN ATTORNEY

To: Hadley Rose, RTM Moderator

From: Gail Kelly, Assistant Town Attorney *G.K.*

Date: May 18, 2011

Re: Ordinance authorizing the establishment of a regional Council of Governments

On behalf of the First Selectman, Gordon F. Joseloff, I request that the attached ordinance authorizing the establishment of a regional Council of Governments and designating the First Selectman as the representative of the Town of Westport on such Council be placed on the June RTM agenda for a first reading.

In addition to the ordinance committee, please let me know what other committees you will be referring this ordinance to. Thank you.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call me.

cc: Gordon F. Joseloff, First Selectman
Eileen Flug, Chair, Ordinance Committee
Patty Strauss, Town Clerk

Regional Council of Governments

Adoption of state law; Authority to join

The Town of Westport hereby adopts Connecticut General Statutes, Sections 4-124i through 4-124p, as amended, providing for the formation of a regional council of governments, and does hereby join such regional council of governments when and as such council is duly established in accordance with said statutes, upon the adoption of said statutes by not less than sixty percent of all municipalities within the Southwestern Connecticut planning region as defined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or designee, and upon certification by the Secretary or designee that a regional council of governments has been duly established.

Designated Representative

The First Selectman shall represent the Town on the regional council of governments. In addition, the Representative Town Meeting may appoint one of its members as an alternate representative to the regional council of governments, which alternate shall serve a term of two (2) years or until the next election of members of the Representative Town Meeting.

RTM Minutes
May 2, 2011

The call

1. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the estimate and recommendation of the Board of Finance, to adopt a budget for the Town of Westport for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, and to make such specific appropriations as appear advisable.
2. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance, to adopt a budget for the Town Railroad Parking Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, and to make such specific appropriations as appear advisable.
3. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance, to adopt a budget for the Town Sewer Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, and to make such specific appropriations as appear advisable.
4. To take such action as the meeting may determine to require that property taxes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, shall be due and payable in four quarterly installments, and to designate the dates of the first days of July, October, January, and April as the dates upon which such installments shall be due and payable, and that all taxes in an amount of \$100 or less shall be due and payable in a single installment on the first day of July.
5. To take such action as the meeting may determine to require that the motor vehicle tax shall be due and payable in a single installment.

The following items will also be considered as time permits:

6. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve a request of the First Selectman for an appropriation of \$30,000 to the Historic District Account (Fees & Services) for updating the Historic Resources Inventory which shall be fully reimbursed through the CLG Supplemental Grant at the completion of the project.
7. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve a request of the Parks & Recreation Director for an appropriation of \$26,690 to the Golf Account (Capital Equipment) to fund the purchase of a greens mower which shall be substantially reimbursed through the Department of Environmental Protection LEEF Program.
8. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve a request of the Finance Director for an appropriation of \$1,200,000 to the Pension Budget Account (OPEB Plan Funding) for the remaining fifty percent (50 percent) cost of the Town of Westport's planned contribution to the OPEB Trust Fund for 2010-11 fiscal year.

Minutes

Moderator Hadley Rose:

This meeting of Westport's Representative Town Meeting is now called to order. We welcome those who join us tonight in the Town Hall auditorium as well as those watching us streaming live on www.westportct.gov watching on cable channel 79. We are on ATT now as well on channel 99. My name is Hadley Rose and I am the RTM Moderator. On my right is our RTM secretary, Jackie Fuchs. Tonight's invocation will be by Mr. Carl Leaman who's got very fancy socks on, by the way.

Invocation, Carl Leaman:

Thank you very much for inviting me here this evening. As you might guess, I have many happy memories of this room and of this building. I have some which aren't so very nice but, nevertheless, I'm very happy to be here. I come tonight to talk a little bit about our forefathers and praising them for establishing the modern type of government that we have in Westport. Back in 1949, faced with no longer a representative town meeting, our forefathers proposed for the electorate a form of government which featured a very strong First Selectman Office, a check and balance through the Board of Finance with minority representation which, of course, all boards and commissions have in Westport, minority representation. Finally, I think their finest effort was a non-partisan RTM. That meant we can all work together to figure out the best way to handle Westport's problems. There really is no Democratic or Republican way to fill potholes. We all know the potholes have to be filled. By having a non-partisan RTM, we can all work together in solving those problems. The people I've worked closest with when I was on the third floor, Shelly Kassen, at that time on the Board of Finance, Gavin Anderson, Alice Shelton, and John Booth. I would tell those four people everything I felt very openly and without any hesitation. I think that's the wonderful part of a non-partisan RTM. Five of the last six First Selectmen and certainly the last two State Representatives have come from this body. So, we might think that two or three of you, at some point in the future, just might find yourself in Hartford or on the third floor. If you're lucky, you might become the Second Selectman. When you go to Hartford or when you go to the third floor, please remember the workings of the RTM on a non-partisan basis and how you easily communicated with each other during various sessions. I think I'm done...Again, I thank you for inviting me. I wish you lots of good luck as you discuss and debate on a non-partisan basis what I think is the most important part of the RTM, the budget sessions.

There were 32 members present.

There were no corrections to the minutes of April 5. Anyone with corrections, please contact Jackie Fuchs, myself or Patty Strauss, Town Clerk.

There are a number of birthday greetings this month: Mr. Rea, Dr. Cunitz, Ms. Starr, Dr. Green and Mr. Joseloff.

Announcements

The next RTM meeting is tomorrow night at 7:30 right here.

Committee meetings:

- Library Museum and the Arts – 7 p.m. on the 12th of May in the library board room.
- Long Range Planning – the 12th at 7:45 p.m. in room 309.

Town clerk Patty Strauss:

I just want to remind everyone that this Saturday, May 7, we will be having our third annual community shred day. It will take place from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Westport/Weston Health District parking lot. This is the third annual shred day. The first and second years were very successful. Something new this year. We will be charging \$5.00 for each car with paper to be shredded. That should cover the cost of the shred truck. We encourage paper in paper bags. We will take up to five paper bags full of paper or three banker boxes filled with paper.

RTM Announcements

Bob Galan, district 3:

There are over 1.5 billion pairs of shoes unused in people's closets in the United States. There are over 300,000,000 children not to mention millions of adults around the world that have no shoes. There is a group called Soles for Souls that collects used shoes and has given away over five years 12 million shoes already. They are currently giving away a pair every seven seconds. Even your old shoes will get recycled. There is a collection box in lobby of Town Hall. There are also collection boxes at Christ and Holy Trinity in the parish hall and William Raveis and the offices of Cohen and Wolf. If you would take a brief moment if they are laced shoes to lace them together or tape them together, it would be appreciated. That way the pairs will stay together. Clean out your closet and do a lot of help for people who don't have shoes.

Bill Meyer and Jeff Wieser:

Wasn't that super last Saturday night at Bedford! We have five Rotarians: Eileen Flug, Linda Bruce, Bob Galan and our newest member, Diane Cady and also two people on the Board of Finance in Sunrise Rotary: Helen Garten and Avi Kanner and Bob Losporgato. We want to thank everybody for their support. It was all for Homes for Hope. Liz Milwe was the choreographer. She put hours in. Here is the President of Homes for Hope, our one and only Jeff Wieser.

Jeff Wieser, district 4:

I just want to thank Sunrise Rotary for putting on a great performance and allowed Westport to laugh at itself and to allow us to laugh at ourselves and have a good time. Thanks to the RTMers who were able to come. Thanks to the other boards that allowed us to laugh at ourselves and be sure we didn't mean that as an anthem but rather just a good chance to laugh at ourselves

Mr. Meyer:

...and Hadley, my neighbor, thanks for his emails promoting this.

Linda Bruce, district 2:

Perhaps you saw many fascinators if you watched the Royal Wedding on Friday. You don't have to go to London this Friday because all the Garden Club ladies will have on their hats at the Saugatuck Congregational Church. We have our plant sale, Mother's Day booth, tomatoes, perennials, all wonderful things. The proceeds benefit many of our local charities in town. Hope to see you there, Friday, 9-1.

Matthew Mandel, district 1:

Thursday night, it's A Taste of Westport. I know I told you about this last month but I still have another chance to tell you about it. On Thursday night, May 5 at Earthplace will be A Taste of Westport. It will be a benefit for CLASP Homes. Come on out and eat, drink and be merry. It is for a good cause. You can go to tasteofwestport.com and buy your tickets. I hope to see you there Thursday night. One more thing, just to let you know, Earthplace is a wonderful venue for your organization to have events. They can come and enjoy Earthplace and learn about the environment while they are experiencing whatever they are doing with your organization. Come on out and use Earthplace for as many things as you can.

Barbara Levy district 5

The Friends of Hall Brooke would like to invite you to the ninth annual Mother's Day Art Show. This year is a special year because we are going to pay tribute to Howard Munce. We have wonderful artists including Miggs Burroughs and 10 or 12 artists. The artists contribute to the Friends of Hall Brooke and the Friends of Hallbrook use this money to help with the children's parties and special events. The mission of the Friends of Hall Brooke is also to demystify mental illness. Please come. It's on Long Lots. The gala is from 6-8 on Saturday evening in the community room.

Liz Milwe, district 1:

We have a great event Saturday night. You can make it both to Hall Brooke and come on over and see our friend Gene Seidman. Think about politics. Talk about politics, town, international. I went to Gene's last show and it was fabulous. Come join us.

From the audience: Where?

Ms. Milwe:

At Lily's at the station at 7 o'clock. [Correction: The evening will take place at the Fairfield Art Center, Stafford Street, Fairfield.]

Arthur Ashman, district 7:

I have to report a cancellation. Thursday night jazz at the Westport Arts Center was supposed to be May 19. The Library has asked us to postpone it because they are having their gala that night. So we postponed it until June 9, I believe. We are honoring Max Wilk who just passed away. It's going to be a great crowd. Thank you and I hope you can come.

Mr. Rose:

Before we move on to agenda item #1, I want to quickly lay out the potential calendar for this meeting and the next few days. We are going to review the Town Budget tonight and the Education Budget tomorrow night. Agenda item #1 is a consolidated item so it will not be voted on tonight until we go through both of those. Agenda items #2 and #3 which are the Railroad Parking Fund and the Sewer Fund will be voted after we complete the Town budget. Agenda items #4 and #5, regarding tax installments, will be held over until the completion of our vote on agenda item #1. After we have completed that segment of the agenda, we will turn to items 6, 7 and 8 but only after we have completed the rest of the agenda. I am hopeful that we can do this all in two nights. If for some reason we cannot, we will reconvene on Wednesday the 4th at 7:30. If we are still not done on Wednesday we would then reconvene on Monday the 9th. I am sure that it is everyone's fervent hope that this is not the case. If we do not complete the Town side of the budget this evening, we will still start with the Board of Education budget tomorrow at 7:30 PM as planned and then pick up with the Town side after that is completed. Typically, the only committee reports delivered verbally during the budget sessions are the Finance Committee report on the town budget which will be presented tonight and the Finance and Education Committee reports on the education budget which will be presented tomorrow night. Other committee reports have been sent to RTM members in advance. There are additional reports on the table in front. If other committees do wish to report verbally, they may do so, especially if their committee reports include recommendations that differ from those of the Finance or Education Committees. For example, if a committee recommends a decrease or a restoration, they should make that report verbally. To do so, please raise your hand when we turn to that budget section. The RTM may approve a budget item by a simple majority vote. The RTM may decrease a budget item by a simple majority vote. The RTM may restore funds cut by the Board of Finance by a 70 percent majority vote of those present and voting, not the entire body. The RTM may not increase a budget item to an amount greater than the amount originally requested by the First Selectman. If there are motions to restore or reduce a budget item, we will address them, as we have in the past, using the fill-in-the-blank method. That is, I will ask to have all motions on the floor at once, for a particular budget line item. We'll then vote beginning with the largest reduction or restoration and follow in descending order.

As many of you are aware, this year it is probable that there will be a number or requests for restoration. That being the case, I will call out each general budget line in turn. If any RTM member wishes to make a motion or discuss that item, please raise your hand at that time. If no one does, I will consider that that item is approved and move on to the next one. I would ask the Finance Director to keep a running total for us. We will take one vote on the overall budget tomorrow night. If there is a motion to decrease or restore, I will open the floor back to public comment so the public can comment on that specific item. I will ask members of the public to please limit their remarks to three minutes. In the first section, before the RTM gets the item at all, you may address either any individual item or the budget as a whole. If we later have a motion to change

things, you will be allowed to get up to address that. I will try to be sensitive to the hour, and if I don't feel that we will finish tonight at a reasonable hour, I will try to let those departments that we will not get to tonight, go home. If we reach that time and don't finish, we will continue with the other Town items Tuesday night. Hopefully, that will not be necessary.

I'd like to remind everyone of the Town Charter provision on conflicts of interest. Charter Section C38-2 states that "...no town employee or any member whether elected or appointed to any Board, Commission, Agency, Department or of the Representative Town Meeting shall participate in any official capacity in the hearing or decision upon any matter in which such person has directly or indirectly, a personal or financial interest. In the event of such disqualification, such fact shall be entered on the records of the commission or board." Our own RTM Rules of Procedure add the following provision "that all members should be most sensitive to permitting an actual conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest to exist, even though a complete disclosure of all circumstances would show that an actual conflict did not exist in a particular case." I am asking any RTM members who would like to recuse themselves from the vote on any particular department's budget request to make their intentions known at this time. I know Mr. Rubin has already indicated to me that he would recuse himself on the vote on section of the budget that would affect the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Mandell and Mr. Keenan will do the same on the Earthplace budget. Mr. Wieser will recuse himself from the vote on Health and Human Services. If any other members decide to recuse themselves from particular budgets, please raise your hand and let me know your intentions so I can put them in the record. Mr. Timmins will also recuse himself from Earthplace.

And finally, while at times it may seem we are going through certain segments of the budget without much discussion, you should know that members of the RTM have been working with staff and board members for quite a while now. RTM members have attended Board of Finance meetings, budget workshops and have met and worked with the specific departments and boards over which we have budgetary oversight. In fact, some committees have been working with their counterparts on this budget in one way or another for months. What you see this evening is the culmination of all that effort. Before we go on, I want to extend my personal thanks to all the committee chairs. It has been an incredibly hectic month, particularly with the holiday week, for getting the meetings together and getting the reports done. I really appreciate all the hard work and effort you've made to get that done.

The secretary read item #1 of the call - To adopt a budget for the Town of Westport for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, and to make such specific appropriations as appear advisable.

Presentation

Board of Finance, Chairman, Helen Garten:

I want to thank George for helping me set this up. Members of the RTM, I am here to present the Board of Finance recommended Budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. When I was here one year ago, I described the long term financial challenges that Westport faced and what they meant for Westport's budget. Tonight, I am sorry to report that a year has gone by, but these challenges remain, for the most part, unaddressed. So this year, the Board of Finance adopted a new strategy, one that is bold, courageous and responsible. My job tonight is to explain what we did, why we did it and why we want you to join with us in carrying it through. Let's start with the Board of Finance recommended Budget. Our budget totals \$178,703,110, which is just \$592,250, or .33 percent, less than what was requested. The town side budget is \$66,277,304, a mere \$342,250, or .51 percent, less than the First Selectman's request. This reduction is tiny, compared to last year. The Board of Finance could have done what we did last year. Just like last year, Westport faces an enormous liability, namely OPEB, that was not covered in full in the Selectman's requested budget. To cover that liability, we would have had to reduce the operating budget dramatically, just as we did last year. We didn't do that. Our cuts were minimal. But they were designed to achieve a specific goal. The Board of Finance went into this budget season with the unpleasant feeling that we have been here before. All three budget drivers that we struggled with last year are still with us, unresolved. The first is all too familiar: The escalating price of employee benefits. Next year, we reach a new milestone. Benefits—pension, medical costs and social security—will surpass the \$20 million mark. That's more than Westport will spend on police and fire combined. That's 32 percent of the town budget. Just six years ago, benefits were a mere 18 percent of the budget. For every dollar that we pay employees in salary, we are paying 53 cents in benefits. By way of comparison, in the private sector, benefits amount to 34 cents on the dollar. Recently, on a local blog, a taxpayer wrote that she can't understand why we are still talking about this. Everybody knows that this level of benefits can't be sustained. So why haven't we done anything about it? It's not impossible to reform benefits, even in a town like ours. Look at Fairfield. Fairfield faces pension costs that are only half of ours, but that was enough to persuade the administration and the municipal union to reach an agreement for a defined contribution plan for all new employees, with the town matching contributions up to 5 percent. Municipal employees will pay 10 percent of their medical insurance costs, with new employees paying 11 percent. In exchange, employees are getting a modest but fair wage increase. So it can be done. But the Board of Finance doesn't have the power to do it. We have no authority over labor contracts. We don't even have a say over the appropriation of money to cover salary increases under new labor contracts once they are approved. Our only power is to give you our recommendations on the budget. But we do have the responsibility to figure out how pay for it, to cover that \$20 million, while trying to keep taxes and reserves at responsible levels. The \$20 million figure doesn't even include OPEB, which represents our liability for our current employees' future medical benefits when they retire. As you know, next year's out of pocket medical expenses attributable to current retirees are covered in the medical insurance account (902) of the town budget. The Board of Finance and the RTM Finance Committee wanted our annual OPEB contribution to be included in the

budget as well. The First Selectman did so, but budgeted only \$750,000 for next year, less than a third of what we plan to contribute to OPEB this year. That left the Board of Finance with two choices: either cut the operating budget and shift the money to OPEB, or agree to fund the balance outside of the budget through an appropriation next year. There was another complication: Westport was obligated to recalculate its OPEB liability as of June 30, 2010. When we met in March, we didn't have the new calculation and we still don't have it. We think our liability is going to be bigger, perhaps much bigger, but we don't even have enough information to make an educated guess. So the Board of Finance, faced with bad choices, decided on the following plan of action. Just as last year we pledged to fully fund the pensions, this year we pledged to fully fund the OPEB ARC, whatever it turns out to be. When we set the mill rate, we will tax for OPEB funding, so that we can be sure that the money is there to keep our promise to our employees. But this promise has serious consequences. Every million dollars that we must contribute toward OPEB means increasing the mill rate by at least one tenth of a mill.

The second budget driver that is all too familiar is the impact of economic uncertainty on our town and taxpayers. The town looks to three pools of money to fund expenditures—fees, the bulk of which are real estate related such as conveyance tax and building permits; federal and state assistance; and taxes. What fees and assistance don't cover, taxes have to. This year, fee income is higher than projected, and some fees within Westport's control may go up next year. The town is betting that the housing and construction market will be even stronger next year, an optimistic assumption in view of rising gas and commodity prices. But next year, it is the federal and state assistance that is uncertain. We know that federal stimulus money, which we used in the past to substitute for reductions in state road aid, is gone. As for state money, first we heard that Hartford was going to increase state aid to municipalities and that, improbably, Westport and towns like us were going to be the big winners. Now, we've heard that some of the proposals that would have brought new revenue to Westport, like the property tax on boats, are dead, and that if Hartford can't get billions in union concessions, present levels of aid to municipalities could be slashed. Even if that doesn't happen, increased state aid is a mixed blessing because the state plans to get the money from much higher taxes and fees, and a lot of that burden will fall on working Westporters and other residents of Fairfield County. So what's good for town government is not so good for our residents, and the Board of Finance must remember that when we set the mill rate. But in any event, although we spend a lot of time thinking about fees and other non-tax revenue, they actually fund a very small portion of our total budget. Another way to look at it: The Finance Department's projection of \$19.5 million of total non-tax revenue next year won't even cover the price of employee benefits. We also can't forget the impact of revaluation, which proved to just about all of us that we are a little poorer than we were five years ago. The decline in our grand list means that there will be an automatic increase in next year's mill rate of 14 percent regardless of any increase in budgeted expenditures.

The third driver is the consequence of the first two. If benefits costs continue to grow unchecked, and there are limits to our ability to raise non-tax revenues, then town government must find ways to do more with less. We've talked for years about how we might accomplish this: Consolidate functions between town and schools. Reorganize and consolidate departments on the town side. Outsource services. Harness our investment in technology to reduce overhead costs. For the most part, nothing has happened. Our taxpayers are sending us a loud and clear message. Stop talking. Start doing.

So it was déjà vu all over again for the Board of Finance. But as we looked at the budget, we realized that the big three departments—police, fire, public works—had shaved so much that there was little left to give. The Board of Finance singled out the Police Department in particular for coming in with a flat budget that covers a contractually mandated three percent salary increase. This was accomplished through a combination of staff reductions, which saves on benefits, consolidations, revenue enhancement and outsourcing. In other words, the Police have done, in their department, what we've been asking the entire town to do. Other departments came in flat as well, but their union contracts are either still open or about to expire, and their budgets do not include the retroactive wage increases that eventually will have to be funded when the contracts are settled next year. Parks & Rec. asked for a 2.19 percent increase, part of which was direct support for Recreation—golf, beach & pool, programs. We were told that additional funding for these activities will be used to improve Recreational opportunities and will be covered by fees. The Board of Finance accepted that rationale and accepted the proposed budgets for those areas. But despite these efforts by department heads, the First Selectman requested a 3.34 percent increase—without fully funding OPEB. The Board of Finance warned last year that we would be in this position if the town didn't begin to make serious structural reforms. We do not want to be in the same place next year. So if the town hasn't reformed employee benefits, and doing business as usual isn't going to yield a lot of savings, there is only one solution: Stop doing business as usual. We on the Board of Finance are not a corporate Board of Directors. We can't change policy on our own. We have the bully pulpit for one brief moment, when we make our budget recommendations. So this year we used our budget recommendations as a catalyst for change. You can call it a nudge. You can call it a challenge. We call it our last best attempt to move town government to take the steps that we all know are needed to preserve and protect Westport's future. We have a narrow window of opportunity to effect this change. An unexpected departure in the Personnel Department gives us a once in 15 year chance to reorganize and rationalize the town's back office functions. And by next year I suspect we will be preoccupied with a new problem: We simply can't postpone maintenance of our infrastructure much longer. If we don't make progress right away toward real savings in operations, I predict that, in next year's budget, maintenance will join benefits as the obligations that will crowd out all other budget priorities, and the reductions in services that we will be forced to make in every department will be far deeper than anything we have seen so far. So what reductions did the Board of Finance suggest and why? There were two categories, the consolidation reductions and the efficiency reductions.

Consolidation reductions were to Finance and Personnel, IT and the Medical Insurance consultant line. In each case, the reduction was in the salaries line and roughly corresponded to one position. In IT there was also a reduction to fees and services. The aim was to jump start the process of reorganizing or reconfiguring these departments with a view to possible consolidation of duplicative functions being performed by town and schools. To persuade the schools to be part of the process, we reduced the Board of Education requested budget by a similar amount. There has been some suggestion that our reductions were based on a secret memo. That is incorrect and unfair. The memo in question is so secret that most Board of Finance members have never seen it. But identifying payroll and purchasing, personnel and IT as possible areas for consolidation is hardly new. These areas were on the agenda of the former Government Efficiencies Committee, as well as many earlier equally well intentioned but equally unsuccessful efforts to achieve town/school consolidation. Let me address the specifics. First, the Finance Department. Both purchasing and payroll are areas where schools and town have some overlapping functions. A year ago, the town's Internal Auditor produced a report that made recommendations for consolidation of the procurement function. There was some pushback on this report, but the Board of Education did agree to think about whether a single purchasing utility might lead to more coordination and greater savings. That was last year. Nothing happened. It is time to revisit this proposal and make it work. With respect to payroll, other towns, notably Madison, CT, have successfully combined town and school functions, permitting personnel reductions. But the Board of Finance also recognized that town/school consolidation is not the only path, and may not be the best path, to efficiency. One of my colleagues, the Board member who made the motion to reduce the Finance Department budget, advocates outsourcing payroll on the town side. This is easy to implement and, based on experience in other government units, it could produce immediate savings for the Finance Department.

More generally, we have been suggesting, for years, that the Finance Department as a whole be reorganized with an eye to increased efficiency. A reorganization plan will enable the town to employ current staff more effectively to alleviate the work pressures that the department now faces and to identify exactly where we need to allocate resources going forward. We are aware that several restructuring proposals exist in draft form, but the Board of Finance has never seen them. It's time to move on the suggestions or come up with better ones. It may sound counterintuitive to cut the Finance Department budget in order to jumpstart a restructuring process that may eventually require us to add more resources. But it is consistent with our strategy to use the cuts as a catalyst for change. Let's face it: We have to accept the reality that going forward there will simply be fewer resources to fund the things that Westport government wants to do and has to do. Something will have to give, and experience tells us that it is less visible departments like Finance that will make the biggest sacrifice. If we really care about maintaining a strong town Finance Department, then the very best thing we can do is to insist that the department takes steps now to position itself to deal with the new reality by adopting the most flexible and efficient organizational structure it can. But the hardest part of

change is getting people to take that first step. We've tried everything. Jawboning hasn't worked. Efficiency committees haven't worked. Dire warnings about Westport's financial predicament haven't worked. The private sector knows, and now the public sector, from the Pentagon to the smallest municipality, is learning: Budget cuts work. They create the urgency that leads to new, innovative and more efficient ways of operating.

The second area where we want to see greater efficiency is the human resources function. We have a vacancy at the top of the town Personnel Department. We can quickly fill the position at the same salary and continue business as usual. Or we can use this opportunity to think about the most efficient way to structure a municipal personnel department. In the past, the HR function was at least nominally centralized in town hall and the premise is that this will continue. But the municipal HR function is actually many different jobs, and some governments have discovered that it is most efficient to deconstruct and decentralize. Some personnel functions are similar for town and schools and could be combined. Other personnel functions overlap with work currently being done by the town finance department. Given technological innovations in the HR area, such as overtime management and benefits administration systems, some personnel functions could be automated, some outsourced and some administered by the individual departments. These efficiencies in turn would affect the skill sets that we may want in HR personnel. We may need a financial expert, or an expert labor negotiator.

Sounds like the Board of Finance is micromanaging again, right? We're not suggesting that we do the analysis. We're suggesting that it should be done before a decision is made that could lock us into an inflexible cost structure for another 15 years.

The last area is IT. Governments that are considering consolidation of town and school functions are now putting IT at the top of the list. The reason: to save money. The private sector has already achieved dramatic savings in IT through consolidation, standardization and outsourcing. Now the public sector is following, as states and municipalities face rising IT costs but shrinking return on investment. Some have taken their own draconian steps to force change: The governor of Massachusetts issued an executive order mandating consolidation of all executive branch IT functions across departments. Thus far, hardware maintenance, IT procurement and desktop help have been successfully consolidated, resulting in measurable savings and improved service. Both the town and schools IT directors are top notch and innovative. Our suggestion: work together, and let's decide once and for all where consolidation will save money. We understand that, since the budget reduction, some discussions have taken place that will result in savings in the town IT budget, which is why the department sought only partial restoration. That's great, but more can be done. So, in sum, the Board of Finance was not trying to dictate any particular organizational outcome. What we wanted was a reexamination of how we provide administrative services in the hope of finding more efficient ways of doing

business. We have talked about this for years. What's different now? The Board of Finance has found a way to jump start the process.

The remaining reductions, to Parks & Rec. and Transit, were efficiency plays. In the case of Parks & Rec., the rationale for the reduction to the administration account was simple: We wanted to see savings in administrative overhead. In the past two years, we've asked the same of every other department in town, and cut budgets accordingly. In Parks & Rec. administration, in our view, there was a place to achieve these savings without any impact on Recreational programs—namely, through leveraging past investment in technology. Three years ago, the Parks & Rec. Department began online registration for recreational passes and beach emblems. The option is so popular that, in March, Westport Now ran a picture of an empty lobby at the Parks & Rec. administration building with the caption "Light Turnout As In-Person Sale of Beach Emblems Begins." 2800 on line registrations had already been logged. It's logical to assume that if more people register online, fewer people are standing in line. So why doesn't that create an opportunity to reduce overhead costs? Even if efficiency was not the original goal of buying an online registration system, isn't it a welcome byproduct? This is not the first year that the Board of Finance raised this issue. Last year, we asked for savings in administration, offering the same suggestion as to where the savings might be found. We were told that the online registration system was still being implemented, so it was too early to determine the budgetary impact. We accepted that answer, and we allowed the department to transfer funds around so that budget reductions fell in other areas. Now that we are in the third year of operation, it should come as no surprise that we asked again. The answer doesn't have to be to stop all in person service. I saw the new Westport Now pictures. But other Connecticut towns that have introduced online sales of recreational passes have already begun to save on overhead. Glastonbury CT processes 89 percent of its recreational program registration on line, with resulting savings in personnel, postage, paper and processing costs. The personnel savings in Glastonbury came from converting a full time benefits-eligible position to part time non benefits-eligible administrative support. Glastonbury's savings weren't only in Parks & Rec; there were also savings in the Finance Department. It's hard to believe that in Westport there are no savings at all. And there is another point worth considering: Parks & Rec. is not the only department in the business of selling permits to Westport residents. An RTM member had a great idea at the RTM Finance Committee meeting to have a centralized town service office where Westporters can obtain all of their permits and stickers if they want to buy in person. Some people have said that Parks & Rec. doesn't have to be more efficient, because we can always raise fees to cover overhead. But aren't recreational users better off if administration operates as efficiently as possible, so that more of their fees go toward providing what really matters to them—cleaner beaches, better playing fields, more children's programs? The reality is the same for Westport as for Glastonbury and every other town. Resources are limited, and we have to make tough allocation decisions. The Board of Finance thinks that Westporters are better served if we put more of our scarce resources directly into recreational programs and find the savings in overhead. That's what the Board of Finance is recommending to you

in next year's budget. We reduced parks administration by \$70,000. But we added over \$160,000 to the golf, beach & pool, parks maintenance and programs accounts.

The reductions to the Transit District were also about efficiency. The Board of Finance wanted a reexamination of a service that not only is incredibly costly to operate, \$14 per rider per trip, but also does not always serve Westporters. Westport subsidizes buses that transport non-Westporters to jobs in Norwalk. Buses that get five miles to the gallon run practically empty on some routes. At a time when virtually every other fee is increasing, bus fares haven't gone up in a decade. We believed that there was room in the Transit District to streamline. I suspect that most people in this room share some or all of these goals. But some may question our method. Reorganization, whether through consolidation, restructuring or overhead reduction, takes time. We don't know exactly what the savings will be. So why cut so deeply, just months before the new fiscal year? I know people are thinking this, because I raised these concerns myself at the Board of Finance meeting. But as I listened to my colleagues, I became convinced that I was wrong. Here's why. Every year for the past six years, I have attended Board of Finance budget workshops at which someone asks "Why do we have two personnel offices and two IT departments?" "When will we see savings from investment in technology?" (That one was mine.) "Why are we subsidizing near empty transit buses?" We ask the questions, and then we approve the budgets as requested, and nothing changes. Another year rolls around, and we ask exactly the same questions.

So why has this year been different? Why, this year, in the short time since the Board of Finance made these budget reductions, have the town and schools finally held a meeting to set an agenda to discuss consolidation? Why is the Finance Department finally looking at outsourcing payroll? Why is the Transit District finally proposing to end Westport's subsidy of Norwalk commuters, refashion routes and reexamine the fare structure? Why are we finally talking about better ways to sell permits and passes? I have to think that the impetus came from our so called "draconian" cuts. The fact is, government doesn't change until it has to. There is a lot of truth in the old saying "necessity is the mother of invention." Our budget reductions are creating the urgency that was missing before. So in the weeks since our vote, the Board of Finance was cautiously optimistic that our strategy was working. The Board of Education did not come back to us for restoration. The Transit District asked for \$60,000 back, but agreed to cover the \$40,000 reduction by adopting the efficiencies I've just described. Not everyone on the Board thought this was enough, but those who voted to restore did so on the assumption that the District understood the need to become more efficient.

