

**GLASTONBURY BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024**

The Glastonbury Board of Finance, along with Finance Director, Keri Rowley, and Town Manager, Jonathan Luiz, held a special meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall at 2155 Main Street.

Roll Call

Members

Mr. Constantine “Gus” Constantine, Chairman {excused}
Mr. Jared Soper, Vice Chairman {participated via Zoom video conferencing}
Mr. James Zeller
Mr. Robert Lynn
Ms. Susan Karp {participated via Zoom video conferencing}
Mr. Kevin Graff {participated via Zoom video conferencing}

In the absence of Mr. Constantine, and with Mr. Soper participating remotely, a motion was made to appoint Mr. Zeller as Acting Chairman.

Motion by: Mr. Lynn

Seconded by: Mr. Graff

To appoint Mr. Zeller as Acting Chairman for this special meeting.

Result: Motion passed unanimously {5-0-0}.

1. Public Comment Session: Comments pertaining to the call *None*
2. Communication: Adopted Budget FY 2024/2025

Mr. Luiz explained that the BOF received a memo outlining the action that the Town Council took on the budget this past week. The BOF’s reduction to the BOE was sustained. The BOF’s reduction to the Town Operating budget was sustained, but the Council then added another \$100,000 back into the budget for the Library Maker Space position. He explained that the total General Fund transfer in to the CIP was reduced by \$149,000, and the transfer out to the OPEB Trust was reduced by \$100,000, based on preliminary information received from the actuaries. This is what funded the Maker Space.

Mr. Luiz then explained that the Council agreed with the increase in the collection rate to 99.2%,

but they set the anticipated interest on investments at 4% versus 4.25%. He clarified that he had initially agreed with 4.25% at the BOF meeting, but then he read several articles about rate reductions happening between now and the end of the year, so he has since walked back on his recommendation. He explained that the BOF's mill rate increase was 3%, whereas the Council's is a 2.97% increase. He also noted that there was a decision to cash fund the Gideon Welles library roof, but the Town is eager to have discussions on bonding for fire apparatuses in the future. Mr. Luiz informed the Council that the BOF intends to take that up at their April meeting.

Mr. Lynn's understanding is that the Federal Reserve will potentially cut interest rates three times before the end of the year, but the Town is earning over \$1 million this year and has locked in additional revenues next year. Mr. Luiz clarified that he has taken a very conservative approach. Mr. Soper stated that if the Federal Reserve were to make those three interest rate cuts, it will still get the Town to 4.5%. Mr. Soper asked if Milliman will attend the Board's April meeting to present their final report. Mr. Luiz stated yes, they will conduct an in-depth review.

Mr. Zeller is concerned that the Council cut CIP further, but they had a conversation about bonding. He asked what timeline the Council gave. Mr. Luiz told the Council that the more in-depth discussion will come from the BOF at their April meeting. Ms. Karp would like members to forward questions to Town Staff in advance of that meeting. Mr. Soper stated that she can reach out to Mr. Luiz and Ms. Rowley and copy the rest of the BOF members.

3. **Action:** Mill Rate Setting

Motion by: Mr. Lynn

Seconded by: Ms. Karp

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council has adopted a 2024/2025 budget for Town, Education, and Debt/Transfers appropriation of \$186,971,545. Pursuant to the Glastonbury Town Charter, the Board of Finance has determined that this budget appropriation will require from taxation \$171,305,155, and therefore, to finance the 2024/2025 adopted budget, the Board of Finance sets a Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicle mill rate of 31.93, calculated at a 99.20% collection rate.

Result: Motion passed unanimously {5-0-0}.

4. Adjournment

Motion by: Mr. Lynn

Seconded by: Ms. Karp

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glastonbury Board of Finance moves to adjourn their meeting of March 22, 2024, at 9:15 a.m.

Result: Motion passed unanimously {5-0-0}.

Respectfully submitted,

Lilly Torosyan
Lilly Torosyan
Recording Clerk

For anyone seeking more information about this meeting, a video on demand is available at www.glastonbury-ct.gov/video. Click link to access the 'Town's Video OnDemand platform.'