



## TOWN OF BROOKLYN

P.O. Box 356 - Route 6 and 169  
BROOKLYN, CONNECTICUT 06234

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Board of Finance Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 24, 2023, 7:00 pm  
Clifford B. Green Memorial Building  
and via Zoom

**Present:** Sandra Brodeur, Ken Dykstra, David Lee, Aaron Soucy, Andrew Dionne, Heather Allen, Lisa Mileski, Recording Secretary

**Also Present:** Lou Brodeur, Austin Tanner, Patricia Buell, Bill Skene, Other Members of the Public

**Via Zoom:** Joe Voccio, Shelley Cates, Mike Podzalne, Carrie Juhasz, Rick Ives, Sharon Loughlin, Anthony Jenna, Kayla Burgess, Jenn Nemeth, David Costa, Diane Wimmer, Sarah Bouchard, Other Members of the Public

**1. Determination of a Quorum and Call to Order:** S. Brodeur called the meeting to order at 6:59 pm

**2. Public Comment:** J. Nemeth sent an email with her statement for public comment, and it was acknowledged, though K. Dykstra stated he assumed he received it but had not read it. S. Brodeur gave a brief summary of the statement. A. Tanner provided K. Dykstra with his copy of the statement.

**3. Old Business:**

**a. Discuss current General Fund balance, anticipated estimate of town/school funds to be returned at the end of this fiscal year, and where we stand based on our Fund Balance Policy, dated 8/18/21 and attached to this agenda:** It was established that we did not have the current estimated General Fund Balance. S. Brodeur stated that the \$1,532,475.00 we had from 2021 is only 5% of what we need and that is not sufficient. She also stated that the Proposed Budget of 4/20/23 everything in it except what we have to do for our General Fund to be increased and that we are seeing a proposed MIL rate of 28.56, 1.08% increase. She confirmed our Fund Balance Policy, which should have said "Adopted", not "Proposed" is in the second year and we should have ten percent; that if we turn in \$600,000.00 at the end of this year, we would be at 7.5%, and she proposed doing a little increase to get it up to 8.00% this year, and that we would just need to collect another \$127,542.00. Discussion was held on how this could be accomplished. It is the Town's policy that it will try to maintain an unassigned fund balance of 10% of budgeted expenditures in the General Fund. Members would be more comfortable with getting us up to 8.00% though we want to keep the MIL rate as low as possible. D. Lee brought up the contract between the Town and the Fire District where the Town collects taxes at no cost to the Fire District and he suggested the Town should receive some revenue since we are doing a service for another entity. He also stated that the Town pays 100% of the billing for fire hydrants, and we should bill the Tax District for the ones that they are responsible for. He also stated that the BOFC after this budget process would work with the Fire Departments to consolidate or clean up to be consistent with the budget formats. More discussion was held about what the Fire District is responsible for and about the Fire Departments' budgets. A. Dionne then made a motion that the East Brooklyn Fire Department's operating budget be set at \$80,000.00; A. Soucy seconded the motion; and the motion passed. H. Allen made a motion that the Mortlake Fire Department's

budget be set at \$114,500.00; K, Dykstra seconded the motion; and the motion passed. More discussion was held about transparency from the Fire Departments going forward. The board also talked about other ways to cut the budget. A. Dionne made a motion that a request be made that the BOS reduce their budget by \$15,000.00; D. Lee seconded the motion; and the motion passed. The BOE budget was discussed. A. Dionne made a motion to pass the BOE budget as presented; K. Dykstra seconded the motion; A. Soucy was opposed; the motion was passed. A. Dionne made a motion to pass the Parks & Rec budget as presented; H. Allen seconded the motion; the motion was passed.

**b. Review consolidated budget requests to determine what figures to present at the Town Hearing:** More discussion was held about adding funds to the General Fund and whether the Board would use the \$56,000.00 in capital funds to offset the capital requests, as well as what the capital requests are. A. Tanner talked about paying the full amount of the capital requests and keeping the \$56,000.00.

**4. New Business:**

**a. Set Town hearing date either this meeting or on meeting scheduled for April 26, 2023:** It was decided to meet again on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at which time the Board will set a date for the hearing and the vote and we will look at the bottom-line numbers and see if we are okay with where we want the General Fund to be.

**5. Public Comment:** K. Dykstra made a motion to limit public comment to three minutes; A. Soucy seconded; motion approved. L. Brodeur stated that since Mortlake's Budget was cut, he expects everyone to buy BBQ tickets and we are looking for golfers. C. Juhasz stated she will contribute any way she can to Mortlake, that she is not asking the same questions of Mortlake because Mortlake has been so much more transparent just with the IRS, that she is pleased the Board is cutting the East Brooklyn Fire Department budget and urges the Board to cut it some more to make ends meet with the Town Budget, etc.

**6. Adjournment:** D. Lee made a motion to adjourn; A. Soucy seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm

Lisa Mileski, Recording Secretary