The Board of Finance received no other requests for restoration. Parks & Rec. Director Stuart McCarthy, in a memo dated April 5, acknowledged our request for a review of administrative operations specifically in regard to technology. But he asked to return to the Board of Finance in June for an appropriation that would in effect be a restoration of some or all of the \$70,000 reduction. He wrote: "In

addition to allowing adequate time to provide greater detail on our administrative options, a delay until June will allow us another full season of assessing the impact of our on-line pass management software...I believe at the conclusion of this sales cycle, we will have a very clear evaluation of the impact of this service on our staffing requirements." This memo suggests that, as in Glastonbury, there may be some savings. It is reasonable to withhold judgment until all the evidence is in. At that time, the Board of Finance invites the department to come back to us so we can see where online sales have increased costs and where they have decreased costs. We can talk about shared services, such as the centralized service office. But the Board of Finance has a request that we think is also reasonable. The department promised us an evaluation based on evidence. Please allow us to receive the evaluation so that we, and then you, can make a final decision based on fact, not conjecture or emotion. The First Selectman did not request restoration of the reductions to Finance, Personnel, IT and the medical insurance consultant. He wrote to us that it was too early to evaluate the impact of the cuts, but that he would keep us and you apprised of the outcome of consolidation discussions with the schools. Since April 5, the Board of Finance has received no progress report. We have heard that there has been a meeting between town and schools, and that the Finance Department is looking into other options, such as outsourcing. Now nobody on the Board of Finance thought that miracles would happen and that a reorganization of three departments, whether through consolidation, outsourcing or restructuring, would be complete by the start of the new budget year. We did think that, if everybody went to work, some decisions could be made by July 1. Implementation would take longer, but next year's budget is \$66 million, which seems enough to cover business as usual. There would need to be funds transfers within departmental accounts or between departments, but we expected that. We transferred a lot of funds around last year, as town departments absorbed last year's budget reductions. Almost every year, at year end, we transfer funds between departments, but this can happen any time so long as the Board of Finance approves—and we always have. We also expected that there might be new costs associated with reorganization. If functions move from the Finance Department to the Personnel Department, or from schools to town or vice versa, or from an operating department to the IT department, some budgets will go up. But some budgets will also go down, and we can and should capture those savings immediately for our taxpayers through appropriate interdepartmental payments. It might be that reorganization costs more next year with the expectation of savings in future years. The Board of Finance is used to planning for known uncertainties like these. Every year, when we set the mill rate, we have to predict what expenses may arise that are not budgeted for. We have to think about other contingencies that may impact future budgets, taxes and reserves. We think several years ahead, because we don't want to surprise taxpayers with wild swings in the mill rate. Over the last few years, we and you have faced the challenge of positioning the town to weather the recession, huge spikes in pension costs and the great unknown--OPEB. Compared with that, anticipating the costs of reorganizing three departments with interrelated functions is easy. So we expected to work closely with the administration and the department heads and the relevant RTM study

committees to cover budget gaps if they emerged. But we expected something else, namely, that we would see some progress toward reform before our budget reductions were simply reversed. We can't afford to lose momentum now. We need to maintain the urgency. It's too easy, once this budget season ends, to put this on the back burner. Months will pass, next year's budget season will begin, and we'll find that we are exactly where we started. Some of you may think that enough progress has been made already. I can't tell you what the Board of Finance thinks about that, because we were not even given the opportunity to consider any of the restoration requests in front of you. We issued the challenge, but we will have no say as to whether the challenge has been met. That is troubling, as a matter of law, policy and practice. State law requires the Board of Finance to make specific recommendations on every line of the Selectman's budget. Our perspective is unique. We're neither advocates nor watchdogs for individual departments. We look at the overall budget in light of the financial position of the town and we recommend what we think is the appropriate balance among all the competing demands for funding. You can accept or reject our recommendations as you like, but you deserve to have those recommendations. You don't have them tonight. The practice in Westport for as long as I can remember is that budget restoration requests go to the Board of Finance. This gives us a chance to gather more information, to listen to department heads and the public and to deliberate before we make our final recommendations to you. This year of all years, this step has been skipped. If the administration is serious about moving forward with consolidation or restructuring, we will need the talent, cooperation and good will of every employee and every elected board—the Board of Education, the RTM and the Board of Finance. Excluding the Board of Finance from the conversation is not a good start.

I'll close with the mill rate projection. I'm assuming that we will need to invest at least \$2 million more in OPEB, and that may be conservative. It's not pretty, right? This is the consequence of not addressing the long term financial demands that Westport faces. Frankly, if you restore the small amounts that the Board of Finance reduced, it is not going to make that big a difference in the mill rate next year. But I suggest that you ask any town employee, any taxpayer, ask yourself honestly, is business as usual worth a 4.5 percent tax increase? Isn't it time to get out of this hole that we have dug for ourselves and our taxpayers? If you think that the town can't find \$220,000 of savings in a budget of \$66 million, vote accordingly. Alternatively, you can stand with us and do something that costs very little but that could be a game changer in how Westport government operates. We think our strategy needs the opportunity to play out a little longer. This is not for the fainthearted, but nothing worth doing ever is. If we succeed, the payoff for Westport's future will be enormous. Thank you and good luck tonight.

First Selectman Gordon Joseloff:

This is the final stop in the 2011/2012 budget. It is my sixth as First Selectman. It is my 20th as a member of Town government. And I haven't changed a bit, have I? It is a budget that is responsive to our times. It is a budget that does what we have been hearing repeatedly, to hold the line and don't operate business as

usual. We have done both. With exception of Parks and Rec. Department, which is a money-making business, which you'll hear more about later and the pension benefits and health care costs, it is an operating budget that is essentially flat. That's after more than \$3 million in cuts last year. Three million dollars in cuts last year and we haven't raised the operating budget with few exceptions. This is a remarkable achievement as we continue to deliver top notch services to our residents. I want to take this opportunity, once again, to thank the town department heads, the town employees who are with us tonight in the auditorium and, perhaps, watching on television. You and your efforts are what make Westport so special. I thank you on behalf of the 26,000 residents of the Town of Westport. For years, we have been hearing about increasing cooperation with the Board of Education in a number of areas. Joint implementation of a digital telephone system is perhaps the best and most successful recent venture. We have done other things...joint purchasing where possible, close cooperation in determining maintenance needs with the very able assistance of the First Selectman's Maintenance Committee under the very able recent leadership of Gavin Anderson. Imagine our surprise, however, when we went before the Board of Finance in late March and experienced critical cuts to four important town departments with three of the cuts, explained as you've just heard, as a Board of Finance effort to force additional consolidation with the Board of Education, to force additional consolidation. I understand the frustrations involved in not merging more of our efforts. I get frustrated too. I'm sure you do, as well. But making cuts without much thought behind them and, if you watched the proceedings, you know that is the case, just to send a message is not effective and not sensible government especially when these cuts are not discussed in advance with us, with town department heads. With only two weeks between the initial meeting and the restoration session of the Board of Finance, I made the decision not to go back before the board, before a board that acted seemingly more out of frustration than common sense. I knew that more time would allow us to meet with representatives of the Board of Education to assess what we could do to further consolidate. I knew more time would allow us to assess the impacts of the cuts in the Parks and Rec. budget. I'm pleased to report tonight that we have made progress with the Board of Education in our talks on consolidation of services. Just today, for almost two hours, representatives of both sides discussed information technology, what we might be able to do to consolidate and improve efficiencies. Tonight, I hope this body responds to common sense and restores monies cut from the budgets of the Finance Department, the Personnel Department and the Information Technology Department and the Parks and Rec. Department. In the case of Finance, Personnel and IT, these are critical departments, as you well know, to the operation of the Town. They provide services to all other departments. Making critical cuts to their budgets won't achieve anything except making operating town government much more difficult. That's not something I look forward to. Achieving the necessary 70 percent threshold to restore these funds won't be easy but it is absolutely necessary. It is necessary so our television broadcast of town meetings won't come to an end on July 1. It is necessary so we can have someone in place quickly to create new non-union pension agreements that move people into defined contribution plans from defined benefit plans, to oversee our

negotiations. These are not going to happen in a vacuum. Restoring is necessary so we can collect and evaluate the information necessary to calculate properly our pension and OPEB costs in the Finance Department. Restoration is necessary so that the Parks and Rec. supervisors who are well paid are doing what they are supposed to do, to supervise, rather than answering phone questions from residents and helping part-time teenage summer employees fill out employment forms. The reductions that you are being asked to restore are not, in the scheme of things, large amounts but they are critical. Look at where they have been taken from. They are critical to run the town government in my opinion. After all, it is the people of Westport who elected me to run the government, who elected you to approve budgets and pass ordinances and the Board of Finance to recommend budget requests. At the RTM Finance Committee meeting the other night, someone asked if the town really needed to replace its recently retired personnel director. I said preliminary talks with the Board of Education showed that that board was not fully aware of what the town Personnel Director did and, at first glance, was not fully prepared to undertake all of that positions functions. At one point, the chair of the Board of Finance said, "The role of the Personnel Director is something we have to consider in that we have to understand what it is that we want that person to do". I respectfully submit to you that it is not the role of the Board of Finance to determine the role of Personnel Director but is the job of First Selectman as clearly outlined in our Town Charter. Cutting most of the salary line for the Personnel Director out of the town budget is an unprecedented abuse of budgetary oversight and needs to be reversed. As someone who sat in this body for 14 years, I have great confidence in the ability of RTM members to distinguish between message sending, I'd like to say the Board of Finance seems to be in the Western Union business. They like to send messages...can differentiate between sending messages and the need to responsibly operate town governments. One last word on Parks and Rec. and you'll hear more about this. There is some confusion why I did not initially ask for restoration in this department. That is true but it was only after your Parks and Rec. Committee discussed and evaluated the impacts of the cuts, as outlined by the Parks and Rec. Director, to that department that I agreed that restoration, indeed, is warranted. These are not cuts that I think the populace needs to sustain. Our Parks and Rec. Department virtually pays for itself. It oversees the recreational crown jewels of our town. Along with the schools, these facilities are why people move here and pay up to move here and help preserve the investment in your home and mine. So, I look forward to discussions tonight. Please think carefully about what is being asked of you. Think carefully of the impact of the cuts on these departments and as you hear, they are Draconian. We are making efforts. It's not going to happen over night and even if there are some hard feelings, I think that we must move ahead and the RTM can help us move ahead. We will make efficiencies in the way we operate but to do it without little forethought and advance thinking of what cuts and the amounts of cuts and the impact of cuts. Do we really want to see town television eliminated? Was that even brought up? Was the impact of these cuts discussed that night at the Board of Finance? No. So, I thank you for your attention and I look forward to tonight's discussion.

Committee Report

Finance Committee, Mike Rea, district 8:

Mr. Moderator, I would like to echo what you said earlier in your opening comments about the work and effort that the RTM committees in meeting and writing their reports and following them into the Finance Committee. I would like to particularly thank John Kondub and his office, the Finance Department, in working with us and providing us with information throughout this process. Most of all, I would like to thank the members of the Finance Committee who attended many, many meetings over many, many hours. Thank you. I will read the report otherwise I'll be up here trying to ad lib it all night. You don't want that.

As stated in the Town Code, the RTM Finance Committee studies Town revenues and financial policies and practices, exclusive of individual department budgets. The Committee works with Town officials to secure adequate reports for the Representative Town Meeting. The Finance Committee further studies the current financial position, the financial aspects of the annual budget, capital requirements and long-term financial planning. While individual department budgets have been reviewed by appropriate RTM study committees, the RTM Finance Committee met with Finance Director John Kondub and First Selectman Gordon Joseloff on April 21st to review the overall budget. The Committee also heard from Board of Finance Chairperson Helen Garten on April 27th to present the Board of Finance's recommended budget which we have before us tonight. This is the first of two budget reports prepared by the Finance Committee. The second report covering the 2011-12 Education Budget will be presented after we vote on the Town Budget.

BUDGET CONSIDERATION:

Once the final Town of Westport budget is adopted by the RTM at its last budget meeting, the Board of Finance will set the mill rate for the 2011-12 fiscal year based on the Selectman's Budget of \$66,277,304 and an overall Board of Education Budget of \$112,425,806 for a total Town of Westport budget of \$178,703,110. There are several adjustments before the amount needed to be raised by taxes can be determined. There are non-budgeted expenditures estimated at \$2,750,000 consisting of pending labor and litigation settlements, the proposed OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits) contribution, and other unexpected items. These will be somewhat offset by an estimated \$200,000 in turn backs from the current fiscal year. Those are down about \$500,000 from last year. This amount is reduced by \$19,470,211 in non-tax revenue items. You heard earlier, Ms. Garten referred to the state grants, user fees, education revenues and collection of prior years' taxes. This number has increased from last year's budget for two reasons. The first factor is the turnaround effect in the economic areas that generate revenue collection by land use departments, building permits and also real estate conveyance taxes. The second factor is that there is projected to be a conservative use of \$3,000,000 from the General Fund Balance account for this upcoming budget. This will allow the General Fund undesignated fund balance to remain at approximately \$15.9 million or 8.76 percent of the total budget. This level of undesignated fund balance should be looked upon favorably by the credit agencies when the Town of Westport's credit

rating will be reviewed. There are still a few more adjustments before we can calculate the tax rate. We next need to add \$3 million for senior tax relief, deferrals and abatements, and another \$300,000 for net Certificates of Errors over Certificates of Additions. Those are the Assessor's corrections. We finally need to reduce this amount by an estimated \$500,000 for supplemental motor vehicle taxes and \$200,000 projected for additional unscheduled revenue.

What does this imply for taxes in this coming year? After considering all the pluses and minuses, the net amount to be raised by taxation is \$164,382,899. Presuming a tax collection rate of 98.4 percent, which is roughly what we estimated last year, the Board of Assessment Appeals is expected to propose a net collectable Grand List of \$9,390,744,960. This will result in a 2011-2012 tax rate of approximately 17.50 mills which, compared to a current rate of 16.92 mills, adjusted to reflect for revaluation factor, will result in a tax increase of 3.45 percent. One mill in taxes is worth \$9,393,308. The total levy to be raised of \$164,382,899 is divided by 17.50 mill rate. What does that mean to the taxpayer? If we use the example, the difference in tax dollars on an \$700,000 assessed valued home is as follows: Last year in 2010-2011, taxes on that \$700,000 would have been \$11,844.00. For the 2011-2012 proposed tax increase on that same \$700,000 assessed house would be \$12,250.00. That increase is \$406.00 or 3.45 percent. The proposed mill rate and the application of available surplus are still subject to the final approval of the Board of Finance so we are using the \$3 million as a number. It may or may not be that.

OTHER FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Taxes and the increase in the tax rate have been the principle consideration of the RTM Finance Committee at this time of the year. There are other issues which should be addressed as well because of the impact on future taxes and tax rates. A draft of the First Selectman's Five Year Capital Forecast for the 2011-2012 fiscal year has been reviewed by the P&Z Commission as per the Charter on April 29th. Formal approval by the Board of Selectman has occurred on April 27th. The Town of Westport currently has plans to issue bonds in the 2011-2012 fiscal year for sewer projects and education facility projects, the indoor air quality projects, as previously approved by this body, the RTM, as you recall. The proposed Grand List for October 1, 2010 filed on January 31, 2011 was \$9,543,440,000, a decrease of 12.4 percent in value over the October 1, 2009 Grand List. Final deliberations have been completed by the Board of Assessments Appeals (BAA) on March 31, 2011.

The funding for employee pensions is reevaluated every year. The pension funds in the aggregate were reported to be under-funded as of June 30, 2010, but will be impacted by replacement employees who join the program. Retiree medical costs are now funded through the General Fund; however, it is a requirement by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (statement No. 43 and 45) that future retiree medical costs be recorded as an OPEB (Other Post Employee Benefits) fund liability. This will clearly increase future contributions to the OPEB Trust, but at the same time reduce funds currently appropriated for retirees' medical cost in the operating budget. The recommended 2011-2012 budget does reflect an appropriation to be made to the OPEB Trust Fund in order to provide

for the proper funding of these obligations. As previously mentioned, consideration for an additional amount to be contributed to OPEB Trust Fund is included in the non-budgeted expenditure amount of \$1,650,000. The RTM, as you recall, adopted an ordinance which established this trust account in December 2008. In the 2009-10 budget, an amount of \$700,000 was appropriated to the OPEB Trust Fund. This amount was significantly down from the \$2,400,000 that was appropriated in the 2008-2009 budget which was the first year that this municipality fully funded the ARC, Annual Required Contribution. During this current fiscal year, additional appropriations in the amount of \$2,400,000 have been recommended and approved in order to meet the ARC not built into the 2010-2011 budget. The Board of Finance has adopted a "sense of the meeting" to fully fund the ARC for the OPEB Trust Fund for the 2011-2012 budget based on the actuarial valuation that will be completed and dated June 20, 2010. It is anticipated that the ARC will increase based on this latest valuation. I think that you heard Ms. Garten refer to that. They expect it to increase, perhaps significantly.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, the market value of the pension plans of the Town of Westport was \$163,460,418. As of April 22, 2011 the market value of the pension fund was \$186,991,244. The pension fund values and the benefits that the employees of the Town of Westport receive are two important areas of concern. The recommended budget for the 2011 fiscal year reflects an additional \$1,377,268 in employee contribution as recommended by actuarial firm retained by the Town of Westport. The contributions by the Town of Westport were based on the plan results for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010. The performance of the pension plans during the current fiscal year will continue to have a tremendous impact on the amounts recommended for the 2012-2013 budget and future budgets.

The rising cost of health insurance was noted as a major contributing factor to the overall budget increase. The recommended budget for 2011-2012 fiscal year does not allow for the use of the medical insurance fund to offset an approximate five percent increase in the cost of the health care program. The use of nearly \$1,075,000 in the medical insurance fund balance in the 2010-2011 fiscal year has depleted this reserve and now requires the General Fund budget to cover this gap in 2011-2012.

The question of restoration before the RTM Finance Committee was reviewed and acted on in its meeting of April 27, 2011 after the committee's unanimous recommendation to adopt the Town of Westport Budget for fiscal year 2011-2012 as recommended by the Board of Finance. The total amount of restoration requested by the First Selectman was \$220,000. The Board of Education did not seek any restoration. To restore the grand total of \$220,000 would cost an additional .03 mills in the tax rate for a new grand total of 17.53 mills or a 3.60 percent tax increase over last year's budget. If we use the example previously mentioned on a \$700,000 assessed home, this would mean an additional \$21.00 to the 2011-2012 tax bill ($700,000 \times .01753 = \$12,271.00$) or a tax increase of

\$427.00 per household. Once again that assumes the Board of Finance will apply \$3,000,000 from the General Fund to offset any further increases.

Department	Restoration Request	Yes	No	
Finance Department	\$70,000	7	2	Approved
Personnel Department	\$50,000	6	3	Approved
Information Technology	\$75,000	4	5	Defeated
Information Technology	\$25,000	8	1	Approved
Park & Recreation	\$70,000	5	4	Approved

BUDGET RECOMMENDATION: On April 27th, The RTM Finance Committee members present voted to unanimously recommend adoption of the \$66,277,806 Selectman's Budget for fiscal year 2011-2012 as recommended by the Board of Finance and in other actions to restore the amount of \$220,000.00 to the Departments as noted in this report. Respectfully submitted, Michael Rea, Chair & Reporter, Allen Bomes, Linda Bruce, Michael Guthman, Richard Lowenstein, John McCarthy, Lois Schine, Cathy Talmadge and Jeff Wieser. Thank you for your time.

Mr. Rose:

Thank you Mr. Rea and thank you to the Finance Committee for all the work they put in on all these budgets.

We are now going to turn to the Westport electorate. When you come up, please, if you could try to limit your remarks to three minutes. Please spell your last name. It will make it a lot easier for the secretary. Please give your address.

Members of the Westport electorate

Ken Bernhard, 146 Kings Hwy North:

It's been quite a while since I've been before this august body and I have to say what a pleasure it is to come back and see so many smiling faces and friends. Also, not having been here in some time, it's been a while since I've seen the work product that comes out of this body and the people who serve our Town and I have to tell you how impressed I was to listen to the Board of Finance report and Mike Rea's report and I trust all the hard work that goes in. I can tell you from a citizen's perspective, thank you all for the hard work that you do. I am here tonight to speak in favor of the restoration of the \$70,000 for the Parks and Recreation Department. I am a long-term citizen of Westport having lived here 37 years. I am a frequent user of our Parks and Recreation facilities and I am recently counsel to the newly formed Friends of the Parks and Recreation Department. I'd like to join the First Selectman, the subcommittee on the RTM in recommending that you restore the \$70,000. There does come a point, I think, in the effort to become fiscally responsible, there comes a tipping point when efforts to become responsible become a bit destructive. I think we are at that point with the Parks and Recreation Department. I know, having worked with Stuart McCarthy, how diligent he is to keep his department running efficiently. We have, over the last few years, eliminated five positions. The cut of \$70,000 will eliminate two more positions. I daresay, speaking as someone who observes what goes on in this town fairly closely, I believe that without the restoration of

these funds, our jewel, our parks, our wonderful recreation facilities will begin to take a serious turn to the negative. I think I speak for all of us actually, how much we enjoy our community. It would be a shame to see grass growing where it shouldn't be growing, trash cans that are not emptied when they should be, beaches, dirty when they should not be. Everything I could gather from the people who service our community in the Parks and Recreation Department that would begin to happen. There will be, I can assure you now that I am more actively involved in Parks and Recreation in my role as counsel to the Friends, that we will be looking at all the efficiencies possible. We will be making recommendations to the extent that we have any role to play and I'd like to recommend tonight to the RTM that you consider restoring \$70,000 to Parks and Recreation Department. Again, thank you for all your good work.

Dick Healy, 11 Eno Lane:

I have lived here for 30 years. I, too, wanted to come and speak on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Department. I've got a few things I wanted to say about it. The Parks and Rec. Department has some uniqueness about it compared to other departments, in my opinion. Is it more important than our police, fire or EMS services? Absolutely not. Is it more important than our schools and quality of education for our kids? Absolutely not. But it's damn important. It's interesting to me when I look around this crowd that I think everybody understands but I want to be exactly clear what Stuart McCarthy is responsible for. They have over 30 different programs. There isn't anybody sitting in this audience that doesn't use what Stuart McCarthy provides between the beaches, pools, marinas, the golf course where 4,000 Westporters buy golf hand passes or our tennis courts they did about 12,000 rounds of tennis last year. He has 5,000 of our youngsters enrolled in the various recreational programs that Stuart and his staff put on. There isn't anybody in Westport that doesn't use his services. I think there's something else that's unique in his particular case that is most important to me. That is that he is really the only functional department that has revenue. He develops a revenue stream. Most everybody else that you assess and the Board of Finance assesses, they assess on the basis of expense. It was interesting to me last fall, there was a meeting going on with the Board of Finance, and I got up and spoke about something, the budget and so forth and I happened to mention about the revenue piece. A distinguished member of the Board of Finance got up and said to me, 'Dick, you don't understand, we have no responsibility for revenue. Our only responsibility is for expense.' I said to them as I say to you, many of you in this room have been or are business people. If you are business people and you have a revenue stream, I doubt you ignore revenue and only look at expense. Obviously, you look at both, the combination of revenue streams and your expense streams in order to develop a profitability at some level. You would tweak and work with both of them, for sure, but all of us hover, as business people, over revenue streams. The only function that you have here that has one is Stuart McCarthy's in the Parks and Rec. Department. So it befuddles me when I hear year after year, budget cycle after budget cycle, they only want to look at Parks and Rec. from the standpoint of expense. To me, it's silly. I'll come back to that at the end. So, let's take a look at the numbers. You all care as well as the difficult job of the Board of Finance, about what's happening to the total bottom

line and the affect it has on our taxpayers. His budget packet that you all have is projecting a revenue of \$4.7 million which is \$100,000 or \$200,000 more than last year. \$4.7 million is his revenue budget. His expense is \$4.26 million. He projects that he has \$440,000 excess of revenue over expense. When I say this to Board of Finance people, they'll say to me such things as, 'Dick that doesn't count other things. It doesn't cover, for example, the capital expense recovery vis a vis the bond expense and so forth. It also doesn't cover the pension and benefit funds and so forth.' My answer is, 'Do you ask that question of any other function? Since I've been here, you haven't but you ask that of McCarthy of Parks and Rec.' Unlike what they've done for any other function that you've seen here in terms of the individual departments, I'll give you what McCarthy's numbers are. He's \$440,000 to the good under a normal budgeting process. His capital expense recovery, annual expense that he has to pay for the bonds is \$581,000 per year. His cost of pension and benefits is \$959,000. That covers everything. The total of that is \$1.54 million. If I take the \$1.54 million which is additional expense and I subtract the \$440,000 of positive revenue that he had, it comes to a net of \$1.1 million. I'll say it to you another way. If you look at any department here and say what is the total cost, bottom line, to the town and what is the affect on the average taxpayer, it's a big number. In the case of McCarthy in Parks and Rec., the \$1.1 million turns out to be .067 percent. So, for a person who is paying \$12,000 to \$15,000 in taxes that comes to \$90/year. So the average taxpayer in this town, fully loaded numbers in Parks and Rec., is \$7.50 a month. That's what you're paying for the services that you get. By the way, that includes the \$70,000 that is recommended to be cut, \$7.50. As a businessman, I would conclude with this. He's got revenue. In running a business, if I had a project manager or program manager come up to me and said that they wanted to do this, I'd say fine, 'You're coming in with \$70,000 more than I recommended to you. You have to come with \$70,000 to \$100,000 to cover it. That's simple. But to continue to hit him on the expense line is silly when he can produce revenue for you. That's what makes his function different, not better but different than all the other functions. So, I'd ask you to strongly consider restoring the \$70,000. Tell him to get you the revenue and he will.

Fred Hunter, 19 Bulkley Avenue South:

I am also the chairman of the Golf Advisory Committee. I'd like to tag onto the two previous speakers and let you know that I've worked with Stuart and his staff for the better part of 10 years. You folks should really understand that Stuart and staff do yeoman's work in that department taking care, as Mr. Healy said, of thousands of different customers and people who need service from the Parks and Rec. Department. Mr. Healy talked about numbers. I want to talk about service. As has been previously mentioned, the Parks and Rec. Department is a revenue generator, about \$4.6 million. All those dollars go into the town general fund and there's no guarantee, as we're seeing with the \$70,000 proposed cut in administrative fees that any of those moneys will come back to the Parks and Rec. Department. That gets into Mr. Healy's discussion about expenses and revenues. Let's just talk about that \$70,000. What does that represent. If you take a look at the \$4.6 million in revenue, we're talking about 1.5 percent of the revenue, that \$70,000 represents. When you take a look at Parks and Rec, I

assume that everybody in the room at one time or another has been into the offices down at the park. It is a business, as I've said before. Parks and Rec. has thousands of customers. Not all those customers, we are talking about service cuts or administrative cuts in the Parks and Rec. Department, even though we have an online registration system, not all those people have computers. Not all those people want to do online registration. Not everybody wants to call a company or business and get a recorded message. Customers walking into Parks and Rec. want, deserve and expect service. They are paying after tax dollars to the department for the services that they want and expect. It is reasonable to assume that reduced administrative support will result in reduced services. Reduced services equal reduced usage. It turns into a real circular argument. Fee increases were mentioned earlier. They are not the solution. Stuart can increase all the fees he wants but he has not guarantees from the town that any of those funds will come back in terms for support of the operations that he has in his department. I would like to request that the RTM restore the \$70,000 projected cut and let the Parks and Rec. service the customers of Westport like we expect to be serviced.

Ian Goodman, 6 George Street:

Talk about Parks and Rec. in the skate park are important, not just to me and these kids beside me but to a lot of kids at Bedford Middle School, Coleytown Middle School, Staples High School and even the five elementary schools. Kids in those schools come down and even people from out of town, Weston, Fairfield come down to a safe place where they can have fun and skate with all their friends. It's just a fun place we can all hang out and be safe. That's my main point. About Wrecking Crew, that's another part of Parks and Rec. that I went to for three summers. It's just so much fun. A lot of kids go to be safe with field trips. I would hate to see the skate park and Wrecking Crew go for budget cuts.

Janis Collins, 41 Compo Parkway, Chair, Parks and Rec. Commission:

Over the last several years, the Board of Finance has reduced the Parks and Rec. Department budget by over \$220,000 resulting in the elimination of five full-time employees. The proposed 2011-2012 budget cuts of two additional Parks and Rec. employees will bring the total to a 23 percent reduction of full-time employees over the past few years. I don't think any other department has been hit with this kind of budget decrease in the Town of Westport including the Board of Education and it's beginning to show. It's showing in the long grass that we see by the side of the road, by the weeds, as we drive down Compo Road. It's showing in our deteriorating athletic fields at Coleytown Elementary School and at Long Lots and it's showing at the beach as we don't clean it as often as we want to or rake it the way we want to do it. Just a note about this year's cuts, Stuart and I decided to do something a little bit different this year because of last year's sort of contentious way the budget ended up. We decided to meet one-on-one with several Board of Finance members which we did starting in October to try to understand their concerns and also to make sure they were informed about how Parks and Rec. really worked. As a result of some of those meetings, we then put together a presentation that talked about how revenues connected with our expenses and how the fees that we set are depending upon our costs and

our expenses for all of our services but what was happening over the past few years was that the town tax subsidy of Parks and Recreation used to be anywhere from 15 to 18 percent of our overall operating expense. That number had started to reduce down to four percent. With this year's, it's actually reduced to 1.9 percent of our operating budget. What that means is that our fees from beaches, from tennis, from golf, from boating are paying for everything of Parks and Recreation maintenance and operating budget. Those people that are using our parks, they're not paying for it through their taxes. Those people who are using our athletic fields aren't necessarily paying for it through their taxes either. It's actually being paid for by beach fees, by golf, by tennis and other fees from the town. In November, we had this presentation about our revenues to make the connection and in February, we said, being good citizens, we wanted to do full disclosure of our costs that included total pension and benefits. We were the only department that provided the Board of Finance with the full, total cost. I know many of you in this room have actually seen our full, total costs. So, we were quite surprised, after having all of these collaborative meetings, working with the Board of Finance, one-on-one meetings, we also began some creative out of box thinking as they had suggested, we are in the process of evaluating whether or not outsourcing the golf course could really work. We've met with four different companies. We have two viable alternatives. We have looked at outsourcing park maintenance too. At this point, we can't come back to you and say it's definitely going to save us money but at least we are pursuing it. We're going to the next step and we're going to do our due diligence on it. So, needless to say, in March, we were shocked when a number of \$70,000 was thrown out on the table as a cut for Park and Recreation. Mr. Wirfel explained that he was doing that because our expenses had gone up from the previous year. As you know, our expenses have gone up purely because of bringing back some of the programs that the boys just talked about that had been cut from the previous year, Wrecking Crew. So, we brought back those programs, added back the field trips and we added in the additional revenue because we increased the fee for those programs. So, it was offset by our revenue but Mr. Wirfel didn't really acknowledge that piece of it. Helen then jumped on that \$70,000 and said 'Yes, I agree and it should come out of administrative savings from our online system.' I have been on the Parks and Rec. Commission for over four and a half years. I have been chairman for the last almost a year and I don't remember to ever committing to any productivity savings for our Parks and Rec. staff by our online registration system; however, it is a great productivity tool for you and me so that we can go on that system in our pajamas anytime and get our beach emblems, register for programs but the transaction still needs to process at the back end. We can actually change the flow of the processing but it still needs to be done. This year's proposed cut of \$70,000 out of our administration budget which is two employees, a customer service employee and a purchasing and payroll employee, will have an impact on all of Parks and Recreation from the skate park to the beach to the golf course to the tennis courts to Winslow Park because all administration will be almost completely gone from Parks and Recreation, so, our supervisors, as they did this past week when Mr. Rubin was sick, will be answering phones instead of serving the customer and making sure that our beaches are clean, making sure that our parks are maintained and making sure that our athletic fields are not

deteriorating. That's the kind of impact that this administration cut is going to have on us. For many residents, attractive parks and recreation facilities are one of the main reasons they moved to Westport and the reason that they stay. With over 200 plus acres of open spaces and parks, many of them near the water and all of them public, we offer a unique set of resources in our community. If we allow these resources to deteriorate, it will impact all of us, not just the users, but all of us in our real estate values. So, Gordon has asked you for the restoration of the Parks and Rec. budget, the Parks and Rec. RTM Committee has requested the restoration and the RTM Finance Committee has requested the restoration. Tonight I am asking you also to restore our budget. Thank you very much for allowing me to speak.

Avi Kaner, 19 Deerwood Lane, member of the Board of Finance:

The people before me have all spoken about Parks and Rec. I admire what they have to say. Those kids up here were very impressive; however, what I'd like to talk about is the consolidation issue. I fully agree with Helen's presentation on the required consolidation between the town and the schools. I would also like to note that the numbers that Helen put up on the screen were only half the numbers. The numbers that we reduced the town budget by for consolidation were 50 percent of the estimated savings. The other 50 percent was allocated to the schools, to the penny. The schools are not asking for the restoration. The town is asking for the restoration. I also agree with Helen that the Selectman's office should have come to the Board of Finance with the request for restoration prior to coming to the RTM. I am the senior Republican on the Board of Finance. Helen is the senior Democrat on the Board of Finance. We are 100 percent unified on this. Unless we do this, unless we force consolidation, it will never happen. Helen and I were elected to the Board of Finance six years ago the same time Gordon was elected to the First Selectman's office. For the past six years, every year we talk about the need for consolidation. I have personally communicated with hundreds of taxpayers. Each budget season, we get dozens and dozens of letters from our constituents. Almost all of them agree that they would rather see consolidation of services rather than see diminishing town services. We'd rather hire fire fighters. We'd rather pave the streets. We'd rather rake the pebbles on the beach than maintain two silos of administrative overhead. That does not serve the citizens of Westport well. I offer this example. There should be no difference in printing a teacher's paycheck and a policeman's paycheck. As a business owner with multiple locations, we have consolidated overhead. I cannot even imagine what our business would be like if we did not consolidate overhead and if each entity had its own overhead. In general, in the United States, that's why private sector is generally more efficient than government sector. Finally, I'd just like to conclude that I do admire Gordon for advocating for his departments but this is something we must do for all the reasons that Helen articulated, particularly, the benefit issue. If you go to the internet and Google consolidation between schools and towns, you'll see we are not the only ones facing this. Towns all over the United States are dealing with this issue. In fact, one town in Rhode Island put it as a referendum item recently. Seventy-seven percent of that town's population voted in favor of consolidation.

This is what the taxpayers want. We represent the taxpayers. I hope you approve the budget as recommended by the Board of Finance.

Ms. Flug read the resolution and it was seconded by Dr. Heller.

RESOLVED: That the First Selectman's budget items recommended by the Board of Finance and approved or amended by the Representative Town Meeting be adopted, and the sum of \$_____ for the First Selectman's Budget is hereby appropriated to meet expenditures and such sum shall be added to the amount appropriated for the Board of Education Budget tomorrow night.

Mr. Rose:

Just as a little refresher, I am going to call out a major item code. If you have any items within that code that you want to discuss or questions, that would be the time to do it. If you don't, I will move onto the next one and assume that the one that I just read is approved.

Mr. Rose: Are there any comments on general government, 01.

Members of the RTM

Michael Guthman, district 2:

I would like to move to restore \$50,000 to account 153, line 1 of the town budget. That is the Personnel Department, the cut of the \$50,000 from the Director of the Personnel Department. Second Mr. Lowenstein.

Point of information, Dick Lowenstein, district 5:

Three digit code or the whole account?

Mr. Rose: I want the three digit code within the budget section... 153, 01.

