

**Preston Board of Finance  
Special Meeting  
Thursday, April 20, 2023  
Preston Plains Cafeteria**

1. **Call to Order** - John Moulson called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

2. **Roll Call**

**Members**

John Moulson - Chairman  
Robert Congdon - V. Chairman  
Kayla Thompson - Clerk  
Stacey Becker  
Denise Beale  
Zachary Maurice

**Alternates**

Robert Castronova  
Andrew Sawyer

***Also Present***

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier - First Selectwoman  
Jerry Grabarek - Selectman  
Ken Zachem - Selectman  
Cindy Varricchio - Finance Director  
Dr. Seitsinger - Superintendent of Schools  
Sean Nugent - Chairman of the Board of Education  
Jim Corley - Public Works Manager  
Keith Wucik - Fire Marshal  
Nick Vegliante - Democrat Town Committee Chairman  
Kimberly Lang - Recording Secretary

**Members of the Public - 4**

3. **Public Comment**

Jill Keith, 26 Tanglewood Dr., stated she has attended most of the budget meetings and finds it inspiring to see the detailed process first hand. She had 2 questions for the Board:

1. Would it be possible to estimate taxes for homes valued in the \$300,000 range rather than the median that was given yesterday?
2. Would it be possible to know the unused funds from the budgets of the last few years?

Nick Vegliante, 359 Old Jewett City Rd., stated that both the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education have done their due diligence to produce well thought out comprehensive budgets and both budgets should go to a Town as presented.

#### **4. 2023-2024 Proposed Budgets Town Government and Education**

The Board first reviewed the 2023-2024 Proposed Revenue Budget. It was clarified why there are fluctuations with the Senior Housing PILOT line. The Town Clerk Fees was increased from \$80,000 to \$95,000. The other area that was increased was Miscellaneous Fees/Landfill - Scrap from \$0 to \$3,000. After recalculating with those changes the new amounts were shared.

***Kayla Thompson motioned to approve the Local Revenue Budget of \$544,636, which includes Local Revenue -\$304,636; Property Taxes Prior Years -\$100,000; Tax Interest and Lien Fees -\$80,000; and Investment Income \$60,000. Zach Maurice seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.***

The Board reviewed a handout showing scenarios of differing amounts of monies from the Fund Balance and the effect on the budget and the mil rate according to the amount used.

***Kayla Thompson motioned to approve the use of 1.2 million from the Unassigned Fund Balance to offset the budget. Denise Beale seconded the motion. John Moulson, Kayla Thompson, Denise Beale, Stacey Becker, and Zach Maurice voted in favor of the motion, while Bob Congdon voted against the motion. The motion passed 5 to 1.***

***Zach Maurice motioned that a 98.5% Tax Collection Rate be used. Kayla Thompson seconded the motion. Through discussion of the motion, Zach Maurice amended his motion to use a 99% Tax Collection Rate. Kayla Thompson seconded the motion. John Moulson, Kayla Thompson, Denise Beale, Stacey Becker, and Zach Maurice voted in favor of the motion, while Bob Congdon voted against the motion. The motion passed 5 to 1.***

***Kayla Thompson motion to approve the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education budgets as presented. Stacey Becker seconded the motion. John Moulson, Kayla Thompson, Denise Beale, Stacey Becker, and Zach Maurice voted in favor of the motion, while Bob Congdon voted against the motion. The motion passed 5 to 1.***

The Board was given a Draft of the 2023-2024 Citizens' Guide to the Budget Public Hearing Volume 1 \* Issue 3 \* April 20, 2023. There was a brief discussion of its content, in particular the back page where citizens are given a formula to figure out their individual taxes based on the new grand list.

***Kayla Thompson motioned to approve the 2023-2024 Citizens' Guide to the Budget Public Hearing Volume 1 \* Issue 3 \* with the updates and corrections. Denise Beale seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.***

There was a brief discussion as to where the Public Hearing would be held and the time. Stacey Becker shared with Jill Keith and the audience the answer to her question regarding unused funds returned to the Town by the General Government and the Board of Education. It was pointed out that the information can be found in the Audit Report on the Town's website.

**5. Public Comment**

Jill Keith, 26 Tanglewood Dr., complimented the Board for the many tools used to produce a budget and the teamwork between the Boards of Selectmen, Education, and Finance to produce a comprehensive budget that demonstrates accurate budgeting and responsible spending. She once again stressed the importance of one communication source for clarity for the citizens to rely on.

**6. Adjournment**

***Kayla Thompson motioned to adjourn at 8:09 P.M. Stacey Becker seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.***

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kimberly Lang*

Recording Secretary

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*Jill Keith*  
PRESTON TOWN CLERK