

TOWN OF PORTLAND
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING
MARCH 9, 2010

The public hearing was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield. Mrs. Bransfield read the call for public hearing reading the proposed General Government and Board of Education budgets for 2010-2011.

The total proposed budget for 2010-2011 reflects a 2.93% mill rate increase.

Mrs. Bransfield presented highlights of the general government budget. She noted that the State of Connecticut does not have an approved budget as yet and it is not known at this time how much State funding the town will receive.

Stephanie Tatro of 65 Great Hill Rd. commented on the increase in fringe benefits from 2009. Director of Finance Tom Robinson explained that the fringe benefits were included in the various departments in last year's budget and they are now reflected in one area in this year's proposed budget. Mrs. Tatro also commented on the upward trend in the public safety line. Mrs. Bransfield stated that safety is very important and the town has not chosen to reduce the funding for this. An eleventh police officer has been added which has increased the expenses. Selectman Mark Finkelstein commented that there is some offsetting revenue for this area.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Sally Doyen presented an overview of the Board of Education proposed budget. The budget reflects a 2.97% increase. Dr. Doyen stated that there are no new initiatives, courses, books, staffing, etc. in the budget. Staffing will be reduced by 3.5 positions, primarily due to retirements.

Stephanie Tatro questioned the reduction in staff since the enrollment was not decreasing. Dr. Doyen stated that one teacher position will be reassigned and the teaching positions will remain the same. Two positions are paraprofessional positions that will be covered by reassigning staff.

Stephanie Tatro asked if the budget reflects the closing of Brownstone Intermediate School. Dr. Doyen stated that the budget does not include any deductions for any changes to the schools for next year.

Stephanie Tatro asked if there is any consideration being given for an all-day Kindergarten program. Dr. Doyen stated that the staffing and space needs for the program would have to double and the town could not support this expense.

Susan Alison Young of 50 East Main Street questioned if the student enrollment will increase or remain the same. Dr. Doyen stated that the

enrollment has remained constant over the last few years and will remain constant over the next few years. Studies indicate that enrollment will decline in the future.

The public hearing closed at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Darna
Recording Clerk