Mr. Guthman:

No one is against consolidation. How can you be against consolidating functions? But consolidating functions has to be done with a degree of wisdom. The human resource function in the school system is different than the human resource function in the town. The town human resource function has responsibility for pensions, OPEB and other medical benefits. We are faced with a big budget problem. Our big budget problem isn't \$50,000 for the Director of Personnel. Our big budget problem is \$20 million in benefit expenditures. If we ever hope to make a dent in that, we need the kind of leadership in the human resource function that can take charge and can develop a new medical program and a new pension program beginning, of course, with the non-union employees and moving into the pension negotiations we have coming up in 2014. These are really a vital function. That means we need the kind of Human Resource Director that has a different skill set than the director we've had in the past. We need a Human Resource Director who is strategic in outlook and has the kind of financial background that it takes to lead this charge with changing pensions and benefit costs. So we are going to have a real need, if we are going to save \$20 million, to have our horses in place that can drive us to realize that kind of savings. Cutting

\$50,000 now when we are faced with need to go after a \$20 million nut seems to me to be just plain foolish. Within that though, there is another aspect of the Personnel Director's role. Because the Personnel Department in the past has not worked as well as we might like it to, various departments within town have had to have their own rump personnel system so we have had policemen doing human resource work, we have had firemen doing human resource work, we have had Parks and Rec. people doing human resource work. Consolidation would be to get a competent Human Resource Director to consolidate all those human resource functions back into the Human Resource Department and have each department do what they do best. That's consolidation that makes sense. I urge you to restore the \$50,000 because it can lead us to a magnitude of that in savings.

Members of the Westport electorate

Tom Lasersohn, Board of Finance:

With respect, especially, to the Personnel Department, I know that consolidation and change represents an issue when there are individuals involved whose jobs may be at stake or have to be adjusted or reconfigured. In the personnel department, we have an absence of the personnel director. It's an opportunity to reconsider everything that is going on. The last speaker mentioned that because of the way the Personnel Department has been run, a lot of the satellite departments have been doing personnel functions. Rather than just go and hire somebody, let's look at what's possible with respect to the schools. We are not going to inconvenience or change a current employee because the position is vacant. This is the clearest area where we should be waiting to look at the results of consolidation and have a deliberate conversation rather than running ahead to put in place the same old system that we had that resulted in the inefficiencies.

Members of the RTM

Mr. Lowenstein:

We are going to have at least four more restoration requests tonight. I'm going to generalize on this one because we are going to go back to 151 which is finance and 157 is IT. In the last week, we concluded the Passover season and the Easter season. An element of that holiday of Passover is the Seder. In the Seder, there is a part in which four questions are asked by the children. I want to add a fifth question tonight. That is why is this year's budget different than last year's budget? That is an important question for the RTM to consider. Last year, the Board of Finance and the RTM essentially reduced by considerable amounts in order to save the taxpayers money. This year, the changes are very small. In fact, the restoration requests by the First Selectman alone would amount on a \$10,000 assessment, to only \$20/year, \$21.00 in one report, \$20 according to Ms. Garten. At the RTM Finance Committee meeting, I made the comment that last year, as I just said, the objective was to reduce taxes. This year, it was simply to make a statement. Helen took exception to that. It was more than just a statement. I will accept her exception to it. These cuts are so small and so insignificant that they are having no effect on the tax rate at all. They are having a considerable effect on the departments that have been cut. I think this is not the way to run the business. Consider this. The Board of Education got a quarter

of a million dollar cut on a budget of approximately \$98 million. That was according to my reckoning .22 percent reduction in their budget. The town budget which is 2/3 of the Board of Education's budget got a .51 percent cut, in other words, more than double the cut for the Board of Education. The 500 pound gorilla in the room right now is not the budget cuts but the fact that we have the pension ARC and the OPEB ARC. Right now, the town, and I hate to talk in terms of the town and the Board of Education but the town is being asked to absorb the entire ARC appropriation because none of that appropriation for the pension ARC or the OPEB ARC is going into the Board of Education budget where a part of it should belong, approximately 16 percent. So, here it is, the town with an operating budget and a pension budget, as well, is being asked to absorb most of this and the Board of Education is getting away Scot free. Now, I am not here tonight or even tomorrow night to recommend any cuts to the Board of Education. I have no intention of doing that. But I am very concerned that the budget we are looking at will diminish in services to the town. I honestly believe that it is very important that we restore the amounts recommended by the Board of Finance and, in my particular case, I will ask for some additional restoration in the IT Department. I fully support the motion by Mr. Guthman to restore \$50,000 for the Personnel budget and I will do likewise for the remaining ones. This is a philosophical issue you have before you and I urge you consider it in that respect. It is too important to pass all these saying these will effect change. These cuts will not effect change. The shot has been over the bow. Both ships have heard the shot. They are reacting and now is the time to restore the money. I don't think the cuts themselves are going to cause any further action. I want to remind you, by the way, that the Town Charter will be a very important governing factor in how we affect a consolidation between the Board of Education and the town. The Town Charter reserves the First Selectman certain of the functions that are up for grabs in this budget.

Wendy Batteau, district 8:

I want to speak to a similar point as Mr. Lowenstein and also speak to Mr. Guthman's point. I am a big union person. My husband and I belong to four unions. They are all affiliated with the AFL-CIO so I was looking on that web page. They make the point that the pension plans of 80 percent of private industry, businesses and the like, are defined contribution rather than defined benefit plans. Only 20 percent of municipal pension plans are defined contribution rather than defined benefit. I think it is so important. We need to restructure our pension plans. In order to do that, as Mr. Guthman says, we need somebody who has the experience to be able to take us, as Fairfield did, from one place to the other. But more than that, Ms. Garten made a point and Mr. Kaner emphasized the point that, not counting OPEB, next year we'll have a \$20 million ARC for our benefits. Our town budget this year is \$66 million or so. Do we really think we are going to consolidate our way out of a third of our budget? It's just not going to happen. Even if we account for the \$2 million or \$2.5 million that could be ascribed to the Board of Education, it's still \$18 million out of \$66 million. This year the Board of Finance is going to tax for the ARC. I don't know that that is the way to do it either. I would suggest that, as we think about new ways of doing things, it's not that I don't think that consolidation is a good idea, I

think, for example, Mr. McCarthy's plan of a town services department is terrific. I was also a little surprised to hear, for example, that our Parks and Recreation Department purchases the same kind of items that Public Works purchases only there are two purchasing departments there. I think we can consolidate among town departments, as well. I do think that trying to fund the ARCs and that \$20 million didn't even include OPEB from our operating budgets is probably not the way to go or certainly not the only way to go. I think right now we need to commit to absolutely changing the way we fund our pension plans but I think we need to think about how we fund our ARCs, as well.

Lois Schine, district 8:

I want to address the \$50,000 for the Personnel Department. While nobody thinks we should just rush out and hire another head of the Personnel Department, we have to recognize that, right now, we are in arbitration in two union contracts which are costing us lots of dollars and the argument is, of course, the benefit plans. If we don't hire a competent Director of Personnel who can help with the issues, who can take some leadership in dealing with the change in the contribution plans, we'll be further away from the change next year at this time. I think the \$50,000 for the Personnel Department is well spent and may help produce more revenue for us.

Judy Starr, district 1:

I would think that there must be a way to get around this. The objection seems to be that we need a Personnel Director to help with the contract negotiations. I think that we also have attorneys and we have a negotiating attorney. We have a First Selectman. We have a Pension Advisory Board. So, we definitely, I hope we would want to be very careful before we hire a person to do the personnel function. I think that the Board of Finance is looking at opportunities to encourage savings and consolidations and new ways of looking at all town operations when there is an opportunity. I know that Personnel Director is a major position in town but this is an opportunity. I think we are hearing from Board of Finance members who deal with all these things and deal with the pensions as part of their "bread and butter". I think they must have thought about this. The savings we are looking at tonight represent a small percentage of our budget but this and the others taken together could lead us to a larger savings and a change in the way we do business. My concern with this and all the restorations, quite frankly, is what kind of precedent are we setting? Yes, last year we heard one department's request that came to us that didn't go to the Board of Finance for restoration. We heard it. We approved it. Now we are having several departments that have come to us without going to the Board of Finance. I think that this could be a trend and I think this is something we need to approach carefully. Once we start doing this, I don't think it's going to stop whether it's next year, whether it's going to be the schools. I think we are opening up a Pandora's box here. I have thought about this because I know I am disagreeing with a lot of people that I respect a lot but I have a basic philosophical problem with the overall picture of this. I would have looked at it differently had these requests gone to the Board of Finance first and were worked through and the Board of Finance had the opportunity and we had the opportunity to work with them and then it came to our

Finance Committee. I think what we are doing is we are undermining the work of another board. This is not the public coming to us when we get a petition to review another board. This is not the public coming to us and saying this is 20 or more of us. It's a new procedure that's going to have ramifications. I don't even think we know what they are. I would like to pose a question. I am philosophically troubled with these restorations and because of that I see it opening problems bigger than what we are looking at tonight. I'm not inclined to support them. I'd like to raise some questions and I want to ask you please to think about them as you listen to the deliberations tonight because we're looking at a bigger picture. We're not looking at five different lines. We're looking at how the budget process could be affected by a change that could be happening tonight. I want to pose some questions: How would this change, begun recently and maybe being carried through tonight, I don't know. I kind of hope not, how would this change in the usual process that we have, affect the ability of the Board of Finance to do their specialized job?...To come up with the recommendations that they bring to us?...To make the unpopular decisions that we ourselves may not be the ones that have to make but, maybe a few years down the line, we might find the ball in our court to make those or not make those. What effect would such a change, if we get more appeals to come to us before going to the Board of Finance, before being vetted by them, what effect would this have on our already increasing workload? What effect could that then have upon the mill rate which the Board of Finance sets based upon what we approve? How would a new mill rate affect the amount of taxes whose payment would be required of the constituents we serve. It may not make a big difference this year but what about down the line? What about the bigger picture that we are a part of. We respect the departments that we work with. We work with them and we have our relationship with them. It's hard not to admire what they do. It's hard not to appreciate it as citizens. But while we respect their missions, it's not the departments we represent, it's the citizens. It's not just an appeal on a line, it's a process that we are part of. I am going to leave you with those thoughts and I just want to leave you with one last one. If we don't hold the line at some point on taxes, it may not be a big one this year but it was last year and it could be in future years, we will be increasing the tax burden that our constituents will have to bear and they will rightly look to us and say, 'You did not hold the line as much as you could.' Again, I know we're looking at one motion but these are the reasons why I have trouble supporting this motion and I am going to feel similarly about the others that will probably come up later tonight. I ask you to please think about what we are being asked to do because it is bigger than a restoration.

Jack Klinge, district 7: It's still Monday night...

Mr. Rose: It's early Jack.

Mr. Klinge:

I'm ready to go. I'll pull an all nighter here. I've got my red pills and my white pills and my green pills.

Mr. Rose: Jack, meet me during recess, please...

Mr. Klinge:

I was really not going to say much until we got to the Parks and Rec. budget but there is an awful lot of philosophy being spouted up here and I thought I'd throw a few cents in there as well. As far as I'm concerned, every request stands on its own. There is no trend. There is no deep seated concern for the Town of Westport. It's not a group. It's one by one by one. Remember last year, those days of yesteryear, when the library said we are going to close on Sundays if we don't give them more money. We all rallied to that because it made good sense. Each and every restoration has to defend itself on the good sense that it makes and the net benefit to the Town of Westport. Government is a service business. It doesn't sell products. It sells services. We are asked to decide the value of the services that this town provides whether it's IT or Finance or, in this case, Personnel. It seems to me that we have a lot of issues facing personnel in the Town of Westport. We've all been through the defined contribution versus defined benefit. We know we have to get that out of the way. I'm going to vote to approve this restoration but I am going to challenge the administration to have a job description for that title that is extremely comprehensive so we get people who are actually capable of doing the job we need done and not just filling a slot in the organization chart. So, for your \$50,000, I want to see a very detailed, explicit job description that matches the needs of this Town. Then I think you can go forth with your interviews and seeking your candidate. I feel similarly about all the restorations we are being asked to consider tonight. This is not some trend. It is not a package. It is one at a time. Each one has to survive the scrutiny of 'is it right for Westport now?'

Mr. Mandell:

Dick, thank you for bringing up Passover because it was a good celebration we had. The Seder is an important aspect of it. The word "Seder" means "order". The order of things that have occurred here is not right. How we deal with that in the future, I'm not sure there will be a trend but the order of things as we see it here is broken. The Board of Finance is the one that has given us the budget. That's the white book that we have up here not the black one. As an aside, I would much rather have gotten that white book last week rather than now when I'm about to decide on things. Nonetheless, it's the Board of Finance that gives us that book. If any department wanted a restoration, they should have gone back to the Board of Finance and asked and allowed them to deliberate on it. It's very possible, of these four restorations, all four of them might have been granted or some part of them might have been granted. When Mr. Joseloff says, with IT, we never discussed that television might be cut down, that's because no one from IT went to the Board of Finance and said, 'Hey, if you continue with this cut, you may lose television.' Based on that, they would have made a decision. Why is that important to us? Because we need more information at any particular point to make our decisions. We would have had more time to think about it to make our decision rather than suddenly tonight, hey, we could lose television. I do not want television cut off. That goes without saying. We've already lost our minutes. That's suddenly something that's given to us. The Board of Finance is the one who is supposed to be making that decision first and then giving a

recommendation. Will that be enough for me not to vote on all of these tonight and say, 'No, you didn't go to the Board of Finance.' I don't think I am going to be that critical. I think the process needs to be corrected. As Ms. Starr was talking about, if there are going to be restorations by any department that they know about, come to the Board of Finance. No one should be scared to come to the Board of Finance to hear them say no again. There's nothing wrong with a no because maybe that's the right answer. In terms of the \$50,000, I think Mr. Lasersohn came up here and made an excellent point. There is no person who is going to lose their job and we have a phenomenal opportunity to see what could occur if we follow this through. We can always hire someone six months down the line if we see that it's not working. We can make a transfer of money to make it work. We have an opportunity at this point. No one is going to lose their job. Let's see how it works.

Velma Heller, district 9:

This is really going to be short and sweet. I would like to do what makes sense. I would like to focus on the target issue, personnel. I think as Mike Guthman said and several others have repeated, this is a critical time to have somebody who has great expertise in personnel and giving that person a very clear assignment. This is a "fix it" assignment. It's a very big fix that we are talking about. It's not a time to mess around and see if this one can do it or that one can do it. You need a person who is a professional, who understands how to go about making the kinds of transformational changes that we are talking about. I do not think that this is the time to say we are going to save money on this personnel guy because there is nobody there who is going to lose a job. You really need to think a bigger picture than that right now. I really don't want to talk about all the other issues. Let's focus on this one. I think this is the time to be sure that you put somebody in place who really can make a difference in the way the whole personnel function operates in the interest of saving much larger money than we are talking about in any of these restorations.

Mr. Rea:

I guess I do want to address the general picture and not just specifically the personnel. In general, the economy isn't much better than what we've seen before. In general, the taxes that we are talking about today are going to be tough for a lot of Westporters. A \$427 increase. I don't know whether that strikes you as a little or a lot. Speaker after speaker could get up and we could dissect. We could justify each and every item, not only on this restoration, but some of the ones that we could have. But \$427 is a lot. In general, I don't think our economy can support it. I don't think where we are billions of dollars short in the state of making things meet when we know we are going to be asked to give more on the federal and we refuse to recognize the debt that is building on the national, state and, yes, even here, in Westport, on the local level. You think that's not a 500 lb. gorilla? It's a lot bigger than that and we just won't recognize it. When we start to and when the Board of Finance holds our feet to the fire to recognize that liability, the pain is going to be awful. You won't be talking about \$220,000. So, yes. We could sit here and we could talk about each and every item. It's painful. It's painful to me to deal with cutting in Parks and Rec. when I

know the cuts that are specifically proposed. I don't agree where they propose to make the cuts. It can be done in other areas. It's tough for me because of a lifetime of being involved in Parks and Rec. and building fields and seeing the value of the programs and what the golf course and the beaches mean. I understand that. We have been dealt this hand. I have said previously in meetings that the Board of Finance didn't cut enough. If we start restoring, I will certainly walk out of this room feeling this way. The reason I'm going along with this and the reason I am going to be voting against restorations tonight, and I'm sure it doesn't come as a surprise to you. It kills me. In the Finance meeting, someone said, 'Oh, it's Dr. No.' I don't enjoy playing Dr. No but I think it's important with the hand we were dealt with that we not fold...that we not fold on the homeowners and the taxpayers...that we not fold on ourselves. We have an opportunity to hold the feet to the fire. I have been on the RTM quite a few terms. I have heard speaker after speaker get up to this mike and challenge the department head, challenge the First Selectman to come back next year and give us the results we want. Well, guess what. The year goes by and, once again, we are looking at the same questions. I have asked one public official, year after year, on the Finance Committee, 'Have you looked at outsourcing? Have you looked at consolidating?' I get this, 'Oh, we looked at that a dozen years ago. It doesn't really work.' My goodness, how much has changed during that time. It seemed an oddity a dozen years ago. Now it's a way of doing business, not only in business but in government. I don't expect that there will be a majority of the RTM voting the way I will tonight but I hope and pray there are enough of you to draw the line.

Amy Ancel, district 3:

I'm reminded of that saying, that cliché, about the definition of insanity doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. I agree with Mike Rea and, once again, it's the economy stupid. I think the recovery has been minimal. There are a lot of people still without jobs. Most people, I don't think, won't be getting a three or four or five percent increase. A lot of people are on fixed incomes in this Town. A lot of people have declining incomes. I believe the Board of Finance knows far better, what's going on, line by line, their analysis, all the workshops that they've had, all of the meetings that they've had, all of the discussions and change is hard. I believe it is human nature to resist change. It's sometimes painful but unless there is a group of people who are really innovative and always looking to do things better, to do things more efficiently and more economically, we tend to maintain the status quo. That's often true in the private sector and it's especially true in the public sector and with government. Usually, change only comes about by what's forced upon us. There's a lot of room for improvement in our town's operations and my hat is off to the Board of Finance for taking the lead in pushing those changes. I tend to wholeheartedly support the recommended budget. I'm going to be joining Mike and voting against any restorations. Things have to be done differently. Unfortunately, I believe our leadership has done very little in the past year, in the past many years to move in that direction. Both the RTM and the Board of Finance have said year after year after year that we have to do things differently. The resistance has been significant. I think that \$427, on average, comes to a lot especially when it takes

somebody \$60 to fill their car; In some cases, a lot more than that on a weekly basis. The cost of everything is going up: food, transportation, gasoline. Things are really not much different this year than they were for people last year. I also want to echo what Judy Starr said. I do have a very big problem that the First Selectman and the department heads did not go to Board of Finance with their requests for restoration before they came to us. I think that it sort of subverted the process. I'm a very big process person. That's where I stand on the personnel restoration and all the others.

Mr. Galan:

On the specific of the Personnel Department and many of the other cuts, if you look at it, it is precisely sending a signal. In the case of the Personnel Department, there are three salaries on the salary line, any one of which is more than \$50,000. If you really want to cut something, either cut a position and cut the full amount of money out or don't cut anything. Let's not just go and take an arbitrary amount of money to force an issue. If we are really looking to push to do a specific cut, determine what that cut is and cut that amount of money.

Ms. Batteau:

I would like to clarify a little bit. My remarks about the restoration were aimed at this particular position. I think that Helen Garten's presentation was compelling and accurate, as was Mr. Rea's and the other members of the Board of Finance. Obviously, we have to do something. I don't disagree with Amy Ancel; however, I would like to point out that of that \$427, if all restorations are made, it only accounts for \$21. If none of the restorations were made, it would be \$406 in tax increase. So, what we are talking about is something symbolic rather than something works as a practical matter and as a practical matter, I take Mr. Guthman, who has had a good deal of experience with personnel negotiations, at his word and at his experience and see this restoration as an investment in saving money in negotiating the pension changes rather than as an actual increase.

Motion to restore \$50,000 to account 153-01 of the town budget. This requires 70 percent of RTM members which is 24 votes required to carry. The Motion fails: 19 in favor 16 opposed. In favor: Guthman, Galan, Meyer, Seidman, Wieser, Levy, Lowenstein, Colburn, Lebowitz, Talmadge, Klinge, Rubin, Batteau, Schine, Flug, Heller, Milwe, Bruce, Rose. Opposed: Keenan, Timmins, Ancel, Cunitz, Rossi, Suggs, Urist, Ashman, Bomes, Rea, Cherry, Green, McCarthy, Cady, Mandell, Starr,

Jonathan Cunitz, district 4:

I make a motion to restore \$41,000 to IT budget #157. Seconded by Mr. Lowenstein.

Point of information, Mr. Klinge:

Is that \$41,000 of the \$100,000 or the \$75,000? [It is out of the \$75,000 that was cut.]

Dr. Cunitz read the IT Committee report:

This is a report of the RTM IT Committee Meeting of April 28, 2011. The RTM IT Committee met at 7:30 p.m. on April 28, 2011, at Town Hall, Room 309.

Committee members present were Paul Rossi (chair), Joyce Colburn, Jonathan Cunitz and Chris Urist. The meeting included a presentation by Eileen Zhang of the accomplishments of the Office of Information Technology during the past year, its future goals and the 2011-2012 fiscal year budget. Carrie Makover provided a demonstration of the new Town website (WestportCT.gov) and explained its operational improvements compared to the prior version.

New Website – Discussion highlights:

- Eileen and Carrie are very pleased with the technology selected and the site offers many improvements for both the constituents and those who maintain the site and its content.
- It was recommended that the IT department “toot its horn” more often to educate the public on the resources available through the town website. It was further discussed that Eileen Zhang should contact westportnow.com and westport.patch.com to establish prominent links on their home pages to WestportCT.gov.

Town IT Budget Review – Discussion highlights:

The Board of Finance has recommended a reduction of \$75,000 from the town IT budget as follows: \$50,000 to come from Salaries with the elimination of one of the three IT employees and \$25,000 to come from Fees and Services. A lengthy discussion ensued and the committee heard testimony about the impact the reduction would have on the delivery of critical support and help desk services now provided by this individual. In January of this year, the IT department took on the additional burden of IT, email and telephone support for the library and in May it is taking over the IT support for the Police Department. This became necessary due to IT staffing reductions in those departments and a shifting of responsibilities to the IT Department. Eileen Zhang indicated that her department receives over 5,000 requests per year for help from town departments, for hardware support, software support and the increasing prevalence of computer viruses. The demand for assistance from the IT Department is expected to increase even more with the added support to the Library and Police Departments. The position being eliminated has a Salaries budget amount of \$69,010. The individual presently occupying this position spends about 50 percent of his time on town mail. This function is being removed from the IT Department. About \$35,000 of this individual's time is devoted to IT support. After the proposed \$50,000 reduction, the balance of \$19,010 in this account would be shifted to the Fees and Services for part-time consulting support, resulting in a net reduction of approximately \$16,000 in funds for IT support at a time when the essential services of the IT Department are increasing. A reduction of \$25,000 for fees and services would result in the elimination of streaming video of important town meetings. After a lengthy discussion with Eileen Zhang, the committee concluded that the town should not eliminate the streaming video as this has become a popular and useful offering for the public and provides a vital public record. The committee debated the

impact of the proposed reductions and agreed to recommend partial restoration of funds to the IT Department budget. Eileen Zhang agreed that she could find a way to operate using a part-time consultant to provide IT support and mentioned that the Board of Education has indicated a willingness, but not a commitment, to assist by providing resources. A motion was made by Jonathan Cunitz and seconded by Joyce Colburn to restore \$41,000 to the IT budget by adding it to the Fees and Services Account. The Motion was approved unanimously by the four Committee members present, although this was not a quorum. It was estimated that the elimination of a \$69,010 salaried position and the transfer of the support function to a consultant will result in savings of fringe benefits to the Town of at least \$36,000 based upon a rate of 53 percent provided by the Finance Director. The committee adjourned at 9:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Jonathan Cunitz, reporter

Before I get to my other comments, I would like to say that I was watching the presentation of Parks and Rec. and the support from the Commission and the support from the advisory groups. There are a lot of advocates for Parks and Rec. in this town. Everyone in this town uses IT, every department, practically every employee. There are not advocates in this town for IT. There is no advisory group, no commission that is saying, "Let's go, IT." But it is essential. I'd like to give you one anecdote. Earlier this year, the RTM had a very critical meeting on the P&Z text amendment. I was very sorry that I was unable to be at the meeting. I was down in Florida. I stayed up until 1:30 in the morning watching this group on streaming video on all the deliberations, all the comments. Although, I was not allowed to vote, I had someone read something on my behalf but I could easily have made an arrangement with any number of you who had your computers here to send you a message in real time and have you deliver that message for me. This is what our technology does.

Now to my comments: Eileen Zhang is an excellent IT manager but very modest when it comes to telling people about what she had accomplished for the town and how she has saved the town a lot of money. In addition to all of her past responsibilities, as of January 2011, the office of IT finished the following tasks and will continue to provide the tech support for the public library now, handling all that work-related tech support calls including a voice over the internet protocol phone system, completed a full migration of the library's computer network from it's old physical server to the Town Hall virtual server environment. This relieves the library from having to pay for outside technical support on an ongoing annual basis, so that is saving the department money, through this consolidation; moved all library personnel to the Town's email system and retired the library's email server, eliminating some equipment. This saved the library the cost of one physical server, Windows server licensing and technical support; moved all library blackberry users to the town's blackberry server. This saved the library the cost of one physical server and blackberry licensing, Windows server licensing and technical support; provided support and training for library IT staff in a newly deployed virtualized system and will continue to support them; installed the video camera in the library McManus room and connected the cameras to the Town Hall TV control room through the fiber network. This enables the Town to carry

library events to Cablevision channel 79 and AT&T, channel 99. Westport could have it's own book TV channel when it is ready. IT staff will continue to support this function. As of May 2011, the office of IT is taking over IT support for the Police Department and the marina office. The office of IT will take over primary care of the entire network infrastructure for the Police headquarters since the Police Department's computer analyst is retiring saving them money. All of the end user technical software and user support calls for the Police Department will now add to the demands on the staff of the office of IT. IT will be supplying standby support of the Police Department on 24 hour/day notice every day of the year. All the Police Department service will be consolidated into the town's system. Town IT staff will now maintain the marina office network infrastructure which includes wifi. The Board of Finance is saying, 'We are going to encourage consolidation by some arbitrary cuts to budgets.' The IT office has been doing it for quite a number of years using everything they can to save this town money at a time when their responsibilities are increasing. So far, the Board of Education who is supposed to be doing the same thing has not signed in. Hopefully, they will. In which case, if there are specific proposals that are presented during the year to save money, then the IT department will take the necessary steps to do so and adjust its budget accordingly. The town IT staff supports all town departments, the public library and, now, the Police Department. They handle at least 5,000 support phone calls a year including weekends, nights and holidays. Since the Police and Fire Department are open 24 hours/day, every day of the year, the town's IT staff must be able to provide standby support to them on the same schedule. Here, we are talking two full-time employees remaining and some consulting help. Nowadays, we expect our computer system never to go down because we use email and the internet all the time. The town's network system supporters cannot take time off, not even on holidays. This can only be accomplished by and with sufficient IT resources. This year it was proposed to cut \$75,000 from a department budget request of only \$743,980 but more than 10 percent from its budget. The cut means that one of the three full-time IT employees must go and the town must provide more part-time consultants to provide support. During the same time period, when the town's IT staff is busy consolidating the town's Police Department and library functions in addition to its normal functions, there is a proposal to cut staff support. When you watch live meetings on the TV or from your personal computer anywhere in the world, there is a town IT staff person at work providing the service. When you use your notebook or smart phone in Town Hall or even at Compo Beach, there is a town IT person at work or on call maintaining or supporting your access. When you conveniently sit in your home buying beach vehicle parking emblems or performing other town functions online from the town's new website, have you noticed this wonderful technology bringing great things to our lives. These services are the result of hardworking town employees. Cutting the town's IT budget will reduce the public service and have direct impact on the daily work in every town department. Any down-time or delays of IT support to a town department will adversely affect that department's productivity. During our meeting with the town IT director, we asked many detailed questions about the town IT functions and responsibilities. We strongly feel a \$41,000 restoration is necessary to maintain just the basic IT service in all town departments including

the public library. Of the \$41,000, \$25,000 would be to make sure we continue all of our streaming video and live town support and the remaining \$16,000 would go to the fees and services account so that the one full-time position would be replaced with a half time consultant just to maintain the status quo. I hope that you will support this motion.

Point of information, Allen Bomes, district 7:

If there is another restoration request to the same line, do you want to get them all on the table at once?

Mr. Rose:

Yes. I'd like to get all the numbers on the table at once. Then we can go to the public.

Mr. Bomes:

I propose that we restore what the Finance Committee recommended, \$25,000. Seconded by Mr. Wieser.

Point of information, Mr. Lowenstein:

If I make a motion to amend Jonathan's motion to restore \$75,000, then you'll vote \$75,000, \$41,000, \$25,000 in that order? [Yes.] I so move. **I move to restore \$75,000 to 157-01.** Seconded by Ms. Colburn.

Members of the Westport electorate (can address any or all of those numbers.)

David Royce, 387 Main street:

I am a stingy former Republican but I don't feel stingy tonight. I will speak in general terms and say that about half of you are old enough that you were into your work lives and your personal lives as adults when computing came in and took over. You can remember that after you got plugged in, the change was amazing. The quantity of your work doubled. The quality of your work doubled. When the your work was extremely technical, it quintupled. When you were dealing with huge stacks of paper and hundreds of people, your computing increased by the 20's and 50's and 100's, not your computing, your total work output. Then again, I guess about half of you were part of computing when you entered your work lives and your personal lives and were used to it but even you noticed that, when you didn't have the hardware or software, that you finally figured out you needed to change to, that you would get nearly as much output as you needed and then you got it. I would say as a summary of this that if you spend a dollar for computing in the Town of Westport government for computing, you are getting five to 10 dollars of equivalent work of the personal work of town employees. I think you can hit that number in your own mind. I think you can agree on the ball park. I'm not rich but my computers at home make the town's computers look sick. I'm sure your computers also, if you have done any comparison, make the town's computers look sick. I get myself a new computer once a year. They are my toys as well as my tools. The town, you would expect with our size of staff, would get 400-500 new computers a year. Then I am told that the town has not bought a new computer in three years, that the town is

working from an attic and putting together computers, when they break, with paper clips and chewing gum. The results they get are again far worse than your computers at home. I'll just give you one final example of a difference in computing power. I researched today the best computer monitors in town hall. I am appalled at the little windows that people are peering into throughout their working days. How can you get much work done if you don't have 25 lines on your screen? I looked up the best monitors in Town Hall. Not surprisingly, they were all foreign engineering. I also counted the pixels in those computers, the little colored dots. All together, those four computers had eight million pixels. All of my monitors have nine million pixels. All of my monitors have more pixels than the best four monitors in Town Hall. I'm not going to go into the guts of my computer because we don't have time but Town Hall computers look sick next to mine and sick next to yours. They can do a lot more to improve Town services and, I hate to say it, get rid of town employees. Eventually, a century from now, they are just going to build a round kiosk. There is going to be somebody who visits the kiosk once a year and digs out the guts and puts in another one and he's gone in five minutes. We are heading that way. Let's allow our Computer Department to head in that direction. Let's allow them to give us \$5 and \$10 for every dollar that you spend. I'm not suggesting that you restore \$25,000 or \$41,000 or \$75,000. I won't be satisfied until you give the computer department an extra \$75,000. You're not allowed to but I can want it anyway.

Steve Edwards, Director, Department of Public Works:

When you turn those computers in each year, if you drop them off in the Engineering Department, we will recycle it. To that point though, it is important to recognize that we live in a community that recycles almost four tons of electronic a month. My transfer station is taking four tons of electronics a month. That tells me that I've got a very active community that is into computers, that is into the whole IT scenario. Keep that in the back of your mind. We are talking about a public that is demanding of these kind of resources to the tune of four tons a month. The cost factor that you may not be aware of is that we are not seeing a direct budget line decrease with the IT that my department is using. My general account ledger is not going down. What I am being able to do with the GIS, with the varying AutoCAD programs, I am now doing engineering services in house that I have contracted out in the past. I got \$900,000 of projects going out in the next six months. We have saved about \$90,000 of engineering fees just by the fact of using our own in-house engineering capabilities. That's \$90,000. Now, granted, that's not a man I've lost. I've still got that man. As I told you last year, I am using that manpower but I am able to take those tools that are being provided through the IT Department, use that in-house and save money. So the town, on the capital side, where I am looking at capital and non-recurring, I am looking at the \$5 million. I am looking at \$10 million, those areas are where I am able to take some of those funds and use them internally and save money. We are relying on a day to day basis on those IT components. It's amazing what happens in our office when it goes down. I've got everyone scratching their heads and wondering what do we do next? It really affects the overall production. On the other side of it, from a general population point of view, we have walk ins regularly on a daily basis and they want to know about their own personal

property. With the GIS system we have now, I can pull it up and I can show you where you can put that fence. I can show you whether that tree is on town property or not. These are issues on a day to day taxpayer basis that's able to save money. They don't have to go out and get a surveyor. They come in my office. They do it at home. They pull it up on a screen and, bingo, they've saved \$500 in surveyor fees right like that. So, it is being used. It's a great help and, again, I support it.

