

**SPECIAL MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL
OF NORTH BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT**

Monday, March 25, 2002

**Town Hall Council Chambers
7:05 p.m.**

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

1. ROLL CALL: Present were Mayor Joanne Wentworth, Deputy Mayor George Guertin, Council Members Mary Bigelow, Vincent Candelora, Michael Downes, Andrew Esposito, Joan Fitch and Jack Krasko. Also present were Town Manager Karl Kilduff and Treasurer/Finance Director Anthony Esposito.

Council Member Paul Proto was absent.

2. PRESENTATION OF THE TOWN MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR
FY
2002-03

Town Manager Karl Kilduff presented the proposed Budget for 2002-2003 to the Town Council.

Town Manager Kilduff reviewed various issues that affect the budget including the ECS grant, issues relating to CRRRA, the unresolved State budget, adjustments in the Grand List, and the three union contracts which are currently under negotiation. He noted that the large increase from the recent revaluation will allow for a reduction in the tax rate. The focus of the budget is on core services with no new services proposed although there are new costs associated with the relocation of the Town Hall.

Town Manager Kilduff then reviewed the proposed budget for General Government. He highlighted Operating and Personnel and the Capital Outlay. He noted that Debt Service is seeing a decrease due to the recent refinancing while there is an increase in the education funding being requested. He also spoke on the increase in insurance premiums. He reviewed the funding being requested for the Capital Improvements Plan. The Town Manager spoke on the replacement of the Valley Road Bridge and the equipment required for the Police Department, Public Works Department and Fire Department. The Town Manager advised that this budget contains an \$830,000 contribution from surplus.

With respect to revenues, the Town Manager reviewed the changes to the Grand List due to revaluation. He spoke on the State budget and the hope that the State will restore local grants and aid as well as the Education Cost Sharing Grant. He also noted that increases have been made in building permit fees as well as a possible increase in planning and zoning fees.

Town Manager Kilduff stated that under this budget one mill is equal to \$832,879. The proposed current mill rate is 27.93. He reviewed the Pro Rata Mill Rate Distribution.

Rose Angeloni, Chairperson of the Board of Education, reviewed the budget process that

the Board of Education went through over the past six months. She indicated that the Board of Education budget has been reduced by \$704,000 to date. Mrs. Angeloni spoke on the savings under the special education initiative and addressed the fixed costs of the budget. She indicated that the budget does take into consideration the Strategic Plan as well as the high school accreditation issues.

Dr. Robert Wolfe, Superintendent of Schools, reviewed the Board of Education's Mission Statement with the Council. The Board of Education budget presented is \$22,270,813, an 8.46% increase over last year's budget. Dr. Wolfe noted that 5.83% of the increase is in fixed costs, which include employee contracts and benefits, utilities, transportation, and special education. The additional increase in the Board of Education budget is for programmatic, enrollment and special education needs.

Dr. Wolfe distributed to the Council a copy of the Strategic Plan Strategic Action Plans approved by the North Branford Board of Education on March 21, 2002.

Due to increases in enrollment, Dr. Wolfe reviewed the need for an additional music teacher at the high school and noted that they have been able to eliminate one third grade teacher at Jerome Harrison School. He also spoke on the proposal for a Special Education Coordinator as they are bringing the special education services in house. He briefly reviewed the increase in other items such as equipment, instructional supplies and printing.

The Board of Education's Capital Request for 2002-2003 is for a facilities study at NBHS, NBIS, TVES and STW as well as a security audit for all facilities.

There was discussion by the Council on dates for the public hearing and budget workshops. The public hearing for the budget will be held on Tuesday, April 2nd, following the Town Council meeting. Budget workshops were scheduled for Tuesday, April 9th, Wednesday, April 10th, and Thursday, April 11th if needed. It was confirmed that the Council will address the Board of Education budget at the workshop on Wednesday, April 10th.

Councilor Krasko questioned the police overtime for the Route 80 reconstruction project and whether the Town is reimbursed for this work.

Town Manager Kilduff stated that the hours of overtime count toward the police officer's pension and raise the amount of contribution required.

Treasurer/Finance Director Anthony Esposito also responded to this issue. He confirmed that the pension contribution is included in the bill to the contractors for the police overtime. However, there is a higher percentage to be paid on the police officer's base wages due to the increase in hours worked.

There was some discussion on this issue between the Council and the Town Manager.

Councilor Fitch questioned the increase in the capital budget for vehicles.

Town Manager Kilduff spoke on the need for the replacement of the public works street sweeper. There was considerable discussion on this by the Council. It was also noted that there are three police cars to be replaced in this year's budget as well as fire apparatus for Company #2. Mayor Wentworth requested a list of town vehicles and who is using them for the budget process.

Councilor Krasko had a question with respect to the addition of a one-half special

education teacher at TVES.

Dr. Wolfe indicated that there is a teacher who is at STW and goes over to TVES one day a week. The proposal in the budget is to staff a full time teacher at STW and the teacher at TVES will go from half time to a full time position.

3. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Downes, to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosanne Krajewski
Clerk to the Council