Larry Bradley, Planning and Zoning Director:

Dr. Cunitz mentioned the streaming. That's very important to my department. Two years ago when my budget was cut, they cut \$18,000 out of my budget for the secretaries to take minutes of my meetings. They also tried to take the secretary from the RTM which you restored. We have never restored that position to our budget so we are very, very dependent on the streaming and the video recording that goes on at our meetings. That's really our only record of what goes on at the meetings. So, if that gets cut out of the budget, we have no way of recording what actually happens at our meetings. Statutorily, we are only required to take action minutes but we really need the minutes. As Dr. Cunitz said, when the RTM reviews our activities, you were dependent on those meetings to be put up on the website. That was all done by the IT Department. So, the RTM itself, is very dependent on that staff for your own activities. That's my first point. Second point is if any of you have come into my office in the last month to get a permit, you will know there is something different. We are now on a computerized permit system. All our permits are now entered into the computer and they are available on the website. You can go to the GIS and click on land use permits and you can see all the permits that we've issued in the last month. As we go forward in time, you will see decades and decades of permits like you do for the Building Department on the website, another thing that we depend on the IT Department for. The last part is the support and the projects that we'd like to do. We'd like to do imaging. We'd like to be able to take all of those documents that office full of paper that sits outside of my office and scan that, image that. We need IT staff to prepare that project and to get that project rolling. Then there is just the day to day activities. Everyone in Town Hall depends on the IT Department for day to day support. We have constant attack from computer viruses and emails that go down every so often. They do a great job in getting us back up as soon as possible. So, please, everyone in town hall is very dependent on the IT Department. I would ask that you restore as much as you can to the IT Department.

Maxine Bleiweis, Library Director:

So, tonight I'm speaking on behalf of the IT budget as it relates to the library budget. As you know, many aspects of the library world are becoming electronic. By being able to outsource as much as we can, it's really meant a lot in terms of moving our resources so that we can pay attention to what are specific to libraries and be able to use resources of others like our town to help in all of our basic computer services. We have the ability and chose to outsource to the Town. I would hate to take what we have gained in money from our budget so that we could meet a relatively flat budget and bring to you and have to go back

out to outsource because the IT Department here isn't able to meet our needs. I would urge your serious consideration of restoration for this budget.

Chris Ackley, Fire Chief:

As you decide to make a decision on whether to restore this money or not, I ask you to include one thought in your process. The emergency services area, we rely heavily on the people who work with our computerized dispatch, our servers, our mobile data terminals and the information we rely on to do our job and deliver emergency services. As the Police Department is soon going to find out with the IT Department taking over that function, on call 24/7, I don't have to tell you when things break. It's not between eight and four or nine to five. We have a very good service from them. They understand our servers and our operations. They are efficient and responsive to the needs of the emergency service. If the position is cut, my question to you is who is going to fix our stuff on Christmas eve, on a holiday, at midnight, 4:30 in the afternoon? Who is going to come and do that? What person is going to have that knowledge ready to go? So, as we are saving money, the other end of the delivery of emergency services, there is a very real liability. There is the possibility it can cost us a lot more than saving a position. So, consider that in your request tonight.

Al Fiore, Police Chief:

I won't go through all the comments Chief Ackley made because you just heard them but I echo his comments. I couldn't agree with him more. The Police Department is very reliant on computer services. Everything we do now from writing reports to now issuing parking tickets relies upon a computer or a computer program. We had the luxury of having someone in house for the past 30 years and he did a lot of the work for us on a daily basis. He just retired recently and he hasn't been gone but a few days and we have already been calling on Eileen and really depending upon her and her staff to come over and to fix our problems. As Chief Ackley says, these are the problems that spring up at 3 a.m. or 6 a.m. and it's really not something that can wait for the next day or for a technician who might arrive who might be on-call through a contract service. It shuts down our business so we do have to rely upon them. We had this retirement. We did not fill this position. That's one less body here in town so there is a savings there and, quite frankly, to have a police officer doing IT work, it makes more sense to have someone from Eileen's Department to do that. We budgeted considering that she would be able to help us out with the information technology and we are really relying on her to provide those services for us. If she doesn't have personnel, then we certainly will suffer and, as a result, all the residents in this town will suffer. So, I strongly urge you to support for the restoration of funds.

Eileen Zhang, IT Director:

Our building officer Steve Smith had another meeting but he wrote something. I will read it on his behalf.

To the Board of Finance and RTM:

Since 1990, the Building Department has been using a computer automated permit processing system to issue tracking permits as well as

processing fees. Since that time, the software was expanded to included to transmit information to the Tax Assessor's Office and the Tax Collector's Office. Over the years, the IT Department has offered assistance that is crucial to keeping our system up and running. I am concerned that a reduction in their budget will adversely affect their ability to respond to calls from my office when our system is down. I strongly recommend that the IT Department be given enough operating funds to continue assisting us in a timely manner as they have in the past. From Steve Smith.

I just want to make one quick comment. In today's everyday life, individuals at work or at home, almost everyone with a few exceptions of seniors has a computer. The computer world gives you some problems, sometimes, and you experience viruses too. That is the function of IT in every organization. The impact of this is not just our department. The testimony of every department can tell you how heavily dependent they are on the computer support staff as well as their equipment to conduct their business. The IT function is like the electricity in the basement of your house. Without them, your house will not light up and similarly, your computer will not function. The public may not necessarily see us at work. They can support asking for more police officers, more fire fighters or ask for more recreation because this directly impacts the quality of their life. Our job is their back up to support their front line to support Westport residents. The only way Westporters will see us is through the website. At least now, we have a window of opportunity to show Westport. IT people manage the website, too. This is the first time people have the opportunity to see that IT people are serving them directly in some manner. But indirect service has a huge impact for all the major other departments. I do not have a commission to stand and support me but all the major department heads are speaking. I hope you can put this into consideration.

Paul Friia, Tax Assessor:

I wanted to reiterate what Steve Smith was saying about the connectivity between the Assessor's Office and the Building Department. IT was instrumental in getting us connected so that we can pretty much automatically download all the building permits into the system. We know how important it is to track the building permits to get out there and see all the construction that is going on. IT has made it possible to do that. Revaluation, hopefully the success of the revaluation was certainly in part because of the IT Department. I can't tell you the amount of times that I called Eileen during the whole process. She allowed us to have connectivity directly into Vision's data base in Massachusetts so that I could actually make changes in their data base when I felt necessary. There was one time back in December when we were looking for the 2005 data base and Vision had inadvertently erased it. I asked Eileen if she could find the data base for me and she went back and looked back and came up with this data base and we restored the entire data base. It's incredible. When there is a problem, I don't understand computers, I'm not a computer person as far as fixing them and understanding how the programs really work but when there is a problem and I call her, it's fixed. It allows me to continue on to do what I have to do. When we finish the revaluation, on the website, thousands of Westporters were able to go

in and view their properties, do whatever research they needed to so when they had a problem or they had questions, they came in and they had the information right there. I would urge you to restore the money involved with the IT Department. It is money that is very well spent.

Alicia Mozian, Conservation Director:

I, too, would like to speak in support of restoring the IT department's full budget for several reasons. One, I would say that no less than 200 inquiries a month come into my office for GIS information. Since it's now available online, I probably say that there's another 200 people who don't come into the office but probably access it from home. Two, I, as you have heard me over the years, say that I probably service no less than 10 boards, commissions and committees in this town with dozens of volunteers. I am not able to juggle all the balls in the air that I have to without my computer in being able to communicate with all these board members and provide them with the information that they need. To echo what Chief Ackley said about emergency preparedness, as you might also know, we are in the community rating system of the National Flood Insurance Program. Part of the residents of this town, almost 3,000 have flood insurance. They get a 10 percent reduction in their flood insurance rates based on what we do to as a community to prepare for flooding. Part of that is our mapping and our public outreach which is also dependent on the computer system. Finally, as an example, we just applied for approximately \$200,000 of grant money from different foundations which now require grant applications to be done online. Those are the kind of uses that my department has on a regular basis. Without the IT Department to have a well functioning system, we are up a creek.

John Kondub, Finance Director and, presently, Acting Personnel Director:

I am not here to talk about any of those specific departments right now. I am here to talk about the IT Department. You have just heard from eight of my professional colleagues here talk what a lifeline information technology is here. I go back to working when there was a main frame up there. It was antiquated. It was like working in the 19th century. Eileen has brought us to working in the 21st century with a lot of her innovations, different programs, her support staff. One anecdote. I could talk to you about what Paul just said about the reval. I could tell you about Peggy Klein, the Tax Collector with the links we have now that Eileen was instrumental in working with to get a link directly to our general ledger, a merge between the Munisystem and the tax-based system. I believe we filed for the reimbursements for the storm of 2010. FEMA had a specific excel format that we did not have here. It took the guys in the Fire Department a day to figure it out and I was with them a little bit when that happened. They called Eileen and Jamie and her department. It got turned around in 24 hours. We received \$340,000 faster than any other municipality in the State of Connecticut. That's all I have to say. I appreciate your support for Eileen's budget.

Patty Strauss, Town Clerk:

I wasn't going to say anything but I have to let you know the importance in my department since everyone else has. When I first came here 13 years ago, a lot of the records in my office had very nice and neat card file. They were great,

alphabetized by street and by name, all in card files. Take a card, put it in alphabetical order and everyone who wants to come in can find the book page and go right to the other source and find it. Using Eileen, she lets me do my thing. She lets me go out and find my vendor, lets me decide what's best for the town in getting these records on line. Like other department heads, I know what I want, the end result for the user but I don't know how to get there. She lets me find the vendor and then I say 'Hey Eileen, I'm ready. Please now talk to this vendor. We are ready to make this happen and connect it all together and make it electronically happen.' My department runs indexing software, we order records online. I have software for dog licenses. I am connected to the state DEP system for hunting and fishing licenses and I recently invited Eileen with me. I sit an advisory board for the state as we get ready to accept e-recordings for land records. I have offered Westport to be a test town on that. The only reason I am doing that is because I have the support of the IT Department that is ready and willing to promote e-reporting in this Town and make it a lot easier for lawyers, searchers, etc. to do their land records in this town. I can't live without her. I hope you will support full restoration, whatever she is asking for.

Mr. Rose:

After the RTM members have had a chance to speak, we are going to take sequential votes starting with the highest restoration amount. If that doesn't pass we will go to the next amount without further discussion and, if that doesn't pass to the least.

Point of information, Mr. Rea:

The finance committee was presented a request by the administration for \$25,000. That was the request that we acted on. Other motions are certainly in order but that was what the administration asked us for.

Members of the RTM

Mr. Mandell:

Thank you Mike. That was the first question I was going to ask was what the administration asked for, so \$25,000 was what the administration asked for. I would be hopeful that, if the administration had come to the Board of Finance and made a presentation about losing the television service that the Board of Finance would have at least handed back an argument for restoring or not. We are without that. I have some questions that I have to ask about television service. Why is it important? First of all, this body uses them tremendously. Over the last couple of years, that is the only way we know what the other boards and commissions have said. By the budget cuts that have been done over the last couple of years, there are no minutes and Mr. Bradley got up and said that succinctly. We don't know what P&Z says unless we can watch it on television or are there. Mr. Cunitz said that he was out of town and actually got to watch something and was able to come back and utilize it properly. So, it's important for us to have it. Let me ask Ms. Zhang, the \$25,000 that we are talking about, is that totally for the television? How are we losing it and why are we losing it?

Ms. Zhang:

RTM 050211

The \$25,000 is very clearly indicated in the budget attached to the detailed report. The estimated costs, based on previous year's record is around \$20,000. The \$25,000 cut in fees and services is translated because I did not ask for a full body restoration. I need a help desk at least to cover immediate needs. The \$5,000 is partial. I intend to go to the Board of Finance after you adopt the budget to transfer the rest of the \$19,000 remaining from the salary line. The reason I didn't go to the Board of Finance was because the cut was unexpected. It took me a while to think about it because the meeting only gave me one week time to restore. It took me a while to be creative to think how I am not going to ask for restoration. I had to talk about it. We casually talked to the Board of Education too. That is part of the result of the talking, a memo indicated that they would give me some help. We don't have an official written commitment to anything but, in the meantime, I have to keep IT service running to support all the departments who depend on us.

Mr. Mandell:

The question is, of this money that is being removed, you have chosen to remove the television service out of that money. Could you have chosen something else.

Ms. Zhang:

During the Board of Finance meeting, I said if you cut \$25,000 in my fees and services, I might be able to find some savings. If the voter registration office can't retire software, we can find something else but this is all if, nothing is happening yet at this point. I'm talking to a company, Xerox, regarding a copy machine contract. These things are all in process. The bill comes in June. If we don't pay, we lose the software. An election is happening very fast, in November. In the meantime, I still have to continue to guarantee the necessary service and to continue to look for some possible savings. Restore necessary funding for the TV that was part of the same budget [line]. Now it is being cut. I was not prepared to find some other way but to cut some of the contract. I have not been able to fulfill that at this point. The Town Attorney is still talking to them. I even brought their manager to town and showed them the Board of Finance minutes. We are trying to do everything to bring costs down but in the meantime, if this \$20,000 is not restored, this TV broadcasting is part of that budget.

Mr. Mandell:

I have to say I am impressed by all of the other heads of the departments coming out and speaking in favor of IT and, also, thank all of you for staying so late and sitting through this. For me, personally, I can't see us losing the television service. I'm in for the \$25,000. It's up to the rest of you to convince me to go to the \$41,000 or the \$75,000. I'm not sold always on those things. There is no doubt that our residents need to see what we're doing, when they choose to do it either through a stream, archive or watching it live. For \$25,000, I don't think that's a consolidation issue. I do believe that it is something that we should restore. It is a small amount of money for something that is good for our community.

Dr. Ashman:

RTM 050211

I come from the slide rule generation. I think this is a ludicrous conversation. We are in the IT generation. What are we IT generation. Why are we even questioning this? I don't understand at all. If I had my way personally, I would go to Eileen and say, 'How much money do you need? What do you need? How can we improve?' Let's get to it. This is one place we cannot cut. We should give more. It's interesting. Think of your lives. How would we survive without our computers? I had trouble with my slide rule! Two suggestions, I'd like to make if I may. My son who is graduating Staples is an IT bug. He's pretty good. He got a job this summer with a very big local corporation. Have you considered getting interns in? Both at night and during the summer. These people are good and some of them are great. One suggestion. A second suggestion is I think you must get together with the Board of Education. This has to be one group. I think your department should expand. I understand you have three people. You could answer. This to me is not a discussion. You should go on to the next.

Mr. Galan:

I have a question for Mike Rea just to clarify. In your minutes, there are two lines for information technology. One was for \$75,000 which was defeated in committee but it was apparently requested.

Mr. Rea: It was requested by Mr. Lowenstein but not by the administration.

Paul Rossi, district 5:

First off, I'd like to thank John and the rest of the committee for a very articulate report. John picked it up. I was somewhat indisposed and he put fine points on the committee report, so, thank you. I am a card carrying member of the geek squad. I will stand here before you and tell you that I am biased in favor of IT. I am also stingy and will be stingy but not on this particular point. I agree with everything that has been said tonight. Let me give you a slightly different perspective and then I'll get off. I was amazed to learn from Eileen that she, as IT Director, personally gets involved in help desk support. She personally goes out and fixes PC's on people's desks as the IT Director. I come from that world. That's unheard of. We need people like Eileen setting policy, setting direction, managing the people. The perspective I'll give you that is I believe we are talking tonight about consolidation. Turn off and use is IT as a utility. That's the current buzz word. It should be a utility for both Board of Education and the Town for anything we need. There is tremendous opportunity for consolidation there. IT is the enabler of consolidation. If Eileen's time is spent doing help desk support, she cannot help facilitate consolidation. I'll leave you with that thought.

Gene Seidman, district 4:

I am in full support of full restoration for IT for many of the reasons you have heard but also I have personally worked with Eileen. I think she is amazing. You hear it from all of the department heads. Just two points: If things go down and we don't have the support of the IT function, then if, Al Fiore and the police, it's three in the morning and they need something fixed, they will have to hire someone at a very high rate to get that fixed on the spot to continue their work. If we don't have the function in house, you are going to spend more money going

out of house. It will end up costing a tremendous amount more. Lastly, right now we are talking about computing and desk computers. Where everything is going is mobile technology. This is not the time to hold back here. Everything that is on our desk will be in our hands. The things that are happening right now are so amazing and futuristic. The future has arrived and we want to be ahead of the curve. We don't want to be cutting this department. I hope that we restore fully.

John McCarthy, district 9:

I am going to support as I did in the Finance Committee meeting the full \$75,000. This is not the area to cut. If we could give Eileen more money, I would give her more money. She may not be able to fully articulate on a project by project basis exactly how the money is going to be spent. It probably will be spent wisely if projects are gated properly. That's why I am going to support the full \$75,000 although it wasn't asked for. There is just so much that can be done and should be done. She just needs the resources and the push to get the work done. I am going to say I'm happy to see that her colleagues in the town departments value what she does. I was disappointed to hear that as people are retiring, work is being taken out of departments and put onto her plate. It is disappointing that it takes a retirement before someone says 'I'm not going to do it myself anymore. I'm going to push it off to someone else.' I'd like to see leadership that comes forward and says 'You know what? My department is not the best place for this to be handled. There are other people in town government who can handle this in a more efficient and appropriate manner.' That would be true leadership, stepping up and saying, 'I've got the head count but this isn't the right place for this work to be done. I'll give the head count up to someone that might be able to handle this work more efficiently.' That's true leadership. That's the type of thing that this town needs, not waiting for someone to retire and then say, 'Hey, I guess I'm not going to do that anymore. I'll hand it off to someone else.' I fully support giving Eileen, her department, the \$75,000 back in the budget.

Joyce Colburn, district 6:

I'd like to ask Eileen to come up and just talk briefly about the state of our computers that all our departments have to use every day which is just one little part of this.

Ms. Zhang:

In my budget report, I have detailed out all the computers throughout the town. We have some virtual computers but the majority are physical computers, the box you can see and touch. We are slowly moving to a virtualizing environment which is nearly happening in the server now. The town, at this point, we have about 514 computers including the public library. More than half of that, 260 computers, are more than five years old which means they don't have a warrantee. The manufacturer only sells a warrantee up to five years. After that, it becomes a pure burden to them. It does not make any business sense to them so they no longer sell the warrantee. That means if a computer breaks down, we have nobody to call. We have to replace the hardware. What we are doing is we consolidate. We make two computers out of three. That's what we have been doing in the past three years. The only department to get new computers in the

past three years is the Police Department. We have gotten some computers from the Police Department and used them for parts. That's what we're doing now. I just want to clarify, the decision not to replace the police officer was a discussion between me and the Chief and the Deputy Chief. We had a plan not to replace that full-time person and try to find savings. Usually, IT does a lot of work but the savings is translated to other departments. It does not translate into here so we look like we are pure cost. We do a lot of work to help other departments do the savings. Tonight, other departments have testified whenever we helped them how it resulted in their department's savings. To cut their department flat including the retirement pension was the goal of the Police Department and the Library. They already said that so I will not repeat it.

Ms. Colburn:

Consolidation is another issue which people are talking about. Eileen just explained that she has been willing and able to consolidate. Can you explain how many people work for you and how many calls you get from your help desk and how you do this all? I don't know.

Ms. Zhang:

We have three full-time staff members at this point. We get more than 5,000 calls from all over town. Sometimes, I get calls from board members, commissioners and even the public. I don't reject any calls. If it is a question, I do answer them. I never to refuse to answer questions. It's just my nature. It's not my job. This has never happened to me. I don't know how to say it's not part of my job. Help desk, administrator, IT Director, I don't care about title or hats that I wear. This is my job. My job is to help people do their jobs. I usually don't define whatever because I think I am not the only person here. I heard so many complements to the Assistant to the Library Director when he retired. People put up all the Power Point presentation. George Wagner wears so many hats. We don't define ourselves by job titles. We do whatever it takes to get the job done.

Ms. Colburn: How many people do you have working for you?

Ms. Zhang: Three

Ms. Colburn:

You've heard from all the department heads. They think it is critical. There is an emergency management service that depend on Eileen. Our town depends on what she does. I think that we should restore the full amount. If we can't restore the full amount, the priority should be the technical help.

Ms. Ancel:

I may have foot in mouth disease in this one. I have a question. The outsourcing of the library's IT to Eileen's department is news to me. I wanted to ask Maxine, are you paying for that?

Ms. Bleiweis:

Yes. It is much less than \$285,000. We are paying an outside vendor to host some of our servers. That's what's been migrated over to the town. We will save somewhere between \$6,000 and \$10,000 by coming to the town.

Ms. Ancel:

This is a good example of why department heads should go to the Board of Finance and ask for restoration. There are some major gaps in information without that part of the process. I agree that IT is not the area to skimp on. So, I will support restoration of some amount and I will surprise you..

Mr. Wieser:

Kind of singing the song I sang last year and sang in Finance Committee, just to state some of the obvious that's on the budget summary for comparison, we talk a lot, the Board of Finance has talked a lot about consolidation as a great thing. When you see all the department heads talking one department, you get the sense that consolidation can happen. In the Finance Committee, we talked about IT and Finance and Personnel being three areas, if you are going to consolidate, those are three areas to consolidate. It is interesting, in information technology, from 2010 to last year, the Information Technology budget was cut 16 percent and the request was to raise it one percent this year. With the cut, it was down 10 percent. When you cut a budget 16 percent one year and 10 percent one year, the place that you are going to consolidate, it seems like the formula is to consolidate and let the Board of Education do IT. If you cut 16 percent one year and 10 percent one year and keep on going, you don't have an IT Department in the town. You have a Board of Education which is cut .02 percent, a tiny part of their \$112 million budget. I don't know what went on in the thinking and how all that happened and really comment because that's all proceeding but we're heading in a different direction here. We talked a little bit about this in the Finance Committee, sort of joked about it but it's not really a joke when it comes to IT and Finance and HR is a little different because we don't have a spot there to fill. This is a theme I'll come back to in Finance as well. From a straight financial point of view, this is a great opportunity. I voted in Finance Committee to support the Selectman's request for \$25,000 and I voted against the \$75,000. Seeing all the support from the department heads who were willing to stay here to 11:45, I think they do a good job and they do what they can do and they tell us they need \$75,000. I think I'm going to go for \$75,000.

Mr. Rose:

We have now had eight people in a row speaking to one degree or another in support of restoring something. Does anybody want to speak against this? Does anybody feel compelled to speak in favor of it again. Mr. Lowenstein does.

Mr. Lowenstein:

Earlier in this discussion, Mr. Mandell said that he wants to be convinced that it should go above \$25,000. I want to try to do some of that right now. I made the analogy in my previous comments about the fifth question at Passover and so forth. Mr. Mandell talked about the Seder and the definition of Seder is order. One of the things about order that Seder asks of us is that it gets analyzed and

one of the words that we use in Yiddish to describe the analysis is a "pippel". A *pippel* is basically splitting hairs, getting down to such a precise definition of something that it loses some of its meaning. I feel that we should not hang up over the question of whether this went to the Board of Finance or didn't go to the Board of Finance. I know to some of you people here, that is an important issue. I'd like you to put that aside and consider this on its own merits. We've heard it in various ways. I think this is the engine of consolidation. The problem we've had is that consolidation has been described as the BoE and the town get together but actually this is consolidation. We have seen it in spades here with the IT Department. Let me tell you, consolidation doesn't come easy. I have been working in the library as a volunteer for a long time. I know that as much as they have tried, there are still problems getting the library system working in a seamless fashion with the town systems. It takes a lot of time and a lot of effort by the IT Department to make this happen. They want it to happen. The library wants it to happen. It will happen but it will not happen without a lot of work. We ourselves cannot ask for more money than the First Selectman requested but, believe it or not, the Board of Finance could have since they already asked for \$250 more than the First Selectman asked for in the Registrars budget. History can't be repeated. Maybe next year, if they don't like the way the First Selectman has budgeted IT, the Board of Finance will increase it. Tonight, I urge you to vote for the \$25,000. Jeff, you were one of five negatives on the Finance Committee. If we had the meeting tonight, it would have been at least five-four in favor. I'm hoping it will be at least 70 percent in favor of restoring \$75,000 tonight.

Ms. Batteau:

Just a quick idea based on hearing Eileen's Zhang's response to Joyce's question about the age of the computers, hearing that we have five and six year old computers and are trying to find parts. Let's remember that the Board of Education turns over a few hundred computers a year that are three years old or younger. You can find them out by the Bedford loading dock if no where else. Maybe we could use those for spare parts.

Mr. Bomes:

I support the administration request and Eileen's request of restoration of \$25,000. If the whole process, whether its with the Board of Education or some other town department and Eileen finds that she needs for more money, the process is she goes back to the Board of Finance and asks for more money. I don't see any reason why the Board of Finance wouldn't give it to her because as someone said, this is what's driving the engine. If more money has to go to IT, it will help the whole Town because some other area will end up with a smaller budget. I just think it's very silly that we are going to try to give somebody more money than they decided they'd need. That's just me.

Ms. Starr:

Just very briefly, I believe that the process is if the consolidation would take place, Eileen with the Board of Education, and Eileen's department would, hopefully, be the one consolidated into so Eileen would be in charge, that there would be some kind of recognition in the budgeting process so that the money

that would go into IT in the Board of Education would either be saved for the general fund or go into IT "town side". The other thing is I agree with Allen Bomes that if you want to vote to restore, it would start with the smallest increment and see if anything more would be needed. I do think there is a bigger picture to this although a very strong case has been made. I will not restore the restoration for some of the reasons which I do think, despite what some of the people who I do respect have said, there still is a larger context.

Stephen Rubin, district 7:

Eileen, just one very quick question, if you receive the \$25,000, which is the amount that was originally projected tonight, would you maintain your staff of three that you currently have? [No.] If you receive the \$41,000, would you maintain your staff of three. [No. Again.] So, for you to maintain your staff, you must receive \$75,000. Is that correct? [Yes.]

Mr. Rose:

We are ready for the resolution. Here is how we are going to do this. We will read the resolution with \$75,000 and take a vote on that. There is no more discussion. If that gets defeated, we are then going to go to the resolution for \$41,000, etc. \$75,000, \$41,000 and \$25,000.

A motion to restore \$75,000 to account 157-01 of the town budget. The vote fails 22-13. In favor: Lowenstein, Suggs, Colburn, Urist, Ashman, Klinge, Rubin, Batteau, Schine, Flug, Heller, McCarthy, Milwe, Bruce, Guthman, Timmins, Galan, Meyer, Cunitz, Seidman, Wieser, Levy, Opposed: Rossi, Lebowitz, Talmadge, Bomes, Cherry, Rea, Green, Cady, Mandell, Starr, Keenan, Ancel, Rose.

A motion to restore \$41,000 to account 157-01 of the town budget. The motion passes 30-5. In favor: Cunitz, Seidman, Wieser, Levy, Lowenstein, Rossi, Suggs, Colburn, Lebowitz, Talmadge, Urist, Ashman, Klinge, Rubin, Batteau, Schine, Flug, Green, Heller, McCarthy, Cady, Mandell, Milwe, Bruce, Guthman, Timmins, Ancel, Galan, Meyer, Rose. Opposed: Bomes, Rea, Cherry, Starr, Keenan.

Mr. Rose:

How many more motions for restoration will there be tonight? I am trying to determine whether to send Parks and Rec. home. Are you willing to stay to 1:15 a.m.? Stuart, you can go home. You will be right after the Board of Education. In sequence, we must finish the town budget before we go on to anything else. I think we can wrap things up without bringing people back.

Mr. Wieser:

Back to finance, I move to restore \$75,000 to line 151-01 of the town budget, Finance Department.

I'll be very quick because a lot has been said. We talked about this in Finance Committee. It is in the Finance Committee report. We talked at some length

about the Finance Department and the fact that the Finance Department is a consolidating department, another department that is very active in all the aspects of consolidation that is trying to be accomplished through the Board of Finance and through all the difference of town departments. Rather than go through the litany of everything the Town Finance Department has done and continues to do for all of us in all the different departments, I go back to the theme of my previous comments. Last year, the Finance Department budget was cut five percent. This year with the proposed budget cut, without restoration, the Finance Department is cut 11.5 percent. You look at the base line and you talk about where there is waste and where there is an opportunity to consolidate in the future but if you are looking to cut a wasteful department, you cut 10 percent out of a wasteful department. It's just hard to conceive that the Finance Department which does so much for all of our departments has 11.5 percent of fluff. Again, where we are increasing the town's budget by two percent, to take 11.5 percent out of such an integral department, I find it hard to support. Cutting 11.5 percent out of the budget is a great challenge. With the restoration, we will have cut five percent out of the Finance budget last year and a little over one percent this year which is in most cases doing its part. Eleven and a half percent for a department that is efficiently running and doing its job for all of us seems very excessive.

Point of information, Mr. Galan:

Was it \$70,000 or \$75,000 taken out of Finance. The minutes say \$70,000.

Mr. Kondub: The amount in question is \$75,000

Members of the Westport electorate - No comment

Members of the RTM

Mr. Guthman:

Now that John, in addition to being Director of Finance, is Acting Director of Personnel, it seems particularly inappropriate to now be cutting one more person out of his department. I talked earlier about the need to move forward on pension and medical. With no Director of Personnel, that's going to fall to the Department of Finance. It seems incredibly inappropriate to be cutting a person from the Department of Finance when we are asking him to take on additional work. Also, a point was made when we talked about the Director of Personnel that we weren't hiring anyone. It was an empty job. It was easy to cut the job because we weren't hurting anyone. In this case, we would be hurting someone. We would be eliminating a position. That's the only way to save that \$75,000. I think that's inappropriate at this time.

Ms. Colburn:

I'd like Ms. Garten to come up and explain the rationale for why she feels it important that we eliminate that \$75,000 from the Finance Department budget.

Ms. Garten:

I am not speaking for myself. I am speaking for the decision made by the entire Board of Finance. It was not a unanimous vote but it was a majority vote. I believe I stated the reasons earlier in terms of the Finance Department. The jobs of purchasing and payroll are two areas that we've talked about for a very long time in terms of consolidation with the Board of Education. There are examples of other towns who have consolidated the payroll function into one person and one department. That's one possibility. In addition, another member of the Board of Finance raised the possibility of outsourcing payroll as an alternative way to save money. Those were the specifics. More general, we talked about looking at the Finance Department carefully and reorganizing the Finance Department.

Mr. Lowenstein:

I don't know if he was watching TV tonight but Ed Devlin was a familiar sight, certainly at our Finance Committee meeting, and often at the RTM meetings. I understand he has some health problems. But I mention Ed's name for one reason only and that is when we had meetings on the budget Ed would always say, 'We need more people in the Finance Department.' It's the place where you have all your controls. As I echo what Mike Guthman said, this cut should be restored 100 percent. I don't see the rationale for cutting it at all. Where are we headed? If you draw a straight line for the last two years, in seven years, we won't even have a Finance Department.

Mr. Rossi:

A question for the Finance Director: I agree this moves us in the direction of one entity to do purchasing. Does Parks and Rec. do their own purchasing in addition to the town and in addition to the Board of Education or does the town do purchasing for equipment? In other words, are there three purchasing entities?

Mr. Kondub:

Your question is how many different purchasing people are there within different departments? We have the one purchasing officer in our department, Mr. Kotcho works in our department. We have department heads who do do purchasing on their own. There are certain purchasing thresholds. Within different departments like Stuart McCarthy's, they have an account clerk who takes care of the paper work, the initiation of putting a requisition into the system. Basically, Tim Burke goes and buys a leaf blower. Somebody goes and puts a requisition in and it gets approved through the system. Those are all reviewed by our department. Every requisition is reviewed by our department, every requisition up to a certain dollar amount. Then I review anything over \$5,000. I know Chief Fiore has a person that handles basic department bills. We do allow certain latitude to do what they have to do to conduct business for the town.

Mr. Wieser:

To follow up on Helen's comments, you have one individual who handles payroll?

Mr. Kondub:

Yes. We have one person who handles payroll, like a coordinator of all the information, like a centralized system of reporting hours worked. Chief Fiore's

staff will send approved payments for overtime and stuff like that. It transfers directly to our office after proper department approvals. That happens through this whole building and through the whole process. Chief Ackley, Stuart is not here, his person that has been mentioned about handling payroll, she gathers all that material and forwards it to our person. She does the function of making sure people get properly paid, reviews the expenditures that are in question. Just one person.

Mr. Wieser:

If you were to get rid of that person and outsource that process, do you have any idea if you would save money?

Mr. Kondub:

That situation is under review by members of my staff. We haven't fully gathered all the answers yet. We have looked at Paychex and ADP. I would rather not get into specifics.

Mr. Wieser: It will cost to outsource.

Mr. Kondub:

It is going to cost to outsource. Then, you need somebody. Paychecks is not going to be sitting there gathering the hours and putting it into a form. You would have to have somebody there to coordinate what 15 other departments put into the system. That's it in a nutshell.

Ms. Batteau:

I have a question and I'm not sure who it is to. Maybe John, maybe Gordon. Why in the middle of budget season is our top financial officer, a professional, being asked to be Personnel Director? Is it contemplated that the job assignment will continue?

Mr. Rose: You can answer. If you don't have the answer, don't answer it.

Mr. Kondub:

I will answer for the Finance Department and as Acting Personnel Director. Our Personnel Director retired. Someone has to administer what is going on regarding pushing through a potential defined contribution plan, a possible rewrite of the non-union supervisory plan and the non-union non-supervisory plan. Someone has to supervise the staff that works there regarding updates on the various functions they do. I know we're having two Pension Board meetings. Someone has to look over that. I guess I'm best qualified based on my 35 years experience. That's the best way to say it plus I volunteered.

Ms. Batteau:

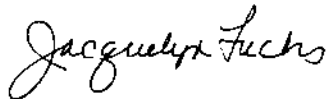
I get it but it seems quite an inappropriate overburden of your time particularly in the middle of budget season. Maybe that can be somehow offloaded.

A resolution to restore \$75,000 to account #151-01. The motion fails, 20-15. In favor: Wieser, Levy, Lowenstein, Colburn, Talmadge, Urist, Bomes, Klinge, Rubin, Schine, Flug, Heller, Milwe, Bruce, Guthman, Timmins, Galan, Meyer, Cunitz, Rose. Opposed: Rossi, Suggs, Lebowitz, Ashman, Batteau, Rea, Cherry, Green, McCarthy, Cady, Mandell, Starr, Keenan, Ancel, Seidman.

No other revisions in all sections up to Parks and Rec. #800's. Parks and Rec. will be taken up tomorrow night after education.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia H. Strauss
Town Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacquelyn Fuchs".

by Jacquelyn Fuchs
Secretary

ATTENDANCE: May 2, 2011 Budget meeting #1

DIST.	NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	NOTIFIED MODERATOR	LATE/ LEFT EARLY
1	Diane Cady	X			
	Matthew Mandell	X			
	Elizabeth Milwe	X			
	Judith Starr	X			
2	Linda Bruce	X			
	Michael Guthman	X			
	Jay Keenan	X			
	Sean Timmins	X		X	Arr. 7:45 p.m.
3	Amy Ancel	X			Arr. 7:35 p.m.
	Robert Galan	X			
	Bill Meyer	X			
	Hadley Rose	X			
4	Jonathan Cunitz, DBA	X			
	Gene Seidman	X			Arr. 8:00 p.m.
	George Underhill		X	X	
	Jeffrey Wieser	X			
5	Barbara Levy	X			
	Richard Lowenstein	X			
	Paul Rossi	X			
	John Suggs	X			
6	Joyce Colburn	X			
	Paul Lebowitz	X			
	Catherine Talmadge	X			
	Christopher Urist	X			
7	Arthur Ashman, D.D.S.	X			
	Allen Bomes	X			
	Jack Klinge	X			
	Stephen Rubin	X			
8	Wendy Batteau	X			
	Heather Cherry	X			
	Michael Rea	X			
	Lois Schine	X			
9	Eileen Flug	X			
	Kevin Green, Ph. D.	X			
	Velma Heller, Ed. D.	X			
	John McCarthy	X			
Total		35	1		

Roll Call Vote: Account #153-01 Restore \$50,000 to Personnel Budget

DIST.	NAME	ABSENT	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN
1	Diane Cady			X	
	Matthew Mandell			X	
	Elizabeth Milwe		X		
	Judith Starr			X	
2	Linda Bruce		X		
	Michael Guthman		X		
	Jay Keenan			X	
	Sean Timmins			X	
3	Amy Ancel			X	
	Robert Galan		X		
	Bill Meyer		X		
	Hadley Rose		X		
4	Jonathan Cunitz, DBA			X	
	Gene Seidman		X		
	George Underhill	X			
	Jeffrey Wieser		X		
5	Barbara Levy		X		
	Richard Lowenstein		X		
	Paul Rossi			X	
	John Suggs			X	
6	Joyce Colburn		X		
	Paul Lebowitz		X		
	Catherine Talmadge		X		
	Christopher Urist			X	
7	Arthur Ashman, D.D.S.			X	
	Allen Bomes			X	
	Jack Klinge		X		
	Stephen Rubin		X		
8	Wendy Batteau		X		
	Heather Cherry			X	
	Michael Rea			X	
	Lois Schine		X		
9	Eileen Flug		X		
	Kevin Green, Ph. D.			X	
	Velma Heller, Ed. D.		X		
	John McCarthy			X	
Total			19	16	

FAILED

Roll Call Vote: Account #157-01 Restore \$75,000 to IT budget

DIST.	NAME	ABSENT	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN
1	Diane Cady			X	
	Matthew Mandell			X	
	Elizabeth Milwe		X		
	Judith Starr			X	
2	Linda Bruce		X		
	Michael Guthman		X		
	Jay Keenan			X	
	Sean Timmins		X		
3	Amy Ancel			X	
	Robert Galan		X		
	Bill Meyer		X		
	Hadley Rose			X	
4	Jonathan Cunitz, DBA		X		
	Gene Seidman		X		
	George Underhill	X			
	Jeffrey Wieser		X		
5	Barbara Levy		X		
	Richard Lowenstein		X		
	Paul Rossi			X	
	John Suggs		X		
6	Joyce Colburn		X		
	Paul Lebowitz			X	
	Catherine Talmadge			X	
	Christopher Urist		X		
7	Arthur Ashman, D.D.S.		X		
	Allen Bomes			X	
	Jack Klinge		X		
	Stephen Rubin		X		
8	Wendy Batteau		X		
	Heather Cherry			X	
	Michael Rea			X	
	Lois Schine		X		
9	Eileen Flug		X		
	Kevin Green, Ph. D.			X	
	Velma Heller, Ed. D.		X		
	John McCarthy		X		
Total			22	13	

FAILED

Roll Call Vote: Account #157-01 Restore \$41,000 to the IT budget

DIST.	NAME	ABSENT	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN
1	Diane Cady		X		
	Matthew Mandell		X		
	Elizabeth Milwe		X		
	Judith Starr			X	
2	Linda Bruce		X		
	Michael Guthman		X		
	Jay Keenan			X	
	Sean Timmins		X		
3	Amy Ancel		X		
	Robert Galan		X		
	Bill Meyer		X		
	Hadley Rose		X		
4	Jonathan Cunitz, DBA		X		
	Gene Seidman		X		
	George Underhill	X			
	Jeffrey Wieser		X		
5	Barbara Levy		X		
	Richard Lowenstein		X		
	Paul Rossi		X		
	John Suggs		X		
6	Joyce Colburn		X		
	Paul Lebowitz		X		
	Catherine Talmadge		X		
	Christopher Urist		X		
7	Arthur Ashman, D.D.S.		X		
	Allen Bomes			X	
	Jack Klinge		X		
	Stephen Rubin		X		
8	Wendy Batteau		X		
	Heather Cherry			X	
	Michael Rea			X	
	Lois Schine		X		
9	Eileen Flug		X		
	Kevin Green, Ph. D.		X		
	Velma Heller, Ed. D.		X		
	John McCarthy		X		
Total			30	5	

PASSED

Roll Call Vote: Account # 151-01. Restore \$75,000 to the Finance Department

DIST.	NAME	ABSENT	YEA	NAV	ABSTAIN
1	Diane Cady			X	
	Matthew Mandell			X	
	Elizabeth Milwe		X		
	Judith Starr			X	
2	Linda Bruce		X		
	Michael Guthman		X		
	Jay Keenan			X	
	Sean Timmins		X		
3	Amy Ancel			X	
	Robert Galan		X		
	Bill Meyer		X		
	Hadley Rose		X		
4	Jonathan Cunitz, DBA		X		
	Gene Seidman			X	
	George Underhill	X			
	Jeffrey Wieser		X		
5	Barbara Levy		X		
	Richard Lowenstein		X		
	Paul Rossi			X	
	John Suggs			X	
6	Joyce Colburn		X		
	Paul Lebowitz			X	
	Catherine Talmadge		X		
	Christopher Urist		X		
7	Arthur Ashman, D.D.S.			X	
	Allen Bomes		X		
	Jack Klinge		X		
	Stephen Rubin		X		
8	Wendy Batteau			X	
	Heather Cherry			X	
	Michael Rea			X	
	Lois Schine		X		
9	Eileen Flug		X		
	Kevin Green, Ph. D.			X	
	Velma Heller, Ed. D.		X		
	John McCarthy			X	
Total			20	15	

FAILED

RTM Minutes
May 3, 2011

The call

1. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the estimate and recommendation of the Board of Finance, to adopt a budget for the Town of Westport for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, and to make such specific appropriations as appear advisable.
2. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance, to adopt a budget for the Town Railroad Parking Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, and to make such specific appropriations as appear advisable.
3. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance, to adopt a budget for the Town Sewer Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, and to make such specific appropriations as appear advisable.
4. To take such action as the meeting may determine to require that property taxes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, shall be due and payable in four quarterly installments, and to designate the dates of the first days of July, October, January, and April as the dates upon which such installments shall be due and payable, and that all taxes in an amount of \$100 or less shall be due and payable in a single installment on the first day of July.
5. To take such action as the meeting may determine to require that the motor vehicle tax shall be due and payable in a single installment.

The following items will also be considered as time permits:

6. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve a request of the First Selectman for an appropriation of \$30,000 to the Historic District Account (Fees & Services) for updating the Historic Resources Inventory which shall be fully reimbursed through the CLG Supplemental Grant at the completion of the project.
7. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve a request of the Parks & Recreation Director for an appropriation of \$26,690 to the Golf Account (Capital Equipment) to fund the purchase of a greens mower which shall be substantially reimbursed through the Department of Environmental Protection LEEF Program.
8. To take such action as the meeting may determine, upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve a request of the Finance Director for an appropriation of \$1,200,000 to the Pension Budget Account (OPEB Plan Funding) for the remaining fifty percent (50 percent) cost of the Town of Westport's planned contribution to the OPEB Trust Fund for 2010-11 fiscal year.

Moderator Hadley Rose:

This meeting of Westport's Representative Town Meeting is now called to order. We welcome those who join us tonight in the Town Hall auditorium as well as those watching us streaming live on www.westportct.gov, watching on cable channel 79. We are on ATT now as well on channel 99. My name is Hadley Rose and I am the RTM Moderator. On my right is our RTM secretary, Jackie Fuchs. Tonight's invocation will be given by Ms. Flug.

Invocation, Eileen Flug, district 9:

Good evening and thank you for coming. Tonight is hopefully the last night of our budget meetings. It is the culmination of at least a six month process of preparing a budget for the 2011/2012 year. So, I chose a poem to read tonight to honor and thank and celebrate the work that all of the town employees have been doing for the past six months or so in digging into details, doing the research to come up with the budget and also all of the appointed and elected volunteers on the Board of Education, the Board of Finance, all of the boards and commissions, the RTM, all of the RTM committees. People, paid and unpaid, have spent countless hours, have rolled up their sleeves and dug into details and did the hard work that was necessary to bring about the budget.

This is a poem by Marge Piercy called "To Be of Use"

The people I love the best
jump into work head first
without dallying in the shallows
and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.
They seem to become natives of that element,
the black sleek heads of seals
bouncing like half submerged balls.
I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart,
who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience,
who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward,
who do what has to be done, again and again.
I want to be with people who submerge
in the task, who go into the fields to harvest
and work in a row and pass the bags along,
who stand in the line and haul in their places,
who are not parlor generals and field deserters
but move in a common rhythm
when the food must come in or the fire be put out.
The work of the world is common as mud.
Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.
But the thing worth doing well done
has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.
Greek amphoras for wine or oil,
Hopi vases that held corn, are put in museums
but you know they were made to be used.
The pitcher cries for water to carry
and a person for work that is real.

There were 34 members in attendance. Mr. Keenan and Mr. Underhill notified the Moderator they would be absent. Mr. Mandell notified the Moderator he would be late. Ms. Bruce, Mr. Timmins, Mr. Bomes and Ms. Cherry were also late.

Announcements

The next RTM meeting will be possibly tomorrow, hopefully, June 7 at 8:00 p.m. If we are meeting tomorrow, it would be at 7:30 p.m., right here.

RTM Announcements

Lois Schine, district 8:

On Wednesday, June 1, the Westport Rotary will hold its annual golf and tennis tournament at Longshore. We invite you all to join us. This year and in previous year, the Rotary has been able to make donations to 30 local charities and we hope to continue that. You can come for golf, come for tennis, be a sponsor or just come for lunch. I have forms to fill out if anybody is interested or you can probably find us on line, as well.

Gene Seidman, district 4:

Liz Milwe was kind enough to mention a one man show that I'm doing on Saturday night. It's called "Provocation". It's going to be in Fairfield at the Fairfield Arts Center on Stafford Street, not at Lily's. I hope you can join us.

Mr. Rose:

Before we start tonight, just to refresh. We are starting off with the Board of Education budget. When we finish that, we will go back and finish up the town budget. We will vote on the combined budget. We will then move on to Railroad parking, Sewer Fund, Taxes, etc. and, eventually, hopefully, we will move to the last three items on the agenda.

Presentation

Don O'Day, Chair, Board of Education:

Many of you have seen this presentation so I will try to go through it as quickly as possible. I understand the RTM was here very late last night so it is my goal to get everybody out of here as quickly as possible. I'm going to go through the pages very quickly and will spend a bit more time on some of the newer pages just hitting the highlights and be happy to answer any questions that may come up. I want to thank the Board of Finance for working with the Board of Education the way that they all do. It was very, very helpful and it made our process easier. I think we knew what we were expected to do. I think we marched to those orders and I think we delivered. I want to thank the Board of Education for all the work they put in working with the administration to get this done. Also, the RTM Education Committee, the RTM Finance, we met with each of those committees at least twice. I don't know what the difference was this year versus the last couple of years, but the sense of community that I got in those meeting was

measurable and very much appreciated. I felt like everybody kind of got it and we were all on the same page. Thanks to both of those committees, the chairs and the members. So, I'm going to give you a little bit of the step by step process as to how we got to where we are today. We started out, Dr. Landon and his team, the school principals, the administration worked between October and December to come up with a budget. They had received some direction from the Board of Education as to where to come in. Coming in as flat as possible year over year was certainly the direction after covering for the contractual salary increases. In December, we had a joint budget meeting with the Board of Finance and the RTM committee chairs. We discussed what the expectations were for the budget. Early in January, Dr. Landon proposed the superintendent's proposed budget to the Board of Education. Throughout January, we met at least six times, one all day meeting, many of you attended all or part of that meeting. We looked at Dr. Landon's proposal for next year's budget. It was initially \$98.8 million which is a 2.79 percent increase. Through January into early February, we went through arduously every line that we could and we ended up with 2.36 percent budget. We took about \$471,000 out of the proposal. We ended up at 2.36. In March, the Board of Education presented that budget to the Board of Finance and the Board of Finance took \$250,000 out of our budget for next year bringing the total amount to \$98.1 million or 2.1 percent increase. So we went from 2.79 to 2.36 to 2.1. In April, the Board of Education, using the recommendation of the superintendent, we voted unanimously not to seek restoration for the cut that was imposed on us by the Board of Finance. I think that is what we would have done anyway. I think the Board of Education gets it. We have to do everything we can to reduce the taxpayer burden and to still maintain a school system that I think we all enjoy. So, we did not ask for restoration. So, that brings us to where we are tonight. We are asking the RTM to approve what essentially was the recommendation of the Board of Finance. I will let the committee chairs of the RTM speak for themselves for a \$98.1 million budget which is a 2.1 percent year over year increase. When we get to the next page, we started out at \$98.3 million. Some of the details you see in this presentation still say \$98.3 because we don't really know where we are going to take the \$250,000 from. Eighty-two percent of our budget is salaries and benefits. We are a people based business, a people based entity. Year over year, 2.1 percent. All of the increases, even before the \$250,000 were based on contractual salary increases. All of the lines were held flat. Now they'll be down year over year. Staff levels, next year, everybody employed by the Board of Education will fall by five to 878, the lowest level in five years. Our enrollment is dropping by 59 to 5,760 next year versus this year but it's still second highest level ever. Class sizes, this is something that all of us, the administration, the Board of Education, really set out to make sure we kept class sizes flat, on average, year over year. We did defer some maintenance projects that are not related to health and safety. The next page [of the presentation] is a summary. Again, you can see that it is still at \$98,345, 2.36 percent. We don't have the details yet of where we're going to find the \$250,000. If that is indeed what the RTM votes on, then on May 9, our next Board of Education meeting, the superintendent will make his proposal, the Board of

Education will consider that and likely will vote on where the cuts will come from at the following meeting. The next shows a representation of where are staff levels are and where our enrollment levels are. This year, the 5,819 is quite a bit higher by 70 some-odd versus what we came into the year thinking we would have. That 5,760 for next year, I'm not sure that is what's going to happen. I suspect that could be a little bit higher. The surprises could be in kindergarten and the places where school starts, e.g., the first year of high school or in kindergarten. That's where we saw the spikes this year. The next page is where the 59 is expected to fall. In elementary school, 42 of the 59 is where we see the reductions. We'll know right around August where we are going to end up and then we have the final numbers in October. The next pages are the class sizes. In kindergarten and first grade where we have our goal of no more than 22 students per class. We are keeping those as flat as we can for the average of the elementary schools. The next page is for second and third, again, trying to keep those flat. You see some spikes, some higher, some lower. That depends where people move when they come into town. The last are fourth and fifth grade. Again, relatively flat, year over year if we have the funding that we are asking for. The next page is the bragging page, something that we are all proud of on the Board of Education. While the town has been incredibly generous, building the schools that we all enjoy, building the schools that help us get the reputation for being a very good school system and making people want to move to Westport. The funding for those schools has come over the last five, six, seven or eight years. Right now, the last three years or so, we have reduced the year over year increases in our budget. The yellow represents the percent increases added together over two year and the blue is the current year over year expectation. If you add those three together, the total is 4.71. That's fairly low relative to the schools in our District Reference Group (DRG). Darien is the highest. Weston is the lowest. We are pretty near the bottom, as well. I think that is a sign of what the board has done over the last three years working with the Board of Finance, working with the RTM to try to come in as low as possible year over year, to maintain the tax base as low as we can. The next page shows where we are relative to our District Reference Group relative to cost per student. This is cost per student as measured by the State of Connecticut. We're right in the middle, not the highest or the lowest. A good thing about this measurement is that it is an apples to apples kind of measurement of all the different schools. Again, right in the middle. In wrapping up, as I said, I think the Board of Education really has responded to the town's mandate to try to maintain the tax burden or keep it as low as possible. We've done the best we can. We've done that by reducing funding on staffing, services, programs, changing bus transportation. We have increased class sizes a little bit. I said earlier in the presentation that we kept it flat this year compared to next year but over the past couple of years, it has crept up a little bit. We've made some decisions. We've kept our goals the same and we're not over our goals but we've made some trigger changes. We will wait a little bit longer before we hire that incremental teacher. We elected not to seek restoration of the \$250,000. We are in this together. It's all part of one town. We are going to do the best we can. Again, 2.1 percent so we are going to ask the

members of the RTM to approve the budget. I know there are a number of people who came to speak on our behalf. I truly appreciate it. I am going to be a little bit bold. This is the third time I have done this so I am getting kind of used to reading the room. Unlike the last two years, I'm feeling the love a little bit. I'm starting to think that the RTM is going to approve the \$250,000 reduction and we are going to walk away with \$98.1 million budget for next year and we'll move on and do the things we have to do. If you're going to come up and speak, I really do appreciate it. We are going to try to get the RTM out of here as quickly as we can. For all of everyone's hard work over the last four, five, six months on this budget process which will end not tonight but when the Board of Education really decides where to find the \$250,000, that's when our process will be done. For all the hard work done by everybody in the process, thank you very much. That's the end of my presentation.

Mr. Rose:

Thank you Mr. O'Day. I also appreciate your recommending that everybody be brief tonight and I also appreciate that, as a cost saving measure, you brought your own tech person to take care of the Power Point presentation.
[Superintendent Landon].

Committee Reports

Education Committee, Velma Heller, district 9:

I don't have a power point. I'm sorry. Basically, the information is very much the same because it is based on our meeting with the Board of Education last week. The Board of Education requested an Operating Budget* of \$98,345,118 for the 2011-2012 school year. The Board of Finance reduced this request by \$250,000, resulting in a total of \$98,095,118. I do want to clarify that it has been the policy historically of the Education Committee to focus on operation budget. We are aware that there are additional funds which we will mention later on. If you look at our report, RTM members, you will note at the end of the report, the remaining funds that are in that budget. The members present: were Eileen Flug, Michael Guthman, Jack Klinge, Bill Meyer, Velma Heller (Chair), absent were Bob Galan, Paul Rossi, Stephen Rubin, and Gene Seidman. Background: The 2011 – 2012 Board of Education Operating Budget has undergone a lengthy review process with various reductions along the way. The Superintendent's proposed budget request of \$98,760,535 was discussed over the course of many Board of Education meetings and after intensive scrutiny by board members was then reduced to \$98,345,118 (+2.36 percent). The Board of Education Budget request to the Board of Finance for the above amount was reduced by \$250,000 resulting in a revised Operating Budget of \$98,095,118 (+2.1 percent). I'm sorry if this is repetitive but it is, in fact, what our committee dealt with as we talked with the Board of Education and we felt it was necessary for you to hear from us, as well. This was what was approved by the Board of Finance. All increases in this budget are the result of contractual salary requirements and benefits, which comprise 82 percent of total budget costs. Enrollment across the system for 2011-2012 is projected at 5,760 with 59 fewer students than this school year.

Staffing is projected to fall to 878 FTEs, a five year low. With the Board of Finance cuts, the resulting 2.1 percent budget increase puts Westport second to lowest in two year budget to budget increases in our DRG, second only to Weston. Average per pupil costs are in the middle range of comparable districts as defined by the State of Connecticut. The RTM Education Committee has met with the Board of Education and Administration during the budget deliberation process. Members have attended Board of Education meetings and monitored the process of budget review and revision. This process was characterized by detailed and candid public discussions. In their presentations to the Board of Finance and the RTM committees, the Board of Education clearly demonstrated their commitment to maintaining an excellent school system while simultaneously addressing the financial constraints facing the town, for example: maintaining class size levels at current levels, deferring maintenance projects that are not related to health and safety and holding other costs flat despite increases in the cost of transportation and special education. The Board of Education indicated that despite the need for the full appropriation originally requested of the Board of Finance, given their awareness of the financial climate, they would not seek restoration but rather find ways to absorb the cut with the least amount of damage to school program. Overall, their guideline in dealing with the \$250,000 reduction will be as they have done in the past, to try to avoid negative impacts on the classroom. Given the potential for ongoing financial pressures that impact the town's ability to fund education and other services, the Board of Education acknowledged their commitment to participate in achieving cost saving efficiencies for the town as a whole, getting as much savings as possible through consolidation with the assumption that the schools would take on certain responsibilities in support of these efforts as needed. To this end, the Board of Education in collaboration with Town officials is exploring opportunities for consolidation of certain overlapping functions. While these initiatives are not expected to have immediate impact, it appears that efforts are underway. The committee acknowledged the efforts of the Board of Education and commended their ongoing diligence in examining every area of expense in order to find significant cost savings in the 2011-2012 Budget. Due to lack of a quorum, the RTM Education Committee did not vote on a formal recommendation to the RTM. Rather, there was strong consensus among those present at the conclusion of the discussion (M. Guthman, J. Klinge, B. Meyer, V. Heller) that the Board of Education Budget for 2011-2012 in the amount of \$98,095,118 should be approved. There is a note at the beginning of the report which indicates that in addition to the Operating Budget addressed above, the total budget of \$112,425,806, as presented to the RTM includes funds for mandated private school services and debt service which are not included in this report because they are not part of the operating budget.

Finance Committee, Mike Guthman, district 2:

Would you like to hear the numbers again for a third time tonight? I'm going to skip that paragraph if no one objects and move on to the discussion in the committee. In our budget report last year we said: "...the Board of Education and

Town government need to continue to focus on achieving cost reductions by all possible means. This should include consolidations (including those in the areas of finance and payroll), joint maintenance and purchasing opportunities and possible outsourcing." It now appears that tangible steps in this direction are underway. We applaud these efforts and urge that they move forward to realize significant savings. In addition to cost reductions, the area of revenue enhancement must continue to be considered by the Board of Education. We strongly urge that the Board of Education adopt a policy that permits rental of school facilities to others (both within and outside Westport) at a profit in order to bring in additional revenue. We understand the Board of Education's reluctance to price local organizations out of the market, but nevertheless see the need for more revenue generation. Following our discussion, the committee the committee voted unanimously to recommend approval by the full RTM of the Board of Education's operating budget as passed by the Board of Finance. Velma referred to the other budget items. There is a table attached to this committee's report that lists all those additional items. The committee voted unanimously to approve: Michael Rea, Chair, Michael Guthman, reporter, Allen Bomes, Linda Bruce, Dick Lowenstein, John McCarthy, Lois Schine, Cathy Talmadge and Jeff Wieser.

Mr. Rose:

Before we turn to the public, just a little advisory, if you could try to limit your remarks to about three minutes. Please spell your names for the secretary.

The secretary read item #1 of the call - To adopt a budget for the Town of Westport for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, and to make such specific appropriations as appear advisable.

Members of the Westport electorate - No comment

Ms. Flug read the resolution and it was seconded by Mr. Rubin.

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education's budget items as recommended by the Board of Finance and approved or amended by the Representative Town Meeting be adopted and the sum of \$_____ for the Board of Education Budget is hereby appropriated to meet expenditures.

Members of the RTM

Jack Klinge - District 7:

Back in the bad old days when I used to have to work for a living, one of our measures of performance was return on investment, what we got back for the dollars we invested in our projects. I'd like to spend a few minutes talking about this educational budget in the context of a return on investment, what we have been getting for it. This investment covers all the way back from K through 12, students, teachers, schools, administrators and just a couple of anecdotal stories about this year's senior calls. That is the final return on investment. The athletic

teams were superb. As of today, the girls' lacrosse team is still unbeaten, which was unheard of. The music department put on its normal, wonderful shows. The orchestra played well. The Candlelight Concert was a big hit, as it always is. Academically, this year's senior class set all records for college acceptances to tier one schools: five at Princeton, six at Harvard, seven at MIT. It goes on and on. Finally, a story, I was subbing at Staples on Monday. I was talking to John Dodig in the foyer and there was a kid named Harris Duranni. He said, 'Mr. Dodig, 'My robotics team just won the world championship.' John and I went, 'What?' 'We just won the world championship in robotics this past weekend.' It doesn't get much better than that...not state, not a region, world! So, we are getting a great return on our investment, the school system and all its components. I urge you, as I'm sure you will, support this budget.

Bill Meyer, district 3:

I was going to give a 10 minute speech but I'll cut back to one minute. Here's *Connecticut Magazine*. The number one school. Twenty-one percent of the people in Westport are seniors and want you to know that we are with you all the way.

Dick Lowenstein, district 5:

First of all, fear nothing. I have no motions to make tonight but I am going to speak to the record. One of the nice things about being on the RTM is that we keep verbatim minutes. What I have to say tonight will be in the verbatim minutes and I'm hoping that some time in the future, even if I'm not on the RTM, someone will say, 'What did we do back in the year 2011?' I want to talk about something that has been a pet interest of mine for at least four years and, finally, I'm seeing some realization. I want to talk about the Adult and Continuing Education budget. As many of you know, I have been arguing for at least four years that the Board of Education should take more money out of its burgeoning surplus from Adult and Continuing Education and use it for operating expenses. Unfortunately, until this year, it has fallen on deaf ears. But where there's a will there's a way and this year, I am very pleased to see that the Board of Education has exercised his will on this subject. When the budget was first submitted for Adult and Continuing Education by the Superintendent, it showed a revenue and expense budget of \$1.395 million. By the time left the Board of Education meeting, the revenue had not changed one iota but the expense had gone up by \$247,000. Finally, the Board of Education was able to justify a reason for taking money out of the surplus. They took approximately \$50,000 out of the electrical, for electricity; they took \$170,000 for instructional technology acknowledging, essentially, that the people who go for summer and adult education do use computers; they took \$89,000 out of the capital budget for the pool, swimming pool related expenses. So, the expense that we saw on the Superintendent's budget for capital expenses this year, \$89,000, had disappeared by the time the Board of Education put its budget out. My purpose in speaking for the record is simply this, I want to encourage the board to continue to operate in this manner. Coming up in the next three years, are additional pool expenses. For example, for 11/12,

there is a pool area ventilation capital expense shown on the budget. For the year 12/13, there is a pool boiler for \$550,000. For the year 15/16, there is a pool HVAC for \$370,000. I'm not saying that those capital expenses should be funded wholly out of the surplus of the Adult and Continuing Education but, even if I'm not on this body in those years, I'm hoping that members who are here today will go back to the minutes and say, 'What did the Board of Education do then and are they doing the same thing in the year you are looking at the budget?' I really believe this is a sensible way to reduce a burgeoning surplus and find expenses that could be legitimately charged against it. I would urge the Board of Education though, as a matter of policy, to adopt some kind of rule or policy on what they want as a minimum coverage on this surplus in the event, that there is a loss of revenue that was unexpected. Beyond that, I urge the board to spend the money that is in the surplus on operating expenses.

By show of hands, the motion to approve \$112,425,806 for the Board of Education budget is approved unanimously.

Mr. Rose:

Speaking of world records, Jack, this was it. Thank you to the Board of Education. Thank you to the parents.

We are back in session. We are now going to pick up on the town side of the budget. Are there any comments on Parks and Rec.?

Jeff Wieser, district 4:

I make motion to restore \$70,000 to line 810-01 of the town budget. Mr. Rubin is recusing himself. Seconded by Ms. Bruce.

Mr. Wieser read the report of the April 14 meeting of the Parks and Rec. Committee meeting to put it into the record. In the report, you've got the members present at the meeting. Stuart McCarthy discussed the difficulty of meeting the \$70,000 reduction in Administration expenses required by the Board of Finance. He explained that this reduction must be a result of the elimination of a portion of the personnel expense – six persons - in the administrative offices of the Department. The amount required demands that he cut either two jobs, the Customer Service Representative and the part-time Accounting Clerk; or one of two Administrative jobs, Dan Devito or his own. The Board of Finance made this cut in the hope that it would force Parks and Rec. to discuss with the Board of Ed opportunities to consolidate various expense categories. The Board of Ed will not be seeking a restoration of the \$250,000 (0.0022 percent) Board of Finance – mandated cuts to its \$112,675,806 budget, as that mandated reduction can come from anywhere in the department, while the Parks and Rec. Department is required to reduce \$70,000 (13.4 percent) from its \$521,332 Administration Budget. The Parks and Rec. management and Parks and Rec. Commission believe there is inequity in this approach by the Board of Finance, especially after the approach made last November by the Parks & Rec Department and the

Parks & Rec Commission to the Board of Finance. In this meeting, Parks and Rec. discussed the value of the revenue stream of the Department to the Town and suggested that an increase in revenue should be used to keep the properties and the service of the Department in the best possible condition. However, in the projected 2011-2012 fiscal year, revenues are expected to be up 2.94 percent (\$134,228), while the Board of Finance approved budget shows expenses up 0.23 percent (\$9,521). With the requested \$70,000 restoration, expenses would still show a smaller increase than corresponding revenues, rising only 1.87 percent (\$79,521). It should be pointed out that Parks and Rec. Department is not seeking restoration of the \$10,000 cut from the capital budget to buy a new pickup truck to replace the current very old model. Parks and Rec. will be purchasing a used truck instead of seeking that \$10,000 restoration. In the past as the Parks & Rec. budget has been cut, Stuart has maintained his willingness to live within the budget and ensure as far as possible that there will not be a diminution in service or maintenance by his department. He advised in this committee meeting that with these cuts he is unwilling to make that claim and the Town must expect less service from the Parks and Rec Department. With these cuts, the Customer Service and PT Accounting Clerk jobs will most likely be the ones eliminated. Without those employees to administer the many requests of residents during the year, the supervisors will need to take time out of their supervising schedules to maintain the clerical schedules of the town. This will lead to reduced quality of supervision and effectiveness of the maintenance and customer service programs. Gordon Joseloff described the good working session that he had with the Education Superintendent earlier in that week and the advances in consolidation to which he expects that meeting to lead over the next twelve months. He supported Stuart's concern, however, that this could not happen in time to save the two jobs and corresponding customer service they allow within the Parks and Rec. Department. As a result, Gordon intends to seek restoration of this reduction as well as much of the \$250,000 that was cut from the town budget. Bill Meyer pointed out that many of the specific operations of the Parks and Rec. Department are breakeven, at worst, and that the Parks and Rec. Department as a whole is closer to breakeven than any of our neighboring towns (98.5 percent break even as proposed by the Board of Finance; 96.9 percent with \$70,000 restoration). He moved to restore \$70,000 to the Administration budget of the Town's Parks & Rec. Department. Eileen Flug seconded. The vote was unanimous, with Bill Meyer, Jack Klinge, Eileen Flug, Chris Urist and Jeff Wieser reporting and Allan Bomes abstaining until there is clarity on the overall restoration request that will go to the Finance Committee of the RTM. That speaks to all the points that I would make about this.

Westport electorate

Barbara Butler, Human Services Director:

I just would like to make a couple of points. I know you were all here really late last night and I don't want to keep you but I did want to say a couple of things. First of all, last night, I hope you saw in the department heads' support of the IT budget a demonstration of the interconnectedness of town departments. We are

a team and we depend on each other in order to deliver services in the best possible way. Support of the IT budget restoration last night, during that discussion, there was much acknowledgment of the critical importance of IT in this day and age and well deserved praise for what Eileen accomplishes with modest resources. She has brought us, some of us kicking and screaming into a new era. We appreciate that on a daily basis but some of us are still very people dependent as we deliver services to town residents. One small example I would like to give is a seasonal issue. The staff in Human Services works very closely with Parks and Recreation staff to give Westport children whose families might not otherwise be able to afford it, the benefit of summer programs that many of their friends take for granted. These are families also who may not have access to technology as most of us do. Last summer, with the help of Parks and Recreation staff, these children enjoyed 112 camp sessions allocated by Parks and Rec. at no charge and 56 camp sessions underwritten by donations to Human Services for that purpose. While it is wonderful that these children had the opportunity for fun, enrichment and socialization in supervised programs, it was also important to remember that their parents were then able to continue working for the summer months knowing their children were in a safe environment. For purposes of your consideration in restoring funds to the administrative budget, the administrative staff time invested in helping these families put together a summer program that engaged their children was critical in helping them pay the rent and put food on the table. It saved money and heartache down the road. In addition to these programs, Human Services staff and Parks and Recreation staff work together year round to arrange participation in an assortment of after school sports programs and clinics. Finally, in difficult economic times such as we have experienced in the last few years, Parks and Recreation offers affordable recreation opportunities for families who badly need these opportunities now. There are some community services who rely on people to deliver them. Technology may make it possible to deliver those services more efficiently but some human interaction is required and I hope you will keep that in mind as you consider this request.

Mr. Roda is an out of town resident but is the Director of Youth Sports. There is no objection from the body to having him speak.

Carmen Roda, Director of Youth Sports for the Police Athletic League:
I am here tonight to support the restoration of money to the Parks and Rec. budget. The Westport PAL has approximately 1,200 boys and girls participating in its youth sports programs all using facilities maintained by the Parks and Rec. Department. The PAL has many of the youth sports has continued to increase the population of our programs over the last 15 years. This can be attributed in part by the partnership that the Westport PAL has with the Parks and Rec. Department. Youth sports programs help provide safe environments for the kids in our community. I feel, as the director of youth sports, I have absolutely no hesitation or fear to tell the parents that they have the quality of programming because of, in part, Stu McCarthy and his entire staff helping keeping the

facilities that we have safe, healthy and clean. Thanks to the Parks and Rec. Department, our facilities and our scheduling is flawless. There have been many times in nights, weekends and holidays when there's problems that arise with scheduling conflicts or fields being closed where you could pick up the phone and call the Parks and Rec. Department, specifically Dan deVito, and he works out the problems. Not once, have I ever encountered a Parks and Rec. staff member who says, 'I can't, I won't, it's not my job' or 'It's after hours.' They go above and beyond the call of duty to help insure that the facilities that we use are the best in Fairfield County. As all the sports groups increase their population, we can't do this alone. We have done this in partnership with the Parks and Rec. Department. The taking of this money will hurt not only the Parks and Rec. Department but the community at large and our children. This is an investment in our kids. Thank you for the opportunity to be able to speak with you tonight and I hope you vote for our kids and the restoration of money to the Parks and Rec. Department.

Stanley Nayer, 77 Clinton Avenue, Chairman of Senior Commission and an active member of the Friends of the Senior Center:

I helped form ITN, a transportation program, and we are working now to develop the Baron's South property into a safe place for all Westporters, not only seniors, but for young and old. We advocate for the seniors and in the past I have attended Parks and Recreation meetings where seniors were involved and were affected by what Parks and Recreation were doing. When substantial budget cuts were imposed last year, I found it necessary to attend many, many more meetings because I felt that seniors would be adversely affected by the budget cuts. I cannot understand, during my attendance at these meetings, I was told how much Parks and Rec. collects in fees and how much they spend. It's amazing how little Parks and Rec. requires from the town to provide such facilities and such services to our citizens and our non-residents. What has happened is that Parks and Recreation has had to charge higher fees to patrons or customers in the cases of non-residents. What's happened is that the services have decreased. Last summer, there were accusations of unclean beach areas and so forth. As a CPA and attorney, I can't understand how we can reduce our standards and give our customers less for their money at the same time as we charge more fees. My final comment is simply this: With the recession, more and more Westporters are relying on Parks and Recreation facilities here because they can't travel, because they can't go elsewhere and spend the money. Seniors, many of whom are on limited incomes and fixed incomes, are facing one percent interest income on savings accounts and that's really hurting. They really need the parks for their recreation. I ask that you restore the budget reduction.

Maryann Goodell, 26 Ellery Lane:

I am PTA Council co-president, also a member of the Westport Youth Commission and I advocate for children and parents. I can assure you that I would like to encourage you to restore the \$70,000 cut to the administration budget of Parks and Rec. Many children, as Mr. Roda pointed out, do use these

facilities. It is very important that they are maintained and that they are safe. It does provide, as he pointed out, a safe alternative for our students which I think we all agree is a good idea. I know from a family's point of view, we all use the facilities. It is the number two reason I moved to Westport. For a lot of people, it's the number one reason. It maintains our property values just as our excellent schools do. Parks and Rec. sounds like it is a self-funding entity essentially. They require, as Mr. Nayer pointed out, very little from the town and a \$70,000 cut is a ridiculous percentage compared to a cut to any other budget. Its way out of proportion with any other cut that the Board of Finance made if you look at the percentages. They've sustained cuts over the years. They've had to cut substantial amounts of their staff as you've heard in their reports. Enough is enough. If you start to let the maintenance and the safety go, it's very hard to bring that back. It's like with your house or the school buildings, it starts to chip away and deteriorate to the point where it costs a heck of a lot more money to put it back into good standing. I do hope that you will vote for the restoration.

George Franciscovich, 25 Burnham Hill:

I am the longest tenured member of the current Parks and Recreation Commission. I'd like to let you folks know what has been going on down not only at the department but, more importantly, the commission. We've all been to a lot of meetings over the last months talking about budgets. Let me assure you... One of the rationales for this was that the Board of Finance was trying to send a wake up call, try to send a message, let me tell you, the Parks and Recreation Commission, we got the message a long time ago. It's not business as usual at the Parks and Recreation Commission. It hasn't been business as usual for Stuart since we got involved with things. Can I go over some of the high points. I'm not going to repeat what has been said. Our revenue, in this economy, is up. Over the last three budget years, we have gone from \$4.3 million to \$4.6 million. We're still delivering most of the same services. You can't get into Compo Beach officially after 10 o'clock anymore which kind of annoys me on the weekends. I always liked to swing by there on my way home and I can't do that anymore although Gordon tells me, 'Just go in the exit.' I just don't feel right, as a commissioner, doing that. At the same time, our expenses are down approximately \$238,000. I'll tell you, a lot of that is because, as a commission, we have undertaken an examination of our fees, the fee structure, the discounts, what are we charging, does it make sense, rather than hit or miss... Well, this year let's look at beach stickers. Let's up the beach stickers. We have discounts that are associated with beach stickers. Maybe we'll look at that next year. People from Weston can have beach stickers. How much does that cost? We've really undertaken a total look at the package. We have told Stuart not to come to us with just one fee. We want to see the whole scope of things. It's just not business as usual. We uncovered fees that hadn't been raised in ten, 15 years. We really tried to get thing in order. We tried to get things more into an order where things made sense. We adjusted some of the golf things so we can drive more business to the golf course. We have opened up to some of the out of town event. You have to look at the scope and how much it has cost us. We have

doing things and using terms that I can't believe, as a commissioner, that I have had to use terms like "price elasticity". Our golf hand passes went up in the last couple of years from \$50 to \$90. That's just going in. We looked at that and guess what? The year after we did that, the number of hand passes that we sold went down. We have to be sensitive to that. Weekend parking at Compo, it's a great money maker. I know Bill loves it. We brought in a couple of hundred thousand dollars last year but we are up to \$40/weekend day. You know what Sherwood Island is which is just the opposite way off Exit 18, for a non-state resident, it's only \$22. For an in-state resident on the weekend at Sherwood Island, it's \$13. We think we know why they are coming over to us. We have much better facilities. It's a much nicer beach and you can drink alcohol on South Beach. We can change that. I don't think anybody really wants to. Every year, we go through, actually, a couple of times a year because we have both winter and summer programs, we look at each and every program we have out there. We look at what they're doing, what the revenues they are bringing in, how many participants are undertaking that. Sometimes, we adjust the fee. Sometimes, we adjust the structure. Some of the camp things we look at. People aren't staying for the summer so you split it into two sessions. We are really trying to serve the community and make financial sense and we have been doing this for years. You heard Ken Bernhard here. We are doing private fund raising. We have established the new Friends of Westport Parks and Rec. They are going to be raising money for the big projects like the halfway house and for park benches. Community gardens has expanded. Those members now need to come to us for hand passes. We've got the new 191 Hillspoint which was done with very little out of pocket money from the town. It was fund raising. It was also an effort where town departments actually got together. Stuart said he had some guys, Steve Edwards said he had some people and working together with the different people in the community. A couple of years ago, we had a park planner in the budget. We outsourced that. We did not hire an employee. We got some very good plans that we were able to put on the shelf and to use. Even though we outsourced it, that has disappeared from the budget. The park on Riverside was completely refurbished with very little expense to the town. You are trying to send a message. What I'm trying to tell you is, we got the message a long time ago. We have been implementing it. Please help us to keep the services that we're delivering to the town and our facilities up to par.

Cindy Palaia, Program Specialist, Parks and Rec. Department:

I am here tonight to ask for full restoration of the \$70,000 administrative budget to keep the two positions that we currently have in our offices. I began working for the Parks and Rec. Department 12 years ago in the program department, first as a part-time employee and then as a full-time position as our enrollment and programs grew. When we implemented our online services three years ago, some of the ways we do business changed. This, ironically, coincided with the recession and budget cuts. Positions such as mine were reconfigured and consolidated. Now I spend half of my time in the program department and half of my time in the sales office. Gone are the program registration days at Bedford

Middle School, waiting at 5 a.m. Gone are the stickers to your hand passes, the need for a form to fill out when you want to get a parking emblem. As you have heard many times in the last few weeks and months of budget talks, our online services are a convenience for our customers but have not changed our work load. We still have phones to answer to help our customers with the technical support of their online system, questions regarding their parking emblems and hand passes, when are the fire works, program registration questions and on and on it goes. Emblems are now printed and mailed in-house. New resident accounts need to be approved and customers that need to be waited on. As many people have said to me in the last few days as they have been in our office to get their beach emblems, 'This is my favorite thing to do. You know it's spring when you have to go to Parks and Recreation to get your beach pass.' We have fees and invoices to collect for our boat slips, bath house, non-resident beach emblems and keeping up with our program registration wait lists. In order to keep our level of service that the residents of Westport need and expect, we need to keep our existing employees. As Eileen Zhang said last night, we all wear many hats and do what needs to be done whether it be submitting payroll, answering the phone, printing receipts, filing a job application, waiting on customers, printing program rosters, invoicing boat slips, it all has to be done. In order for it to get done, we need to keep our existing employees. We are a service-based department and to cut this money from our budget will greatly impact our department and the services that we offer. Please consider restoring this money to our budget.

Janis Collins, 41 Compo Parkway:

I spoke last night. I'm not going to take a long time. I just wanted to mention that somebody brought up Glastonbury as an example of a town that has actually saved incredible amounts by an online registration system. Being the analysis person that I am, I called them today along with Stuart who called the Director of Parks and Recreation for Glastonbury. We learned some interesting things. Yes, they do have an online registration system and they have had the same savings that we've had. They have gone from one full-time to a part-time person. We eliminated our part-time person last year along with about \$1,800 in supplies. They have yet to put on their online passes, like we have with our beach emblems, etc. They haven't gone that far, so far. The best part of the story is that I got to talk to the Director of Finance, Diane Waldron, who told me that they actually implemented two years ago a special fund for Parks and Recreation which is what we asked for from the Board of Finance last year and then this year where all of our revenues would go into this special fund that then would go back to Parks and Rec. services that those fees were generated for. They have created this for two years. It is called the Special Parks and Recreation fund. All those services that are self-sustaining, the revenue for that service goes into that fund and then gets reinvested and pays for the actual services. What I've found is that it is only about 30 percent of their Parks and Rec. budget. The town tax subsidy was the remaining amount. In our town, our fees are actually paying 98 percent of our Parks and Rec. budget. Two percent is from our taxes. We are

asking you to restore the \$70,000. We want to continue on our way of doing the creative things that we are doing in terms of looking at outsourcing and looking at creating private and public partnerships with organizations like the Friends and we'd like to create this special fund where our revenues that we get can go back and pay for the services that we render. So, if we have to charge an endowment for an athletic fee field use, the money from that could go back into the renovation of that field. Thank you for your patience and letting me talk again.

Members of the RTM

Mr. Meyer:

Now you see why I'm so excited being Chairman of the RTM Parks and Rec. Committee. Eleven people were up here and spoke. That is the most anybody spoke for restoration of any of the four different things that we had. Everyone is enthusiastic, they are different ages and different parts. Something that I am so proud of being Chairman of Parks and Rec., a few years ago, I called the directors of Parks and Rec. in towns around here and the average is 40-60 percent is paid for by taxes. We are two percent. If this was a business, you'd get a big bonus. That's a tremendous accomplishment. I go to the beach during the summer and I wear the shirt that says Parks and Rec. on it. We take in \$670,000 at the beach from out of town people. It is \$40 on the weekend, \$20 during the week. We've got 1,000 people in Weston who pay for stickers, \$1,200. That helps our taxes. People come here because it's clean. They are not concerned. I found last summer, I had to clean the women's bathrooms out a couple of times because we had cut back on four different maintenance people. Last night, I was so proud of the little boy who spoke. He is on Patch today. Yesterday, I took him to school. I'm his grandfather, 82. He has no father. He sat in the car and said he was going to speak. He came last night and you heard him. He hugged me. Every time I see him I hug him and say, 'I love you. That was a great talk you gave.' Then something else that really bothered me. I am so proud of the RTM. Steve and I have been here the longest. I heard comments last night that I don't want to overturn the Board of Finance. What are we here for? We are the last vote. People depend on us. Here is just \$70,000 we are hoping to restore. We are revenue producing department. Only two percent is paid for. We are the second biggest thing that draws people here next to the schools. I'm just so proud to be part of this. Let's do it. Last year we restored \$200,000. We have only done \$40,000 now. Let's catch up to last year.

Amy Ancel, district 3:

I want to say that the Parks and Rec. does a terrific job in everything that they do. I admire the work that they do. The other thing that I want to make clear is that this cut does not impact programming, parks and facilities maintenance, golf, all of those. The budget on those was actually increased this year from last year so in terms of having clean safe playing fields for the kids, that's now what this issue is about. What this issue is about is the Board of Finance has asked the Parks and Rec. Department to lower their overhead as all of the other town departments have over the past few years. What I don't understand and the big

problem that I have with this whole issue is that Parks and Rec. has had online enrollment services for three years and we have just heard this woman say that while this has been great for the customers and the public it has not changed their work load. My question is, why not? What's wrong with this picture because it should have. Maybe Parks and Rec. needs to get the hardest working person in Town Hall, Eileen Zhang to take a look at their system. I don't understand why it hasn't changed their workload when I would imagine that the majority of Westporters buy their beach emblems and their passes and all of that online now. It's common knowledge that efficiencies through technology allow you to reduce your overhead and your administrative costs. That's just the way that it works. The fact that it's not working that way at Parks and Rec. is really problematic for me. I have been in the customer service business all of my working life. I know that there are people who are always going to complain that a program is full and Johnny can't get into it because they didn't register him in time. Questions about programming or scheduling that is all in the booklet but people don't take time to read. We cannot be all things to all people. We just can't. The other statement that was made twice last night which really disturbed me was that supervisors shouldn't have to answer the phone. I don't believe that. I was a supervisor and a manager for a major health insurance company and when the phones were ringing, everybody answered the phones. I understand that Parks and Rec. has a specific crunch time. It's sort of like open enrollment in the insurance business where there is an onslaught of customers that you have to take care of. Overall, because I have these questions and this problem with why the online system which costs the taxpayer a lot of money has not managed to reduce their administrative costs, I can't support the restoration.

Mr. Klinge:

As I drove down the Post Road coming here tonight, I made a heck of a speech in my car. It was brilliant...fire and brimstone. I've forgotten half of it now anyway but I have a sense, a little of what Don O'Day had, that maybe this is going to be a different kind of audience from last night but nevertheless, I have to say a few things. I think we made some mistakes last evening. It is going to come back in the future to bite us. I think we sacrificed some common sense, some pragmatic good management techniques on the altar of philosophical musings, shots across bows and the dreaded demand for consolidation, all of which is going to lead to reduced services for Westporters; whether it is financial services, IT services. Eileen said she is going to lose a person or part of a person despite a partial restoration. There's a perfect example of a department who does more than they can do for any department in this town to save money and, yet, we fired a shot across their bow. No. We fired the great threat of consolidation across the bow of the Finance Department. We took a department with seven managers and made it six. Then we added an eighth job assignment, Personnel. We went from seven jobs to eight and seven managers to six. That was our consolidation threat, demand. As a kind of an aside, back in my work days, if we were going to consolidate something, we didn't eliminate half of the group and say to the other half, now go do both. We, in fact, ran a plan of the new

consolidation concept and ran two parallel plans independently that were already in place until we were sure the consolidation plan worked. That's how professionals manage consolidation not by fear and threats. Anyway, that's a long way of saying, I don't want to give up the services that Parks and Rec. provides to Westporters. This is a \$5 million business. Westporters pay \$5 million to join this club. If you think that 6,000 of us join it, that's like \$800 each we pay to join this club. For \$800, I want a person to answer my questions. I want a housewife who drives down to Parks and Rec. with two kids, worried about programs, worried about this or that, I want them talking to a real person. I don't want them coming in on Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock and someone says, 'I'm sorry, our customer service department is opened from 9-12, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Come Friday, you'll get Dan DeVito to talk to you. Come Wednesday, you might get Dan Rackliffe, the golf superintendent to talk to you. Come Monday, you get Stu McCarthy. That's not the way to run a department. Those people should be out managing their people, getting the job done. That's the proper way to provide service. So we are asking tonight for restoration of \$70,000. That's \$7/year for our taxpayers, less than two gallons of gas per taxpayer. Think about it. I don't want my customers talking to a computer in Mumbai when they've got a problem in Parks and Rec. I want a Parks and Rec. employee answering the question. It's that simple. I am willing to pay a gallon and a half of gas to get it done properly. So, I am going to vote to support the restoration of the full \$70,000.

Mr. Lowenstein:

As I did last night, I will do again tonight, I will vote to support every request for restoration. I think these cuts have been close to intolerable. This is a story of somebody getting efficiencies through technology and they squeeze. The next year, they squeeze again. How much squeezing do we do before you can't squeeze any more? We have had technology in the Parks and Rec. Department for approximately three years. While we've talked about what will happen next year, I'd like to hear from Ms. Collins on what happened when technology was first introduced in terms of the efficiencies.

Ms. Collins:

I am going to try to explain a couple of things. Just a little bit about my background: I spent 25 years doing technology strategy and implementation. Most recently, I was a Managing Director of JP Morgan. Eight years ago, I retired. I ran the business incubation lab for them which was using technology to create new e-finance companies. Prior to that, I was a partner at KPMG. I ran the capital markets technology practice. My expertise is in using technology to create innovation and productivity. So, I do consider myself an expert in this area. I didn't do the implementation here but I would tell you, from a budget standpoint, what we did resulted in an efficiency for our online registration system for programs. There's really two things that we do online. There are programs which are for the kids and some adult clinics and there is the beach pass and hand pass registration. They are two different work processes. Program

registration is where we have already received the productivity and it's in this year's budget. That was the elimination of a part-time \$28,000 employee along with \$1,800 in supplies. What we haven't really changed though is on the online beach pass, emblem process which is, again, a productivity tool for you and I to do online but at the back end, we still have to do that manual process of checking stuff out, getting stuff in the mail, etc. With programs, we are not mailing things. It's not the same kind of transaction. So, productivity savings have been in the program registration but not, necessarily, in the beach pass, hand pass processing. Stuart, nod your head. Did I get it all? [Yes.] That's where we are. We already realized that savings. It's in the budget. We cut it last year and it's being cut so, we're there. We will continue to change the way we do our transaction processing and to streamline it so that it keeps getting more streamlined as we go along. As more people go online to buy their passes, the better it is for us because we can manage the workflow in a more timely manner instead of doing it one on one and having to turn around that emblem or that pass at that point in time. I want to add one other thing about the supervisors. The only other thing about the supervisors is that we only have one and a half administrative people for eight supervisors. We have 25 full-time people and 500 seasonal part-time employees. When I talked about Glastonbury earlier, they have three full-time admin people in their office. So, we are already at a minimum.

Matthew Mandell, district 1:

I'm a person who likes to go down to the Parks and Rec. office and get my hand pass and beach sticker. I happen to like the personal interaction. I am not a person who likes Kindles either but they're coming. Books are changing too and we seem to have to be changing. Parks and Rec. has a sympathetic ear in me for customer service. I think it's important for our residents and even our outside residents to be able to go and ask questions and have them answered. But I think the Parks and Rec. people also know, I'm a person of process. I'm a person who likes things to be done efficiently. A big question I have to ask is about a memo that was sent to the First Selectman by Mr. McCarthy that said that Parks and Rec. was not going to ask for restoration. They were going to study some more in June and then come back to the Board of Finance and bring the report back to the them and, at that point, a decision would be made as to whether or not we need to restore the money or we don't. I don't know if all of you saw it but Ms. Garten brought a part of it up. It said here:

Parks and Recreation: The suggestion is not to seek restoration at this time but would ask the Board of Finance to allow the option of returning in June with a potential appropriation request based on this reduction. In addition, allowing adequate time to provide greater detail on our administrative options, a delay to June will allow us another full season of assessing the impact of our online pass management software. This is the third year...

Mr. McCarthy, the process question has to be asked here because this is something the Board of Finance has in front of them. That information would be helpful to us to make a decision, as well, tonight.

Stuart McCarthy, Director, Parks and Rec. Department:

To be clear, the Parks and Recreation Department, after last year's very difficult budget cycle, along with the commission undertook discussions with the Board of Finance last fall on, specifically, the Parks and Recreation Department's budget and how the Board of Finance viewed the revenues derived from the Parks and Recreation Department in relation to our request for an increased budget.

Specifically, we used some examples of our program budget, the desire to have program enhancements and to increase fees to cover those increased costs. We met on a agenda item workshop session with the Board of Finance in this room in November of last year. We presented quite a bit of detailed information for the Board of Finance. At that meeting, we had, what I would consider, a very productive discussion. I think I speak for Ms. Collins when I say that, as well. We further had a workshop session with the Board of Finance in February where we again answered all the questions. We discussed the revenue that was in the budget. We discussed the ability of the Parks and Recreation Commission to continue to raise revenue. We then met with the Board of Finance in the budget hearings and they made a reduction of \$70,000 in the administrative budget which is what we're discussing here this evening. I classify that as being an arbitrary number since it does not relate to any specific number in the administration budget. It was very specifically targeted to the administration budget. It was not as, in past years, where the instruction was, 'We're going to cut this money but if you can take it from somewhere else, come back for transfers.' It was very clearly laid out that we were to cut administrative salaries which is our full-time staff. So, that meeting took place on March 23. The budget restoration hearing was on April 5 just less than two weeks later. Given the fact that we had had three substantial conversations with the Board of Finance, that I did not have any additional information to justify a restoration request before the Board of Finance. They had heard all of this before. They had chosen not to engage us in a discussion of the revenue potential and instead asked for a budget reduction. I did seek restoration at that time. I should note that I was then contacted by Mr. Meyer, the Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee of the RTM, who asked me about restoration. I told him we were not requesting restoration before the Board of Finance. He asked me to outline, for his committee, the impact of the reductions in the budget which I did. You have a copy of that memo to his committee in the packet. It did not request restoration. It outlined the impact of the budget reductions on the Parks and Recreation Department, specifically, the reduction of two regular employees of the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Meyer's committee discussed that. I joined them for a discussion of that impact. They voted unanimously to restore the funds. I reported back to Mr. Joseloff and he asked for a restoration of the funds to the RTM based on the RTM Parks and Recreation Committee's recommendation. I fully support this restoration request. I can tell you, the more we look at these

issues, the more it is clear to me that this is critical to the Town of Westport in providing the services that the residents deserve and expect from the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Rubin is here this evening as you know. His is one of the positions that is being considered for elimination. I don't think that's any secret. Mr. Rubin was out of the office for a week with an illness last week and I can tell you that our staff, including the young lady who spoke earlier and her co-workers, worked their tails off. Our administrative supervisor was in the office almost every evening until six or seven o'clock because they weren't able to do any of the supervisory work during the day and stayed to do it late. I fully anticipate that you might say, 'That's fine. People work long hours and people work late.' That is absolutely correct because when someone is out, everyone else gets together and picks up the slack and gets the job done. My staff did that and I am very proud of the work they did last week. It is peak season and we were down people but I also don't anticipate that people will do that 365 days a year. I anticipate that 365 days a year they will work hard and on those days when something goes wrong, they will work even harder. We need to be properly staffed to address the concerns of the residents. We have people in our office who are able to address the concerns. They are able to answer the questions. They are able to assist the residents whether they are asking about Parks and Recreation issues, Public Works issues, Police issues. People call the Parks and Rec. Department and ask what the weather is going to be tomorrow. We can answer those questions and we take great pride in answering those questions but we have to have the staff to be able to do that.

Mr. Mandell:

Thanks for the summary. The question still remains about this study, finding out where we are at. Is this something that can be delivered in June? Is it something that, if we get it, we can make a determination by then? Or is it something that we work to next year because, clearly, we need to be looking at what kind of efficiencies can be coming from the computerization. That's sort of the way it works. That's sort of the rub. I understand we are under a tight time constraint but tell us about the study you are doing and when this information will come forward for us to make a rational decision moving forward.

Mr. McCarthy:

I'm just looking at the memo. Is there reference to a study being done there?

Mr. Mandell: An assessment.

Mr. McCarthy:

The report that we gave to Mr. Meyer's committee was related to what the impact that these budget reductions would be on our department. The ongoing assessment of our work flow is exactly that, ongoing. What I referenced was the fact that each season we go through, we learn a little bit more. What we have learned to date, as Ms. Collins stated, our program registration is fairly significant online. That has had some impact, particularly in our fall registration

period. Ms. Garten noted in the slide yesterday that Glastonbury had 89 percent of their program registration online. Our program registration online is just north of 80 percent. It is certainly similar. She also noted that Glastonbury doesn't have any pass management. They don't do any pass management in their Parks and Recreation office. They don't do any pass management online. They do have some pass management that they do at the swimming pool or whatever it is that they have. The fact of the matter is they don't have the pass management issues that we have. One of the differences in our business from almost any other business, if anyone else has an online business and you have something to sell and someone wants to buy it, you sell it to them. There's no question. We don't operate that way. Before I can sell it to you, I need to know who you are, where you live. I need to verify that information. I need to know what type of vehicle you drive, etc. There is verification of every item. You can't go into our system and say, 'I need to add my 13 year old child to my account.' You need to call our office and do that because the Town of Westport requires every person who is purchasing resident benefits to be verified as a resident of the Town of Westport. That is the current standard that we go by. Those are the policies of the Parks and Recreation Department and the Town of Westport. It leads to some inefficiencies and it doesn't allow us to take full advantage of online registration. It does require that staff. The long answer to your question is we assess our staffing levels all the time. It's an ongoing assessment but there is also, as Janis said, we reduced our part-time staff by \$28,000. The reason we did the part-time staff instead of the full-time staff, again, in this case, is because there is some expertise that is needed in operating this system. It is not operated by a company in California. They provide the platform for us. We operate the system. We need to have the consistency and that quality in our staff. Ms. Palaia, who spoke earlier, was hired as a program specialist, was brought in to provide some expertise and support in that area and has stayed in that area. She is probably spending half her time supporting that system because she is able to both operate the technology as well as bring the program specialist knowledge to that operation. She is the one who sets the class sizes, sets up the parameters of the program for the program registration so the technology can serve us properly.

Mr. Mandell:

Just to let you know the Parks and Recreation section of our town is not the only department that makes money. The Building Department, P&Z, and Conservation combined together pay for themselves, as well.

Judy Starr, district 1:

I think we've pretty much established that the cuts would not be to program. Last night, Ms. Garten talked about how the Board of Finance actually recommended adding to programmatic lines including golf, skating, beach maintenance, mowing and programs, such as the Wrecking Crew, so that the programs available to the people of this town would not be suffering. So, we have pretty much established that. I would like to see the results of this study. If we restore the money, what motivation do we have for any department to look even more carefully at what it's

doing with its operations. Last night, we spent a lot of time talking about IT and how it can create greater efficiencies. Here, we have a memo dated April 5 where Mr. McCarthy said to Mr. Joseloff said he wouldn't seek restoration. He will do this study. The season ends May 1. By June 1, he will have an evaluation of how the online abilities that we have can affect our operations. Board of Finance meets early in June. He could have it for the Board of Finance. If it didn't make any difference, they could restore the money. I think there was pretty much an understanding. We saw this happen with the Transit District where about \$100,000 was cut and the Transit District came back and said they could they could cut \$40,000. They made a case and the Board of Finance restored \$60,000. They don't want to see departments suffer but I think what we're seeing is that the Board of Finance wants to give incentive to the departments to be as efficient as they can because one other player we're not thinking about here is the public as taxpayers. Even if the savings are small this year, we know we're not talking about a tremendous amount of money in dollars or percentage or whatever, we're talking about the opportunity to change the way we look at things and turn around a little bit the way we operate and move toward consolidation and outsourcing wherever we can. If we don't begin to do it now when the cost in dollars is not as high as it might be in other times, when are we going to do it? At some point we have to move further in that direction. I know it hurts. I want to talk about two things where I'm really uncomfortable. I want to also say that A, I'm going to stand by my comments of last night. Please consider them repeated. That's all I'm going to say. B, I think an RTM Committee has a right to ask for information from the department it works with but, on the other hand, I don't like seeing what's happened here where because that has happened, and I'm not saying it shouldn't have happened, suddenly, instead of a restoration request going to the Board of Finance, it's coming first to us. It's sort of that we are getting in the middle of an established process again. Some of you may not mind that. You may want to look at the individual lines, which I'm looking at with you but the overall picture has factors such as what's going on with the overall process that I think we should pay attention to. I think we, as a board that works with other boards, just like departments work with other departments, need to look at how we are working with other boards. We were subject to some criticism, about this unjustly with a land use body. But here, I think we should at least admit to ourselves that there's something going on. Secondly, I feel extremely uncomfortable now. I had suspected that one of us, his job would be on the line. Now I'm thinking I feel bad for this person. I know him and I work with him. On the other hand, I'm thinking my constituents can come to me and say you're protecting one of your own, aren't you? I'm between a rock and a hard place. Thank you very much. But, it's come to us tonight, nonetheless. We have to deal with this as best as we can with eyes wide open, with an eye to what our proper role in the bigger picture, the taxpayer who put us here in the first place and what we, in our hearts and with our integrity, think is the right thing to do. Having weighed all this, and I really do feel terrible, I'm going to vote against this because I really think it's the right thing to do. I respect everyone who disagrees with me but I think I've made my case. I hope you will agree with me.

John McCarthy, district 9:

I'm not sure what I am going to do here. I am extremely conflicted. Parks and Rec. is a great department. They do good work, the programs that they run, the facilities that they run. They're fantastic. I have benefited since I was a little kid. My kids benefit from them today. I think it's something that we're all very proud of. I'm also hearing some things tonight about our proper role here in the RTM. This budget, the way we do budgets in this town is very frustrating. We're basically told, we need to go in and vote on the budget. When we say, 'You should cut the budget', they say, 'Where would you cut?' Then we say, 'How about here?' 'Oh, no, no, you can't cut there because of this.' 'Well, how about over here?' 'No. You can't do that. We need more information.' Wait a second. You're micromanaging. It's frustrating. This is the way bureaucracies perpetuate themselves. Last night, we heard about a few different departments who had people on their staff for years doing their IT support. When those people retired, they said, 'Maybe we'll have Eileen do IT support for us.' Two, three, four, five, six years ago, why wasn't the right answer to have Eileen in the IT Department to do the support? Why did it come upon somebody retiring for the right, most efficient answer to be the IT Department should handle all IT in the town. Why is that? That's the way bureaucracies work. That's what we're dealing with here. It's frustrating. You don't want to micromanage. When I drive, I look out my windshield. I look to my left and I look to my right. On my left, I see my beach sticker. On my right, I see my railroad sticker. Twice a year, I have to prove to the Town of Westport that A, I live here and B, my car is registered here. Once I do those things twice a year, I can get something for the left side of my windshield and the right side of my windshield. Can I prove to the Town of Westport once a year that I live here and that my car is registered here and that I'm paying property taxes on it? I'd like to do that. I think most people in this town would like to be able to do that. I would like to see not just consolidation between the Board of Education and the town, I would like to see consolidation inside the town and then we can start worrying about consolidating between the town and the Board of Education. Pretty simple. For those of us in business, there are lots of different things that we know we should be doing if we looked at the town as an organization. So I'm conflicted. Parks and Rec. does a great job. Yet I also think there is a lot of opportunity for the town to consolidate its operations. I'd like to see established a customer service center in which citizens of Westport can come to this building get any number of services, any number of permits, any number of licenses from a single counter talking to a single person. It should not be that difficult. It should not be something that takes a lot of studying. Quite frankly, when people say let's study that, let's research that, that's usually the way of saying, let me figure out how I can get my cut of the pie so my department doesn't suffer. So, quite frankly, I'm not really interested in studying this for too long. I'd love to see the First Selectman get his department heads together and say, okay, who in the town government, who in this building, who in the Police Department, who in Park and Rec., who among you deal with the public. How do we get what you do into a single department within this building? How do we

make that happen? Oh, you're going to need \$150,000 for some capital to possibly build out another office and divide the offices? Fine. Let's talk about that. Let's go back to the Board of Finance and the RTM and ask for an appropriation. Guess what? If there's a sensible case made, I'm pretty sure we'll all do the right thing. Until we get to the point where pressure is applied, I don't think we're going to see the type of consolidation that we all know should happen. If we sat down and looked at it, we would say this is the right thing to do, the sensible thing to do. This is what the Town of Westport and the people of Westport expect of us.

Mr. Rose:

Before anyone else comes up, I would just like to make a suggestion. We discussed the general budget for weeks and months now. We discussed philosophies. When we are dealing with specific requests for an appropriation or restoration, if we can try and confine ourselves to what we're voting on, as opposed to expressing our overall general philosophies about budgets, I think that would be helpful and probably get us out this evening.

Joyce Colburn, district 6:

There is so much to respond to. I'm really surprised that our RTM does not recognize that... let me start this way. When we had our questionnaire put out for the new Town Plan of Conservation and Development, one of the largest, the biggest thing that people cared about was our recreational facilities. I was at Longshore years ago and I thought it was so nice and pretty here, I decided to move here. It wasn't about the schools then. It was about the beautiful town that we have, the beaches and Longshore. Longshore, you don't have to join a country club. I didn't have that kind of money. I think it's essential that Parks and Rec. be given, let me ask, how much money has been taken away from Parks and Rec. from the past three years? Who can answer that? Stu? This is a department that makes money.

Mr. McCarthy:

If this restoration is not sustained, I believe that number is \$220,000 which is approximately five percent of the budget. The full-time work force will have been reduced from 30 to 23 people which is a 23 percent reduction in full-time staff.

Ms. Colburn:

We just voted on a \$112 million budget. I know maybe it's not apples and oranges but, nonetheless, we didn't quibble about anything on that budget. They got what they needed to operate in an efficient, organized way for our students. I feel that the town, we don't have a constituency for the Parks and Rec. People just accept it. Oh, it's always going to be there. Our beaches are always going to be nice. Longshore is always going to be nice. Our grass is going to be mowed. Our programs will continue. I just think that we should support this tonight. I'm going to support it. I hope that you do.

Ms. Schine:

I think it's important to remember that the Board of Finance said that this money should specifically be taken out of the administrative line of the Parks and Rec. budget. I think if they had said it differently, had they said you have to save some money somewhere or you have to increase the revenue somehow, that maybe Parks and Rec. could have reacted to that. I am going to support the restoration of this money. It will make no difference to our taxes and will enable Parks and Rec. to provide the kind of service that we all want.

Liz Milwe, district 1:

I don't know how many of you have purchased something online lately but every time I go to purchase something on line, I get so excited. I put my billing address down and then I get to submit and something goes wrong. Then I look for the phone number to call someone and I can't find a phone number. Here we live in a town where the first thing a real estate agent does after they show you the house is they take you to Longshore. They tell you all about the programs. I think we need to have someone answer the phone to talk to us when we sign up for a program. If you are signing up for a tennis class and it's intermediate for your kid, you think, is he intermediate or is he advanced? So then you call and you ask. You need somebody on the other end to tell you about it. Or if it's the golf course for one of your kids. Which one is appropriate? That's what makes Parks and Rec. so special, that we have somebody at the other end who can answer those questions. I think our parks are what make our town. We have great staff there. It will make very little difference in our taxes if we pass this tonight but it will make a difference in the quality for our town.

Mike Rea, district 8:

Don't forget about Gene's provocation. I agree with everyone who spoke previous to this. I have both feet firmly in the air on this issue. As you all know, I spent a lot of years on the side of soccer fields and baseball fields and on the Parks and Rec. Commission. One of the great things that has happened during this conversation that we have had during the budget season, is that I have gotten to connect with members of the Parks and Rec. Commission. They are talented and committed and I have every confidence that they will follow through with everything that they have been talking about. One of our conversations, the Director of the Parks and Rec. Department spent a lot of time talking about this online process. We got all hung up but Hadley is cautioning us to stay on the issue. I'm going to try to stay on the issue about the computerization. One of the sidebar conversations I had with the commission chairman was, 'I understand about the authentication.' John McCarthy understands. He's trying to look at why he has to go two times a year. Because we have these kinds of conversations. Why don't we just sell a permit like motor vehicle and get it renewed every two years? Maybe three or four? You might not be able to do that with the summer residents that come in and go away but just think of the cut down on the workload. It's those kind of things that you talk about productivity and efficiency. Let's factor that in. This is a particularly difficult decision for me because it

touches me personally. I've heard over and over again that this cut is a couple of positions. Those positions have faces. I have history. I have feelings. It is something, as Liz was talking about earlier, I have said in committee meetings, my wife is a residential broker. The first thing she does after she sells a house, she brings people down to the Parks and Rec. Commission. Who do they greet? The person they greet down there is probably the only face in town government that they'll run into for many, many years in the Town of Westport. It's our face of Westport. It leaves an impression and it's important. It's for that reason, I think, the way it is being interpreted is probably ill-suited to our goals. I don't see it as a cut that needs to be done on our front line services. I've said that before but then I'm conflicted with the fact that there are productivity issues and there are savings. When I read Stuart's book that he forwarded to the Finance Committee, a lot of it was talking about, if you cut me in the back office, I need to bring the front office to the back office and the back office to the front office. All of a sudden, we wound up with duplication of services. Isn't there anyone else who can cut payroll checks and do payroll and do centralized purchasing? If the town took the initiative and it filtered down to this decentralized system, wouldn't that free up people and budget and money so that we can keep the front line service? Why is there so much resistance to trying to do that? As difficult as it is, I'm going to vote against the restoration. I'm going to do it because I believe we made a pact, a mandate. I've said this before. I don't think the cuts that were proposed this year reflect the seriousness of the economic situation we're in but the hand that we are dealt, as I said last night, is one where we are expecting both parties to anti up and make their fair share effort of consolidating and outsourcing and making some hard decisions. We need to do it as a town. We need to do it in Parks and Rec. There's room. I have a question for Ms. Garten if she'd be good enough to answer it. Should our conversation occur prior to June whatever the date is, should the Parks and Rec. Director come with an assessment that shows that there could be other savings or some savings, will the Board of Finance continue this conversation? Will we be able to save these positions yet tonight still vote to restore to keep the feet to the fire because there seems to be a resistance in town government, whether it is on one side or the other, to confront these issues and I understand what you've done so I want to know how do you feel about the process and how do you feel about the assessment that is to be given by June 30?

Helen Garten, Board of Finance:

Obviously, I cannot predict exactly what the Board of Finance is going to do but when we make cuts, sort of to cite what John McCarthy said before, we're always asked, 'Specifically, what are you talking about? Where are the savings?' So, I suggested the online technology system as the source of the savings. That was what I said. I don't even know, necessarily, if every other board member agreed that was specifically the area. Obviously, we are always open to the conversation. I assumed, after reading the memo, that Mr. McCarthy was coming back to us in June with an assessment of the online system. Obviously, it would go on the agenda and we would discuss it. If the Parks and Rec. Department

came back to us and said 'We've looked at it and there are absolutely no savings from the online system or what savings we have, we'd like to redeploy those people. Maybe they are no longer servicing people online, they are in the back office doing something.' Then we might well say, 'No savings, fine, we'll restore the full amount of money.' I realize we put Stuart on the spot a little bit in our meeting. He didn't have all the information at his finger tips. If, on the other hand he said there were savings but savings in another area, absolutely, we would consider that. We did that last year. He did come back to us and said, 'I would like to take the cuts in other areas.' Many departments said the same thing. Because we are in this difficult position. We are asked, if we just simply make a cut and say, 'Okay guys, figure it out. We think there ought to be 10 percent cut in administration. You figure out why.' Then essentially, we have made an arbitrary cut. I kind of agree with that. We just come up with a number. On the other hand, if we say, 'We think there are savings in this way...' We are not the experts. We don't know for sure. If we make a suggestion like that, we are beginning a conversation and, absolutely, people can come back to us. In this case, simply, we would like to see if there are any savings from the online pass sales system. Maybe there are. Maybe there are not. We don't really know. Absolutely, we want the conversation to continue. If I can just add, in terms of the meeting last November, I thought it was a productive meeting because it was explained to us that if you put more money in programs, you can make more money and you can also serve the citizens better. We, indeed, try to do this in this budget by increasing many, many lines: the boating line, the golfing line, the programs line, etc. But, we just simply were asking, 'If, indeed, you can devote more fee money, if you can have any savings in overhead, then there's more of the town money and more of the fee money is going to the programs people want. We were simply asking a question and hoping to start a dialog. This has been an unusual year budget-wise. Frankly, everything we did was not final in the sense that all of it was try it, come back to us, we'll make adjustments if it doesn't work. That's essentially the offer we were making, not just to Parks and Rec. but to every single one of the departments. I hope that answered in a round about way.

Arthur Ashman, district 7:

I am confused because the process supposedly says...We spent a lot of time debating things that should have been brought back to the Board of Finance. Somehow, the process has been reversed and they have come here first and we're debating things that, perhaps, could have been settled another way. Helen, could you explain why that has happened?

Ms. Garten:

I am not the one who can explain what has happened because I put on the agenda the restoration request that came to us that was the Transit District. I agree with you. It's not that the RTM shouldn't be part of the conversation. It is. Frankly, different things emerge in different bodies. Sometimes, issues come up that we talk about. Sometimes, issues come up out of the RTM like John

McCarthy's wonderful idea I talked about last night which is something I'd love the Board of Finance to talk about. I think it's good to have the two steps because I think you have a better conversation and reach better results that way. He [Dr. Ashman] said, 'Which steps come first?' Ordinarily, in my experience, restoration requests are brought first the Board of Finance. We then make our final recommendation and then it comes to you for the budget decision.

Dr. Ashman:

The question I've raised is a broader one. Why has the process happened this way? I don't think I've gotten an answer. It should have gone back to the Board of Finance first unless I've missed something.

Point of information, Dr. Heller:

I would like to ask the Moderator, is there any specific sequence that must be followed? He asked what is the reason?

Mr. Rose:

There is not defined process for that. Typically, it has gone to the Board of Finance; however, there is no prohibition about that being skipped and coming directly to us. There can be various reasons that it happens but there is no charter-defined process that it must go A, B, C, D. It doesn't exist.

Dr. Ashman:

I'm not trying to be critical of the process. I'm trying to understand it. Helen said we get idea in the RTM and that's fine. She has their ideas in the Board of Finance. It's just a question of what do we do and how should we do it? A lot of the items we are discussing now could have been taken up at the Board of Finance first and then we should have our comments and vote on it, not debate it and get philosophical and that's what we're doing.

Mr. Rose: I understand that.

Dr. Heller:

I just wanted to mention that this particular budget session has been very complicated for a variety of reasons. We are in a tough time. You need to know that this is clearly not the first time that restoration has come up without going to the Board of Finance. I remember in Health and Human Services Committee a few years ago, those of you who were on the committee with me may recall, that in the Health and Human Service Committee, there was very strong feeling that they were sorely in need of more funding than they had. It came directly from that committee that there should be restoration. It was not even asked for at that point. It was recommended that the First Selectman, who was a different First Selectman, ask for that restoration. This is not entirely without precedent that something like this has been done. I think it's important to recognize that. There is no one way to skin a cat here. There are many productive routes to getting what is best for the town. That's what we're all interested in. It's not a matter of

looking for a rigid way of operating. I think it's important for us not to arbitrarily think there is only one correct process. There are probably a number of processes that can serve us well. One of the things that I feel is that a lot of what's happening is that people, in an effort to do the right thing, to try to save money because they feel that's the right thing to do, are kind of restructuring, trying to restructure offices in the middle of the budget process. I think anyone who knows anything about management, who has ever been in the management field, know that this is not the way it goes. I just don't feel that you get to the best outcome by looking at things on the spot and trying to make what should be an integrated, systematic look at things and just taking a poke at this account and that account and saying do something about it and now consolidate. I think consolidation is a great idea. I think building in efficiencies is absolutely a very important thing to do but it takes time and you don't do it well overnight. We are talking about accounts that are about services for the Town of Westport. No matter how much good technology can do for us, no matter how much it can improve certain aspects of productivity or timeliness, it doesn't take the place of people who know about the program educating people who want to know more about the program. Westport is a small town, known for the kind of personalization that we give. I think it's a mistake to just abandon that as an important element. We have to look to that as one of the things that we hold dear. I think, unfortunately, the cuts we have been talking about, this particular cut, does not really accomplish the purpose of trying to build up for OPEB or whatever else it is. It's not getting us there. It is a very small amount of money in the overall process. Let us not lose what there is that is important to our town. This \$70,000 may be, in the long run, they may find ways to save that money. To take it away, at this point, without having the opportunity to look at what are the best ways to reorganize themselves, I don't think it's a smart way to go. I will support the restoration.

Ms. Flug:

I have been on the RTM Parks and Recreation Committee for five and a half years. When I first started covering the Parks and Rec. Commission, the tax subsidy for Parks and Rec. was somewhere between 15 and 20 percent. Now it's like two percent. This is a department that has been cut year after year. A major change that has occurred, since I have been covering Parks and Rec., there have been three different chair people on the Parks and Rec. Commission. They have all been wonderful in their own way but with Janis Collins as Chair, it has been revitalized to an extent that I have never seen. She has a background in consulting and finance that the town would be paying a fortune for if this weren't a volunteer position. She meets regularly with Stu McCarthy. She looks deeply into the details. She spends a huge amount of time looking at the budget and looking at how the department is run. We can all rest assured that there is a lot that is being done and will, as a result of this, Parks and Rec. Commission under the chairmanship of Janis Collins. At this point, the tax subsidy for Parks and Rec. is \$163,000. The Board of Finance cut \$70,000 from the budget. That's a

huge percentage of the amount of taxes that are used to fund the Parks and Rec. Department. Mike Rea mentioned that we have to address the seriousness of the situation. The \$70,000 that is being cut here will not address the seriousness of the whole economic condition of the town. It's a small amount for the Town of Westport, huge amount for the Parks and Rec. Department. It will make a significant change to the functioning of the Parks and Rec. Department. The Parks and Rec. Department is the second largest revenue generator in the town. The largest is the tax department through property taxes. It raises like \$4.6 million and it covers virtually all of its expenses. This is an area where we want to incentivize the Parks and Rec. Department to increase revenues. The way to do that is to follow Janis' advice which is to allow the Parks and Rec. Department to use the revenues that it generates to apply to the expenses. That is a structural change that may happen over time. That's not for tonight to decide. I think the bottom line is we need to keep these positions. We need to keep the Parks and Rec. Department functioning. We can have hope that with this highly active Parks and Rec. Commission, we will be seeing structural changes that occur with time going on, people delving into the details and getting all that done. Please support the restoration of the \$70,000.

John Suggs, district 5:

I am intrigued by this issue that we're debating of what is the proper procedure. Should it come here? Should it go to the Board of Finance? I am specifically intrigued by the three briefings that Stuart gave during the course of this fiscal year to explain the fees and the programs and so forth. What I'm struck by is when the final decision came down and the department had the opportunity to ask for restoration, the response by the Director was he had nothing new to add. Stuart, if I'm ever in trouble, I hope to God, you would be one of the people by my side. You are an incredible advocate. You fight for your department. You fight for your people and you do an excellent job of it. I commend you for that. I'm wondering how we got to a place where he felt he had nothing new to communicate? I think that, if you are curious about that, then we might have some explanation tonight for why we're here. I see the RTM as a safety valve. I see us as the appeal, the representative of the people. Obviously, there was a need to appeal directly to us rather than go through the restoration process. That is valid. That is legitimate. I have no qualms with that. I'm going to vote tonight for the restoration. I think it's important. I think it's needed but I would be curious and I would ask for some serious thought to how do we get to the place where, after three briefings, we have an articulate, intelligent, clearly dedicated director of a department who said earlier tonight that he felt he had nothing new information to give. How did we get to that situation? Thank God we have the RTM for exactly these situations. Thank God we can actually be on the receiving end and can take matters in our own hands and decide for restoration. Again, I support the restoration but I really want to ask, challenge, call the question about an apparent failure to communicate.

Wendy Batteau, district 8:

To get back to the point, we are being asked to restore a rather small amount of money in the scheme of things. I think that Lois Schine probably put it the best. We are here to represent the people in our district and the people of the town. It is going to cost virtually nothing. It's going to provide services, as Liz Milwe pointed out, that everybody in town values that shouldn't be done without, costs nothing, provides excellent services. Let's just vote for it and move on.

Linda Bruce, district 2:

I'm voting for this restoration. I agree with many of Eileen Flug's comments. I also have a couple of points that I wanted to put on the record regarding the Board of Finance saying it is not an arbitrary cut. As pointed out earlier by Mr. McCarthy, it is \$70,000. It doesn't go to any particular thing. It's just \$70,000. In my opinion, it seems to be an arbitrary cut. We are hearing about programs that aren't suffering, clean and safe playing areas aren't suffering. What hit me at the Finance Committee meeting, as well as tonight, 500 seasonal workers. I'm thinking young adults. I'm thinking I raised two pretty decent young adults. I'm an administrator of my household. I'm in a supervisory position. They have jobs. They have job descriptions. They have chores but, guess what, I just had to keep on checking in on them and prodding them and saying 'take the trash out' or 'do the dishes' or 'walk the dog.' A lot of times when I wasn't prodding them or checking up on them or supervising, those things didn't get done. I'm just wondering as the administrators working down to keeping things going, I don't really want to take the risk what that might mean. It needs a little time to sort out what that means. Again, the Board of Finance, I do agree with Helen as far as changes needed and things to work forward with reorganization and consolidation. These are just chipping away. Many people have said that. We want to be courageous. We want to see something happen. Next year say no to the budget next year when it comes around. That puts us in the hot seat, right. Next May, you guys work together, do something. We won't pass the budget. Anyway, that's food for thought.

Mr. Seidman:

Last night was tough. Earlier tonight, we passed a \$98.1 million budget in about 12 minutes. Now we are talking about \$70,000 for a department that is a revenue generator. The math is very simple. We should get all on the same page and vote. I hope we call the question.

Mr. Rose:

Let me see if anyone else wants to speak. Can we let Mr. Meyer speak?

Mr. Meyer:

I'm proud of the RTM all the time and getting more proactive. The vote of the Board of Finance was 4-3, a split decision. It's a money maker. Let's go with it.

Mr. Rose:

That was quicker than voting on calling the question. We have 33 voting members. It requires 24 people to pass.

Point of information, Mr. Lowenstein: How many members are present?

Mr. Rose:

There are 33 potential voters, excluding Mr. Rubin. Seventy percent is 23.1 so the vote requires 24 members. If anybody abstains in the voting process, we adjust the number. It's present and voting. An abstention is not a vote.

The motion passes 28-5. In favor: Wieser, Levy, Lowenstein, Rossi, Suggs, Colburn, Lebowitz, Talmadge, Urist, Ashman, Bomes, Klinge, Batteau, Schine, Flug, Heller, McCarthy, Cady, Mandell, Milwe, Bruce, Guthman, Timmins, Galan, Meyer, Cunitz, Seidman, Rose. Opposed: Cherry, Rea, Green, Starr, Ancel.

Mr. Rose continued reviewing the budgets.

Mr. Lowenstein:

I want to address myself to the Transit District budget which is budget 915. I am not going to make any motions tonight but I want to talk about a couple of points. On the RTM Finance Committee, I was initially prepared to ask for a \$28,000 restoration of the remaining \$40,000 that was not restored by the Board of Finance. By the way, I think the vote tonight on Parks and Rec. and the vote last night on IT establishes that there is no precedence for whether you have to go to the Board of Finance first for a restoration. For the record, I think we should all observe that next year and the year after and the year after that. Anyway, getting back to the Transit District budget, the transit people only asked for \$60,000. I'm not sure if it's because it's a realistic figure or they did it out of fear or they didn't want to lose any more than they had already lost. I was prepared to ask for \$28,000 more but in conversation with one of the directors, they informed me that the Norwalk Transit District had agreed to put in their budget for state approval a request to cover the Norden facility to Saugatuck. Had they decided they were going to do it to Norwalk from Norden, I would have objected. It's been claimed that the Transit District did wonders. They cut their budget and they didn't reduce service. That is just not the case. They have cut their budget but they are reducing service to Nyala Farms. They are reducing the service on the Post Road to Pepperidge Farm. There is a diminution of service. I don't think we should be dissuaded from the fact that the budget cut had a price to pay for it. Another claim made during the hearings was that these buses only get five miles/gallon and they cost a lot to run. Guess what? That's the same miles/gallon that the school buses get. Buses don't get high mileage. One of my biggest concerns was the idea was presented by some members of the Board of Finance that the problem they had with the Westport Transit District was it was not run like a business. My contention is that you can run it in a business-like, professional manner, which they do, but to run it as a business, to claim that you

can make a profit is totally absurd. For example, the Shoreline East, the train that runs from the Groton area/New London to New Haven, only 8.9 percent of the cost of each ride is paid for by fares. On the Westport Transit District, 13 percent of the cost of each ride is covered by fares. I think that we have to understand that there is no such thing as a profitable public transportation system anywhere in the United States. The same applies to the Westport Transit District. We are closing a chapter on a fiscal year coming up but I want to make sure that, if and when it comes up again, that we understand we are running it in a business-like manner and professional manner but it is not a business.

Mr. Rose: Anything else on section 9?

Mr. Mandell:

I don't mean to be a contrarian, Dick, but I think what occurred with the Transit District is exactly how our process should work. They went back to the Board of Finance. They presented their case after they did some analysis. The Board of Finance restored back some of that money. We didn't hear a minute of it and saved as we work, two hours or three hours of our time. I would hope that in the future, we could stretch the time between when the Board of Finance makes their decision and when they have their restoration meeting. They are the body that should be hearing this first. They are the ones who went through the process. They went through the three meetings with each department. That's how we should be doing it. In terms of Transit, I think that the Board of Finance, by putting their feet to the fire and changing things, it's exactly what had to be done. There is no reason in the world that Westport should be paying for people who are taking a train to a Westport station and going to a Norwalk business. That business isn't paying us any taxes at all and those people don't live here and they are not paying us taxes. Norwalk should be paying for it and now they will be. By the actions of the Board of Finance, Westport is saving money and those people are moving away from our responsibility.

Ms. Starr:

Same district as Matt Mandell, I just want to say, I agree with what you say 100 percent. Having the Board of Finance hear appeals before we hear them does save us a lot of work and we had better hope that, that is how the process stays or otherwise we are going to get a lot of work. There is a reason for that. It's a practical thing and we see in this example how it really works.

Diane Cady, district 1:

Under miscellaneous, there are two huge topics. One is pensions for \$10 million. One is insurance for \$9 million. I remember it was suggested in the past that these should be shown under the departments in which they are occurring. It hasn't happened but I think it ought to .

Ms. Batteau:

So, I'm moving back to last night. Earlier tonight, Barbara Butler spoke about the interconnectedness of town departments as a strong factor enabling each of them to get their work done. Last night I think we and by that I mean I made a mistake having to do with this factor and I have been bothered by my and our decision to deny restoration of the \$75,000 to the town Finance Department after we'd also voted not to restore funds to the Personnel Department. I know that I voted on principal divorced from the reality of daily exigencies and to push for change in a way that is probably inappropriate as I suspect the Board of Finance did when it proposed its cuts. The cut in the Finance Department would cost the figurative average resident \$7.00/year in taxes. I believe this cut, as a practical matter, is likely to cause serious trouble not only for the staff but other services Westporters receive and expect to receive. As Jack Klinge said, we cut a staffer and we added a job to the finance position. I believe this is going to end up costing and hurting the Town of Westport; therefore, **I am moving to reconsider restoration of \$75,000 to line 151, Finance, in the general government section of the Town General Fund.** I could speak about this but I would rather ask Mike Guthman to speak more articulately and concisely than I could, as always, to the consequences of making cuts in both the Personnel and Finance Departments. It is seconded by Mr. Lowenstein.

Mr. Rose: He will have the opportunity to speak when the RTM speaks.

Point of order, Mr. Rea: What is the basis for reconsideration?

Mr. Rose:

It is in order. It can be almost as simple as buyer's remorse. It is a legitimate motion.

Members of the Westport electorate –no comment

Mr. Rose:

I am going to make a suggestion. It's getting late. After we get done doing this and possibly redoing it and the town budget, we still have three items to go. Would there be objection to limit debate to five minutes as opposed to 10 minutes? No objections.

Members of the RTM

Mr. Klinge:

I think you heard my talk earlier. You know where I stand on this. This is a clear cut example of misguided management procedures. I certainly endorse the restoration. You don't take a department from seven people to six people and back to eight job assignments. That's not how you improve productivity or service so I'm for it. Thanks for bringing it up, Wendy.

Mr. Guthman:

I think Jack has really put his finger on it. We eliminated the Personnel Director and adding that function to the Finance Department and are reducing the staff of the Finance Department by one. That alone, to me, doesn't make a ton of sense. It gets even more complicated because, over the next few years, the problem we are facing is what to do with pensions and what to do with medical insurance. These are very difficult problems. If we have already cut staff by two professional people, who is going to take the leadership in dealing with all these issues? They have to be dealt with quickly. There are rumors already floating around among the non-union staff in town. They're concerned about what is going to happen to their pension. We need to move forward quickly. We know we have to deal with the non-union pension before we deal with the union pension. The big savings we are going to get on OPEB have to do with moving forward. What is the definition of retirement for purposes of getting post-retirement benefits? That's where we are going to get the big savings. Those things have to be done and we need the staff to do it. We can't do it with consultants. We all know from other experiences we've had, you need some champion in an organization taking responsibility for moving things forward. Consultants don't do that. Outside experts don't do that. Elected officials don't do that. It really needs to be done by staff. Cutting staff at this point in time is a savings of \$75,000 and putting at risk \$20 million that we know we have to deal with. I think it is, again, an example of being penny wise and pound foolish. I think it is our responsibility to move this whole thing forward. I urge you to vote for this restoration.

Mr. Rea:

Quite frankly, I'm a little surprised that we have to reconsider and reconsider. What I find unusual about this, Mr. Moderator, is that we have an agenda. We have a series of people who showed up for the meeting yesterday. If we have questions and clarifications, no one is in the room. It's a different cast of audience. It doesn't serve the public well for us to keep bringing up items that we voted on and on. Having said that, if it is the will of the body, I have no problem. You could all vote differently or the same way or any way you want. I just think it's a bad precedent. I think it's tough to believe that we would be called on to vote on an issue over and over and over. I would question whether a restoration shouldn't be raised at the time the vote is taken on that particular item, at least on the same day out of fairness to the people in the people who were in the room who came up to see it.

Mr. Rose:

Just to let you know, it's a simple majority vote whether we go to the restoration debate.

Ms. Starr:

I want to follow up on Mr. Rea's question. Will there be any finality on any of our decisions if we make a decision and come back the next night and say we want to redo the decision? We could be here for a very long time and none of our decisions are final. I also want to say that the three contracts, the municipal and

the Fire Department and Public Works, three are in arbitration right now. This does not have to do with the Personnel Finance Director or anything. This has to do with a process outside of them. They would come to us and it would be up to us to decide to approve it or not approve it and so forth. But, that's a little off the track. As far as the other post-employment benefits go, I was talking to a couple of Board of Finance members outside in the lobby, Mr. Kanner and Mr. Lasersohn last night. They explained that OPEB is calculated by actuaries. The calculations are outsourced. I don't know if that is helpful or not but I thought that is interesting information in the context of what we are talking about. Do we have any new information tonight from what we had last night? This seems to be something that should have gone to the Board of Finance. The Board of Finance works with the Finance Department. Our Finance Committee knows the Finance Department pretty well but the Board of Finance, they work really closely with them. I think this should have gone to the Board of Finance but, okay, it didn't. We heard last night why the cut was made in order to motivate consolidation with the Board of Education and/or outsourcing payroll, or both. In the public sector as in the private sector, there is little better motivation than to say, 'Okay, you need to do this. We are going to adjust the budget so you absolutely have to do it.' If we don't, it's painful but it is the only way that change is going to happen. I think that everything was discussed last night. I don't think there is anything new to say. I'm not changing my mind and I don't see why we should but I am going to yield the microphone

Mr. Rose:

This is about whether or not we should reconsider. This is not the restoration debate itself which will still require a 70 percent vote.

Ms. Schine:

For one thing, as far as pensions are concerned, consolidation with the Board of Education will do absolutely nothing. Teachers' pensions are paid by the State of Connecticut, not by the Town of Westport. Our pension plans are quite separate. What we need is a powerful leader in the Personnel Department who, now it's falling on John Kondub to do this, who can work out a pension plan, first, with our non-union members that we can afford, that's reasonable, similar to the kind of pension plans you have in private industry. Once we do that, yes, we are in negotiation and that is exactly the issue that we went to negotiation about, the pension plan for future employees, not even present employees. We weren't trying to change the current employees and we had to go to arbitration to get that to happen. We are not the only town in arbitration. There are six other towns in arbitration on the same damn issue. If this isn't the time to fight for these changes, I don't know when it is. We need a leader in town government who will fight for it. Seventy-five thousand dollars is a small price to pay. I would also restore the \$50,000 in Personnel. This is not the time to save pennies in those departments.

Dr. Heller:

I am speaking in support of the motion to reconsider. I think it is appropriate to approve this motion because, even Robert's Rules, in their infinite wisdom, some time ago, understood the concept of buyers remorse and that there are times when there is not necessarily new data but there is an opportunity to reflect on your thinking at the time and to take into consideration the complexity of the situation which you may not have seen at the time. I do want to applaud the courage of the member who came and said that because I feel that reflection is one of the most important things that we learn to do in our lives as we grow up. The more you can learn from reflection, the more it's possible you can contribute to the general good. I would support this motion.

Point of order, Mr. Mandell:

Robert's Rules said if the reconsideration is moved while the subject is before the assembly, it cannot interrupt pending business. We're in the middle of pending business.

Mr. Rose: This is part of the pending business.

Mr. Mandell: We were on a different agenda item later in the budget.

Mr. Rose:

The budget is one agenda item. There are different sections to it. We are still on the same agenda item. We haven't done anything yet.

Ms. Cady:

I am changing my vote to be for the restoration. Last night when I voted, I was tired and I also didn't get the implications. Michael Guthman and Lois Schine have really talked seriously about what the implications are.

Ms. Bruce:

I am in support of Wendy's restitution. Also, there is, perhaps, new information. New information is that Velma said "in consideration." In consideration, because when you think about things, you do have unintended consequences. This body voted about three years ago for early retirement plan for a number of people. When we voted for the early retirement plan, there were lots and lots of benefits but guess what? That's what we are dealing with now, the lots and lots and lots of benefits. Initially, that plan was undertaken because we were going to save money. Yes, operating expenses for that one year. I'm not sure exactly how much we saved, or not, but the unintended consequences are going to bite us and continue to bite us for years to come. So, when we are talking about forcing it, we are doing this consolidation, this is what we want to do... I think great idea but unintended consequences. I'd like to see us look at this again.

Mr. Seidman: I'm happy to call the question.

Mr. Rose: I don't think anybody asked to speak but you!

The roll call vote on the resolution to go back to the restoration requires a simple majority vote.

Mr. Rea:

I would like to go on the record as saying the chair has erred on this ruling. I don't think the reconsideration should be done so late in the process. I'm not sure it hales to what Matt was talking about as far as pending business. Whether it is technically, it just feels morally wrong to be reconsidering this a full day after we voted on it. It was a closed topic then. I would just like to go on record.

Mr. Rose:

...which I appreciate, Mike. We're voting. He was just, personal privilege.

By show of hands, the motion in favor of reconsidering passes 24 – 10. Opposed: Rea, Rossi, Starr, Cherry, Cunitz, Urist, McCarthy, Ancel, Mandell, Timmins.

A motion to reconsider restoring \$75,000 to the Finance Department.

Members of the Westport electorate – no comments

Members of the RTM – no comments

Mr. Rose: We have 34 members. The vote requires 24 members to pass.

Point of information, Ms. Bruce:

The point of information is that everyone is going around on their boards figuring out what's going on, what's moral, what's acceptable. I made a motion for reconsideration, last year, three days into the meeting. The timing is just fine. This is a legitimate motion. There is nothing untoward about it.

Roll call vote, the motion passes 26-8. In favor: Cady, Milwe, Bruce, Guthman, Timmins, Galan, Meyer, Seidman, Wieser, Levy, Lowenstein, Suggs, Colburn, Lebowitz, Talmadge, Urist, Ashman, Bomes, Klinge, Rubin, Batteau, Schine, Flug, Green, Heller, Rose. Opposed: Mandell, Starr, Ancel, Cunitz, Rossi, Cherry, Rea, McCarthy.

RESOLVED: That the First Selectman's budget items recommended by the Board of Finance and approved or amended by the Representative Town Meeting be adopted, and the sum of \$66,463,304 for the First Selectman's Budget is hereby appropriated to meet expenditures and such sum shall be added to the amount appropriated for the Board of Education Budget tomorrow night.

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education's budget items as recommended by the Board of Finance and approved or amended by the Representative Town Meeting be adopted and the sum of \$112,425,806 for the Board of Education Budget is hereby appropriated to meet expenditures.

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Town of Westport General Fund Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, as recommended by the Board of Finance and approved or amended by the Representative Town Meeting, be adopted and the sum of the Board of Education Budget and the Selectman's Budget in the amount of \$178,889,110 is hereby appropriated to meet expenditures and that for the purpose of raising a tax on the grand list of 2010, the sum of \$159,418,899 is hereby appropriated.

The budget, item #1, passes unanimously, 34-0.

Mr. Rose: We have seven more items to go through if you want to finish tonight.

Mr. Rose read item #2 of the call – Approval of railroad parking budget.

Presentation

Finance Department, John Kondub:

The budget is \$1,727,983. It is covered all by user fees. To get a parking permit for the railroad station, it was increased by the Board of Selectmen on April 27. There is an increase also proposed to increase the daily parking cost to cover the cost of the budget. It is fairly much self sufficient. It is a balanced budget.

Committee report

Finance Committee, Mr. Rea:

The RTM Finance Committee did review this and the sewer fund. We reviewed it and recommended them both unanimously.

Ms. Flug read the resolution and it was seconded by Mr. Klinge

RESOLVED: That the Town Railroad Parking Fund Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, as recommended by the Board of Finance and approved or amended by the Representative Town Meeting, be adopted and the sum of \$1,727,983 is hereby appropriated to meet expenditures.

Members of the RTM

Bob Galan, district 3: Are the new parking rates included in the \$1.7 million?

Mr. Kondub:

When we built the budget in February, in order to balance the budget, we needed a fee increase. Having a balanced budget, that's the most important thing.

Ms. Colburn:

Even though the railroad parking is a balance budget, I wonder, I want to support this anyway. Steve Edwards isn't here to answer but I can get it later. The cost to Westport of maintaining the facilities with the parking given that we have a lot of out of towners who park daily. They use our roads and our whole infrastructure. That's my question.

Mr. Rose: Send him an email.

By show of hands, the motion passes unanimously, 31-0.

The secretary read item #3 of the call – To adopt a budget for the town sewer fund.

Presentation

Mr. Kondub:

This budget presented as recommended by the Board of Finance is \$4,920,720. It includes all the debt service, appropriate fringe benefits, employee personnel cost, operating materials, etc. to run the sewer system for those who are hooked onto it. It is funded by sewer user charges and sewer assessments are levied on people who hooked up to the system. It's a balanced budget.

Members of the Westport electorate – no comment

Ms. Flug read the resolution and it was seconded.

RESOLVED: That the Town Sewer Fund Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, as recommended by the Board of Finance and approved or amended by the Representative Town Meeting, be adopted and the sum of \$4,920,720 is hereby appropriated to meet expenditures.

By show of hands, the motion passes unanimously, 31-0.

The secretary read item #4 of the call – Property taxes shall be payable in quarterly installments.

Members of the Westport electorate – no comment

Ms. Flug read the resolution and it was seconded by Mr. Rubin.

RESOLVED: That property taxes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 shall be due and payable in four quarterly installments and the dates upon which such quarterly installments are to be due and payable shall be the first days of July, October, January and April; and be it further resolved that all taxes in an amount of \$100.00 or less shall be due and payable in a single installment on the first day of July.

By show of hands, the motion passes unanimously, 31-0

The secretary read item #5 of the call - Motor vehicle taxes shall be paid in a single installment.

Point of information, Ms. Starr: Is there a date? [July 1].

Members of the Westport electorate – no comment

RESOLVED: That the motor vehicle tax shall be due and payable in a single installment.

By show of hands, the motion passes unanimously, 31-0

The secretary read item #6 of the call - An appropriation of \$30,000 for updating the Historic Resources Inventory which shall be fully reimbursed through the CLG Supplemental Grant at the completion of the project.

Committee report

Finance Committee, Cathy Talmadge, district 6:

The Finance Committee met on April 21. We had a number of questions mainly around whether the \$30,000 would actually be there. We receive the money after... Don't they usually give the report first?

Presentation

Frances Henkels, Acting Chair, Historic District Commission:

I am coming before you tonight on behalf of the commission to present a request for interim funding for a fully reimbursable supplemental grant in the amount of \$30,000 for the grant we are seeking from the State Historic Preservation Office. The purpose of the grant would be to fund a contract with an architectural historian, on a consulting basis, to update and expand our historic resources inventory. The survey forms constitute the more detailed information data base. The HRI is an inventory of town-wide historic resources worthy of special consideration for preservation. It's a broad data base that we maintain as an informational tool to local officials and boards to help guide in the decision making that will preserve and enhance the character of our community. The information in the inventory is also made available to the general public and is also available online on the HDC website with the express intent of educating the community and individual property owners about the significance of historic structures in our town. The focus of this effort will be in four areas of our town: downtown, Post Road/Main Street business districts; approximately 60 properties in the Kings Highway North Historic District; 35 houses designed by the prominent local architect Frasier Peters in the 1920'/30's and lastly, a selection of significant properties identified in the 2007 windshield survey where complete

surveys were not performed. In closing, it is important to understand that this is a request for interim funding. This is for a grant that should be fully reimbursable from the state.

Committee report

Ms. Talmadge:

So, we met initially on the 21st. We thought the grant sounded appropriate but we wanted to insure that the funds would be there after the state budget process. So, we asked Carol [Leahy] to provide us with a letter from the state to assure us that the funds would be there. She provided that letter on April 27. We met and voted to approve it unanimously.

Members of the Westport electorate – no comment

Ms. Flug read the resolution and it was seconded by Mr. Rubin.

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the First Selectman, the sum of \$30,000 to the Historic District Account (Fees & Services) for updating the Historic Resources Inventory which shall be fully reimbursed through the CLG Supplemental Grant at the completion of the project is hereby appropriated.

Members of the RTM

John Suggs, district 5:

I have a question for John on this. If you look in the budget for this year, when it shows us the actual versus the revised budget from last year, I would ask your attention to the Historic District where a year ago, we were asked to approve a budget that would make the staffing cut in half. It was a tough decision. It was one of those very difficult decisions that we had to make last year. We made it. To my surprise, the money was restored after we made that decision, based on the administration going to the Board of Finance. What troubles me the most was it came out of service monies that had been set aside to provide services by this department. Basically, the administration funded a position at the cost of providing services. My question for you is, if we were to allocate to this \$30,000, would it be possible for a second attempt to reallocate this money to go to salaries instead of providing the service that they are supposed to go to.

Mr. Kondub:

Last year, I believe, as you all know there was a budget cut the Board of Finance enacted. It got sustained, carried forward through the whole process for 2010/2011. The Historic District Commission came in and applied for a series of transfers from all the other budget lines that ended up funding an office salary line and still fund the position because that person still had work to do. That money that was in fees and services from prior years was in the salary line. It wasn't there any more to take up new work, historical studies to be done. The same holds true in the budget that you just adopted 10 minutes ago. What happens in this year's, you are appropriating it to this year. Go to the fees and

services line in this year's budget, by the time the work is done, it will probably be sometime in the fall, that money is carried forward. It stays in the 10/11 budget on that budget line, not to be shifted. It has to be expended by that in order for us to get the reimbursement for \$30,000. We are fronting the money. Then, they file for reimbursement. There is no chance in blank that it can be moved.

Mr. Suggs:

You are saying there is no chance for it being moved because if it is moved, it won't be reimbursed.

Mr. Kondub: There is a commitment to do this work

Mr. Suggs:

If it were to be moved like it was moved last year after we did our budget work, it wouldn't be reimbursed and we would just lose the \$30,000 for this item.

Mr. Kondub:

This gentleman from the Historic District, Mr. Henkels, they are committing to do this project. The Board of Finance knows that. They are asking you to acknowledge that. They will go forward and get it done and then we get the \$30,000 back.

Mr. Suggs:

I understand that but I also understand that the \$21,800 that was taken out of the budget last year had been committed for services, for programs and it wasn't used for services and programs. There's an old saying, "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me." Since there is this precedent last year that services and program money was taken to backfill a salary, is it possible that will happen again?

Mr. Kondub: I won't let it happen again.

Mr. Suggs:

You're on the record that you will not allow these monies to backfill salaries.

Mr. Kondub:

I will advise the First Selectman not to authorize any transfers that way either. Okay?

Mr. Suggs:

Thank you. With that public commitment so that we don't have happen what happened last year, I will support this.

Allen Bomes, district 7:

Mr. Suggs, what happened is very common. The Board of Finance makes transfers. The department goes to the Board of Finance to make the transfers.

You should go to the Board of Finance meeting and question it when they are going to vote on that. If it comes up this year, you should go to the Board of Finance meeting and object to it. I would doubt that the Board of Finance would make this change because we would lose the \$30,000. It is more than just a transfer.

By show of hands, the motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Rose:

Before we read the next item, by charter, we have to take a 2/3 vote to see if we are going to continue. It is after 11:30 p.m. By show of hands, there was one person opposed. We will continue.

The secretary read item #7 of the call – Appropriation of \$26,690 to purchase a greens mower.

Presentation

Mr. McCarthy:

I could give you a long explanation of this but let me give you the short one. We received a grant for just over \$30,000 worth of equipment. We are asking for an appropriation of \$26,000. The balance will come out of operating accounts because we are actually buying equipment that we would be normally buying out of our operating account. We'll take that money out of the operating account. This represents a greens mower which we did not have in our operating account. It will come out of a capital account. We are asking for this appropriation. The reimbursement of 80 percent of the entire \$30,000 will give us a reimbursement of \$24,343. We will buy a \$26,000 lawn mower for \$2,300. It's a pretty good deal and I hope you will approve it.

Committee report

Finance Committee, Ms. Bruce:

There is back up information. I'm not going to repeat all the information in the packet. The only clarification, that it's not low emission. It's Lawn Equipment Exchange Fund. It is a low emissions program but the actual name of the fund is the Lawn Equipment Exchange Fund for all kinds of equipment the capital equipment that we are talking about, the greens mower as well as some small ticket items, such as hedgers Stuart explained he is also purchasing.. We met on the 12th. We approved the recommendation 6-0.

Members of the Westport electorate – no comment

Ms. Flug read the resolution and it was seconded by Mr. Rubin

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Parks & Recreation Director, the sum of \$26,690 to the Golf Account (Capital Equipment) to fund the purchase of a greens mower which shall

be substantially reimbursed through the Department of Environmental Protection LEEF Program is hereby appropriated.

Members of the RTM – no comment

By show of hands, motion passes unanimously 31-0

Mr. Rose:

Before we read item #8, a show of hands of those who wish to stay and finish this off tonight. Passes unanimously.

The secretary read item #8 of the call – Appropriation of \$1,200,000 to the Pension Budget Account (OPEB Plan Funding) Westport's planned contribution to the OPEB Trust Fund for 2010-11 fiscal year.

Presentation

Mr. Kondub:

Back on April 5, the Board of Finance passed a recommendation to this body to approve the second half of the funding of the ARC that is not built into our budget to meet our obligation to the OPEB trust fund for 10/11 fiscal year. The arc is about \$4.1 million, \$1.7 million is built into our budget. Your body approved an appropriation on March 1 or 2 for \$1.2 million which we took out of the surplus acknowledging some good financial results from the 09-10 fiscal year. Some of those results continue this fiscal year. We said we were going to come back for the funding again and we did, May 3, to do the second half of the funding. The administration has lived up to the commitment to fully fund this year.

Committee Report

Finance Committee, Mr. Bomes:

I have a 17 page committee report which I will never read. Just kidding. You could almost replay, if we had a video camera, what I said in March. We approved \$1.2 million in March. We have a request to fund another \$1.2 million. This is all for the 2010/2011 fiscal year so we have met the Annual Required Contribution, the ARC, as determined by the actuaries. It will still leave an unfunded liability of \$7.6 million because we have not been fully funding the ARC every year. The ARC for OPEB is only computed once every three years. This is based on figures from June 30, 2007. Everyone expects the ARC has grown since then which will have increased the cumulative unfunded liability. This will continue to put pressure on future operating budgets. I think we've heard that before. The latest ARC calculation for the period ending June 30, 2010 is expected shortly. There were six members present. The committee voted unanimously to recommend that the RTM approve \$1.2 million.

Members of the Westport electorate - No comment

Ms. Flug read the resolution and it was seconded by Mr. Rubin.

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and a request by the Finance Director, the sum of \$1,200,000 to the Pension Budget Account (OPEB Plan Funding) for the remaining fifty percent (50 percent) cost of the Town of Westport's planned contribution to the OPEB Trust Fund for 2010-11 fiscal year is hereby appropriated.

Members of the RTM

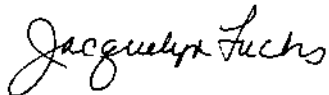
Mr. Mandell:

If none of us got up and spoke for one moment about spending \$1.2 million, it would be a sad occasion. This is just the beginning of what we have to spend. If any of you sitting here wonder why some of us have been fiscally conservative or frugal with our money, this is it. There's no one else in the audience and I hope someone is watching on television because we restored at least \$25,000 so you can be hearing this even at 11:45 p.m. Our taxes are going to be going up and up and up because we have this obligation. We made a commitment to our employees going back for years and we must take care of it. From this point forward, we must address how we deal with pensions. We must find a way to control it. We must find a way to control the taxing of our public because my constituents, I don't know about yours, they are telling me that they don't want to be paying much more in taxes. That's why I have been frugal. I think we have to be very careful as we move forward. I am going to support \$1.2 million, \$2 million next year and who knows what the ARC is going to be because that is going to be our obligation. We are under the gun. We have to deal with it so let's be careful.

By show of hands, the motion passes unanimously. 31-0.

The meeting adjourned 11:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia H. Strauss
Town Clerk



by Jacquelyn Fuchs
Secretary

ATTENDANCE: May 3, 2011 Budget meeting #2

DIST.	NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	NOTIFIED MODERATOR	LATE/ LEFT EARLY
1	Diane Cady	X			
	Matthew Mandell	X		X	Arr. 8:45p.m.
	Elizabeth Milwe	X			
	Judith Starr	X			
2	Linda Bruce	X			Arr. 7:50 p.m.
	Michael Guthman	X			
	Jay Keenan		X	X	
	Sean Timmins	X		X	Arr. 7:55 p.m.
3	Amy Ancel	X			Arr. 8:30. Left 11:10.
	Robert Galan	X			
	Bill Meyer	X			
	Hadley Rose	X			
4	Jonathan Cunitz, DBA	X			
	Gene Seidman	X			
	George Underhill		X	X	
	Jeffrey Wieser	X			
5	Barbara Levy	X			
	Richard Lowenstein	X			
	Paul Rossi	X			
	John Suggs	X			
6	Joyce Colburn	X			
	Paul Lebowitz	X			
	Catherine Talmadge	X			
	Christopher Urist	X			
7	Arthur Ashman, D.D.S.	X			Left 11:10 p.m.
	Allen Bomes	X			Arr. 8:00 p.m.
	Jack Klinge	X			
	Stephen Rubin	X			
8	Wendy Batteau	X			
	Heather Cherry	X			Arr. 7:40 p.m.
	Michael Rea	X			
	Lois Schine	X			
9	Eileen Flug	X			
	Kevin Green, Ph. D.	X			
	Velma Heller, Ed. D.	X			
	John McCarthy	X			Left 11:10 p.m.
Total		34	2		

Attachment 1**Roll Call Vote: Account #810-01 Restoration of \$70,000. Parks and Recreation.**

DIST.	NAME	ABSENT	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN
1	Diane Cady		X		
	Matthew Mandell		X		
	Elizabeth Milwe		X		
	Judith Starr			X	
2	Linda Bruce		X		
	Michael Guthman		X		
	Jay Keenan	X			
	Sean Timmins		X		
3	Amy Ancel			X	
	Robert Galan		X		
	Bill Meyer		X		
	Hadley Rose		X		
4	Jonathan Cunitz, DBA		X		
	Gene Seidman		X		
	George Underhill	X			
	Jeffrey Wieser		X		
5	Barbara Levy		X		
	Richard Lowenstein		X		
	Paul Rossi		X		
	John Suggs		X		
6	Joyce Colburn		X		
	Paul Lebowitz		X		
	Catherine Talmadge		X		
	Christopher Urist		X		
7	Arthur Ashman, D.D.S.		X		
	Allen Bomes		X		
	Jack Klinge		X		
	Stephen Rubin	recused			
8	Wendy Batteau		X		
	Heather Cherry			X	
	Michael Rea			X	
	Lois Schine		X		
9	Eileen Flug		X		
	Kevin Green, Ph. D.			X	
	Velma Heller, Ed. D.		X		
	John McCarthy		X		
Total			28	5	

Roll Call Vote: Account #151-01 Restore \$75,000 to Finance Department budget

DIST.	NAME	ABSENT	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN
1	Diane Cady		X		
	Matthew Mandell			X	
	Elizabeth Milwe		X		
	Judith Starr			X	
2	Linda Bruce		X		
	Michael Guthman		X		
	Jay Keenan	X			
	Sean Timmins		X		
3	Amy Ancel			X	
	Robert Galan		X		
	Bill Meyer		X		
	Hadley Rose		X		
4	Jonathan Cunitz, DBA			X	
	Gene Seidman		X		
	George Underhill	X			
	Jeffrey Wieser		X		
5	Barbara Levy		X		
	Richard Lowenstein		X		
	Paul Rossi			X	
	John Suggs		X		
6	Joyce Colburn		X		
	Paul Lebowitz		X		
	Catherine Talmadge		X		
	Christopher Urist		X		
7	Arthur Ashman, D.D.S.		X		
	Allen Bomes		X		
	Jack Klinge		X		
	Stephen Rubin		X		
8	Wendy Batteau		X		
	Heather Cherry			X	
	Michael Rea			X	
	Lois Schine		X		
9	Eileen Flug		X		
	Kevin Green, Ph. D.		X		
	Velma Heller, Ed. D.		X		
	John McCarthy			X	
Total			26	8	

2011-2012 Westport Budget

ACCOUNTS FOR:	2011 REVISED BUD	2012 DEPT RQST	2012 SEL ADJUST	2012 SEL RQST	2012 BOF ADJUST	2012 BOF REC	2012 RTM ADJUST	2012 RTM REC
GENERAL FUND								
General Government								
110 RTM	39,142	39,142	0	39,142	0	39,142		
120 Selectmen	244,317	236,991	(600)	236,391	0	236,391		
132 Probate Court	15,910	15,910	0	15,910	0	15,910		
140 Registrars	119,774	104,634	(250)	104,384	250	104,634		
142 Elections	141,754	91,477	0	91,477	0	91,477		
150 Board of Finance	1,600	1,600	0	1,600	0	1,600		
151 Finance Department	769,532	755,531	0	755,531	(75,000)	680,531	75,000	755,531
152 Audit	161,600	169,200	0	169,200	0	169,200		
153 Personnel	242,079	239,134	(500)	238,634	(50,000)	188,634		
154 Assessor	430,093	428,758	0	428,758	0	428,758		
156 Tax Collector	292,696	292,653	0	292,653	0	292,653		
157 Information Technology	681,403	698,980	(10,000)	688,980	(75,000)	613,980	41,000	654,980
157 Information Tech. Capital	50,050	45,000	0	45,000	0	45,000		
158 Board of Assessment	1,725	1,725	0	1,725	0	1,725		
170 Town Attorney	758,567	758,267	0	758,267	0	758,267		
180 Town Clerk	363,462	361,220	(7,525)	353,695	0	353,695		
181 Historic District	55,107	55,107	0	55,107	0	55,107		
182 Conservation	326,168	326,161	(3,850)	322,311	0	322,311		
182 Conservation Capital	1,200	450	0	450	0	450		
185 Planning & Zoning	523,282	524,353	(21,000)	503,353	0	503,353		
187 Zoning Board of Appeals	26,440	26,440	(2,000)	24,440	0	24,440		
Total Gen. Govt. Operating	5,194,651	5,127,283	(45,725)	5,081,558	(199,750)	4,881,808		
Total Gen. Govt. Capital	51,250	45,450	0	45,450	0	45,450		
Total General Government	5,245,901	5,172,733	(45,725)	5,127,008	(199,750)	4,927,258		
Public Safety								
210 Police	7,404,901	7,482,923	0	7,482,923	0	7,482,923		
210 Police Capital	182,500	121,500	0	121,500	0	121,500		
214 Police Vehicle Maint.	313,492	336,508	(1,000)	335,508	0	335,508		
216 Dog Warden	119,642	122,695	(1,000)	121,695	0	121,695		
218 Emergency Medical Service	1,174,826	1,144,475	(2,500)	1,141,975	0	1,141,975		
Total Police Dept. Operating	9,012,861	9,086,601	(4,500)	9,082,101	0	9,082,101		
Total Police Dept. Capital	182,500	121,500	0	121,500	0	121,500		
Total Police Department	9,195,361	9,208,101	(4,500)	9,203,601	0	9,203,601		
220 Fire Department	7,521,378	7,609,872	(80,428)	7,529,444	0	7,529,444		
220 Fire Department Capital	105,380	153,525	(38,385)	115,140	0	115,140		
221 Water Service-Fire	990,000	1,035,000	0	1,035,000	0	1,035,000		
225 Building Inspection	284,665	287,165	(12,000)	275,165	0	275,165		
225 Building Inspection Capital	430	28,366	0	28,366	0	28,366		
235 Public Site & Buildings	78,950	78,951	0	78,951	0	78,951		
250 Emergency Management	35,270	38,561	(300)	38,261	0	38,261		
250 Emer. Mgmt. Capital	14,000	15,000	(1,021)	13,979	0	13,979		
Total Fire Dept. Operating	8,910,263	9,049,549	(92,728)	8,956,821	0	8,956,821		

2011-2012 Westport Budget

ACCOUNTS FOR:	2011 REVISED BUD	2012 DEPT RQST	2012 SEL ADJUST	2012 SEL RQST	2012 BOF ADJUST	2012 BOF REC	2012 RTM ADJUST	2012 RTM REC
<i>Total Fire Dept. Capital</i>	119,810	196,891	(39,406)	157,485	0	157,485		
Total Fire Department	9,030,073	9,246,440	(132,134)	9,114,306	0	9,114,306		
Total Public Safety Operating	17,923,124	18,136,150	(97,228)	18,038,922	0	18,038,922		
<i>Total Public Safety Capital</i>	302,310	318,391	(39,406)	278,985	0	278,985		
Total Public Safety	18,225,434	18,454,541	(136,634)	18,317,907	0	18,317,907		
Public Works								
310 Engineering	764,135	762,597	0	762,597	0	762,597		
<i>310 Engineering Capital</i>	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	1,000		
320 Highway	1,530,020	1,546,762	0	1,546,762	0	1,546,762		
<i>320 Highway Capital</i>	42,500	30,500	0	30,500	0	30,500		
321 Equipment Maint.	320,603	320,603	0	320,603	0	320,603		
<i>321 Equip. Maint. Capital</i>	2,500	0	0	0	0	0		
322 Road Maintenance	1,106,815	1,094,000	0	1,094,000	0	1,094,000		
324 Street Lighting	250,000	250,000	0	250,000	0	250,000		
332 Solid Waste Disposal	2,300,286	2,264,024	0	2,264,024	0	2,264,024		
350 Building Maint.	1,188,635	1,191,154	0	1,191,154	0	1,191,154		
<i>350 Building Maint. Capital</i>	0	40,700	0	40,700	0	40,700		
352 Building Custodians	315,688	315,465	0	315,465	0	315,465		
<i>352 Building Cust. Capital</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0		
360 Property Maint.	21,000	21,000	0	21,000	0	21,000		
361 P&R Property Maint.	323,297	324,412	0	324,412	0	324,412		
<i>361 P&R Prop. Maint. Capital</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0		
370 Tree Maintenance	96,244	96,244	0	96,244	0	96,244		
Total Public Works Operating	8,216,723	8,186,261	0	8,186,261	0	8,186,261		
<i>Total Public Works Capital</i>	45,000	72,200	0	72,200	0	72,200		
Total Public Works Department	8,261,723	8,258,461	0	8,258,461	0	8,258,461		
Health								
410 Health District	458,729	458,759	0	458,759	0	458,759		
412 Health Services	3,700	3,700	0	3,700	0	3,700		
Total Health	462,429	462,459	0	462,459	0	462,459		
Human Services								
510 Youth Services	253,225	254,912	0	254,912	0	254,912		
520 Social Services	302,436	301,329	0	301,329	0	301,329		
530 Senior Services	404,669	407,748	0	407,748	0	407,748		
<i>530 Senior Services Capital</i>	750	0	0	0	0	0		
Total Human Services Operati.	960,330	963,989	0	963,989	0	963,989		
<i>Total Human Services Capital</i>	750	0	0	0	0	0		
Total Human Services	961,080	963,989	0	963,989	0	963,989		
Library								
750 Library Board	4,031,725	4,076,798	0	4,076,798	0	4,076,798		
751 Library Pension	112,785	138,017	0	138,017	0	138,017		
Total Library	4,144,510	4,214,815	0	4,214,815	0	4,214,815		

2011-2012 Westport Budget

ACCOUNTS FOR:	2011 REVISED BUD	2012 DEPT RQST	2012 SEL ADJUST	2012 SEL RQST	2012 BOF ADJUST	2012 BOF REC	2012 RTM ADJUST	2012 RTM REC
Parks & Recreation								
810 P&R Administration	522,550	521,332	0	521,332	(70,000)	451,332	70,000	521,332
810 P&R Admin. Capital	0	0	0	0	0	0		
812 Guest Services	212,886	212,711	0	212,711	0	212,711		
820 Maintenance & Develop.	437,611	442,959	0	442,959	0	442,959		
830 Boating	178,600	178,600	0	178,600	0	178,600		
830 Boating Capital	11,500	12,900	(1,000)	11,900	0	11,900		
831 Parks Maint.	329,942	370,369	0	370,369	0	370,369		
831 Parks Maint. Capital	0	30,000	0	30,000	(10,000)	20,000		
832 Golf	796,036	799,385	0	799,385	0	799,385		
832 Golf Capital	20,000	79,000	0	79,000	0	79,000		
833 Athletic Fields Maint.	329,313	290,810	0	290,810	0	290,810		
833 Athletic Fields Maint. Capita	49,500	0	0	0	0	0		
834 Tennis	68,225	67,400	0	67,400	0	67,400		
835 Skating	34,163	36,500	0	36,500	0	36,500		
836 Beach & Pool	249,474	251,710	0	251,710	0	251,710		
836 Beach & Pool Capital	0	2,000	(1,000)	1,000	0	1,000		
838 Miscellaneous Programs	913,725	958,189	0	958,189	0	958,189		
838 Misc. Programs Capital	7,000	0	0	0	0	0		
840 Memorial & Veterans	8,400	8,400	0	8,400	0	8,400		
Total Parks & Rec. Operating	4,080,925	4,138,365	0	4,138,365	(70,000)	4,068,365		
Total Parks & Rec. Capital	88,000	123,900	(2,000)	121,900	(10,000)	111,900		
Total Parks & Recreation	4,168,925	4,262,265	(2,000)	4,260,265	(80,000)	4,180,265		
Miscellaneous								
901 Pensions	9,172,650	10,599,918	(450,000)	10,149,918	0	10,149,918		
902 Insurance	8,670,182	9,700,355	0	9,700,355	(22,500)	9,677,855		
903 Social Security	1,000,000	1,030,000	(10,000)	1,020,000	0	1,020,000		
905 Unemployment Comp.	55,000	80,000	0	80,000	0	80,000		
907 Earthplace	81,560	81,560	0	81,560	0	81,560		
911 Miscellaneous	373,000	330,850	(235,000)	95,850	0	95,850		
915 Transportation Services	281,158	281,158	0	281,158	(40,000)	241,158		
917 Reserve: Salary Adjust.	245	159,750	(26,625)	133,125	0	133,125		
921 Employee Productivity	8,500	7,000	0	7,000	0	7,000		
925 Accrued Vacation	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	0	5,000		
Total Miscellaneous	19,647,295	22,275,591	(721,625)	21,553,966	(62,500)	21,491,466		
Other Financing Uses								
941 Transfer to Sewer Fund	355,800	434,425	0	434,425	0	434,425		
942 Transfer to Other Funds	0	500,000	(500,000)	0	0	0		
Total Other Financing Uses	355,800	934,425	(500,000)	434,425	0	434,425		
Debt Service								
951 Interest on Bond	1,041,245	948,166	0	948,166	0	948,166		
952 Bond Anticipation Finance	6,000	79,000	(39,000)	40,000	0	40,000		
953 Bond Principal Payments	2,004,820	2,038,093	0	2,038,093	0	2,038,093		

2011-2012 Westport Budget

ACCOUNTS FOR:	2011 REVISED BUD	2012 DEPT RQST	2012 SEL ADJUST	2012 SEL RQST	2012 BOF ADJUST	2012 BOF REC	2012 RTM ADJUST	2012 RTM REC
Total Debt Service	3,052,065	3,065,259	(39,000)	3,026,259	0	3,026,259		
Total Selectman's Operating	64,037,852	67,504,597	(1,403,578)	66,101,019	(332,250)	65,768,769		
Total Selectman's Capital	487,310	559,941	(41,406)	518,535	(10,000)	508,535		
Total Selectman's Requested	64,525,162	68,064,538	(1,444,984)	66,619,554	(342,250)	66,277,304		
Education								
650 Board of Education	96,377,916	98,603,496	0	98,603,496	(250,000)	98,353,496		
651 BOE Rentals/Reimb.	0	0	0	0	0	0		
652 Aid to Pvt & Par	277,029	288,005	0	288,005	0	288,005		
653 BOE Pensions	0	0	0	0	0	0		
654 Debt Service-Long Term	13,946,326	13,712,305	0	13,712,305	0	13,712,305		
655 Debt Serv-Bond Anticip.	0	75,000	(3,000)	72,000	0	72,000		
Board of Education's Request	110,601,271	112,678,806	(3,000)	112,675,806	(250,000)	112,425,806		
TOTAL GEN. FUND OPERAT	174,639,123	180,183,403	(1,406,578)	178,776,825	(582,250)	178,194,575		
TOTAL GEN. FUND CAPITAL	487,310	559,941	(41,406)	518,535	(10,000)	508,535		
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	175,126,433	180,743,344	(1,447,984)	179,295,360	(592,250)	178,703,110		
RAILROAD PARKING FUND								
219 Railroad Parking Operatin	1,651,448	1,672,483	0	1,672,483	0	1,672,483		
219 Railroad Parking Capital	70,000	55,500	0	55,500	0	55,500		
TOTAL RAILROAD PARKING	1,721,448	1,727,983	0	1,727,983	0	1,727,983		
SEWER FUND								
Public Works								
330 Sewage Treatment	1,080,450	1,109,770	0	1,109,770	0	1,109,770		
330 Sewage Treatment Capital	45,000	40,000	0	40,000	0	40,000		
331 Sewage Collection Capital	549,204	506,969	0	506,969	0	506,969		
331 Sewage Collection Capital	80,000	80,000	0	80,000	0	80,000		
Total Public Works Operating	1,629,654	1,616,739	0	1,616,739	0	1,616,739		
Total Public Works Capital	125,000	120,000	0	120,000	0	120,000		
Total Public Works Department	1,754,654	1,736,739	0	1,736,739	0	1,736,739		
Miscellaneous								
901 Pensions	112,500	110,000	0	110,000	0	110,000		
902 Insurance	305,180	326,635	0	326,635	0	326,635		
Total Miscellaneous	417,680	436,635	0	436,635	0	436,635		
Other Financing Uses								
941 Transfer to Sewer Fund	280,000	280,000	0	280,000	0	280,000		
Total Other Financing Uses	280,000	280,000	0	280,000	0	280,000		

2011-2012 Westport Budget

ACCOUNTS FOR:	2011 REVISED BUD	2012 DEPT RQST	2012 SEL ADJUST	2012 SEL RQST	2012 BOF ADJUST	2012 BOF REC	2012 RTM ADJUST	2012 RTM REC
Debt Service								
951 Interest on Bond	761,701	717,042	0	717,042	0	717,042		
952 Bond Anticipation Finance	85,000	84,000	(4,625)	79,375	0	79,375		
953 Bond Principal Payments	1,638,000	1,670,929	0	1,670,929	0	1,670,929		
Total Debt Service	2,484,701	2,471,971	(4,625)	2,467,346	0	2,467,346		
TOTAL SEWER FUND OPER.	4,812,035	4,805,345	(4,625)	4,800,720	0	4,800,720		
TOTAL SEWER FUND CAPIT.	125,000	120,000	0	120,000	0	120,000		
TOTAL SEWER FUND	4,937,035	4,925,345	(4,625)	4,920,720	0	4,920,720		
Total Gen. Govt. Operating	0	0			0		0	
Total Gen. Govt. Capital	0	0			0		0	
Total Police Dept. Operating	0	0			0		0	
Total Police Dept. Capital	0	0			0		0	
Total Fire Dept. Operating	0	0			0		0	
Total Fire Dept. Capital	0	0			0		0	
Total Public Works Operating	0	0			0		0	
Total Public Works Capital	0	0			0		0	
Total Health	0	0			0		0	
Total Human Services Operati:	0	0			0		0	
Total Human Services Capital	0	0			0		0	
Total Library	0	0			0		0	
Total Parks & Recreation Oper	0	0			0		0	
Total Parks & Recreation Capita:	0	0			0		0	
Total Miscellaneous	0	0			0		0	
Total Other Financing Uses	0	0			0		0	
Total Debt Service	0	0			0		0	
Total Selectman's Operating	#N/A	#N/A			#N/A		#N/A	
Total Selectman's Capital	0	0			0		0	
Board of Education's Request	0	0			0		0	

May 2 & 3, 2011

Voting Record

	2-May \$75,000	2-May \$50,000	2-May \$75,000	2-May \$41,000	3-May \$75,000	3-May \$70,000 Parks and Recreation
	Finance 151	Personnel 142	IT 157	IT 157	Finance 151	810

DISTRICT #1

Diane D. Cady	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Judith K. Starr	N	N	N	N	N	N
Matthew I. Mandell	N	N	N	Y	N	Y
Liz Milwe	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

DISTRICT #2

Jay Keenan	N	N	N	N	ABSENT	ABSENT
Linda L. Bruce	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sean M. Timmins	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Michael Guthman	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

DISTRICT #3

Amy Ancel	N	N	N	Y	N	N
Robert Galan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hadley C. Rose	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
William F. Meyer III	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

DISTRICT #4

Jeffrey N. Wieser	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Gene Paul Seidman	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Jonathan A. Cunitz	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
George W. Underhill	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT

DISTRICT #5

John F. Suggs	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Richard A. Lowenstein	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Paul F. Rossi	N	N	N	Y	N	Y
Barbara Levy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

DISTRICT #6

Joyce Colburn	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cathy Talmadge	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Paul Lebowitz	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Christopher Urist	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y

DISTRICT #7

Stephen M. Rubin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	RECUSED
John G. Klinge	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Allen S. Bomes	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
Arthur Ashman	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y

DISTRICT #8

Heather Cherry	N	N	N	N	N	N
Michael A. Rea	N	N	N	N	N	N
Lois G. Schine	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Wendy G. Batteau	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

DISTRICT #9

Kevin D. Green	N	N	N	Y	Y	N
Eileen L. Flug	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Velma E. Heller	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
John D. McCarthy	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y

TOTALS:

YEA	20	19	22	30	26	28
NAY	15	16	13	5	8	5
PASS/FAIL @ 70%	F	F	F	P	P	P