

The **SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING** of the Board of Education West Hempstead Union Free School District was called to order in the High School Video Conference Room on March 27, 2012 at 7:32 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Ejnes, who presided, and four other members of the Board: Ms. Di Miceli, Mr. Mariano, Ms. Rilling and Mr. Trocchia. Also present were Mr. Hogan, Ms. Peluso, Mr. Cunningham, Ms. Girolamo and members of the staff and community.

Under **ROUTINE MATTERS** action was taken as follows:

Docket #1-293: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Mariano and carried by five, Appointments, Resignations, etc. were made, accepted, granted and approved as follows:

Topic: Appointment of Groundskeeper

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Stanton, James	Groundskeeper	\$44,839 Step 2	3/28/12

Mr. Schindler arrived at 7:35 p.m. and Ms. Lotito arrived at 7:58 p.m.

Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Mariano and carried by seven, the Special Business was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Mr. Ejnes then opened the Budget Workshop portion of the evening.

Mr. Ejnes explained to the audience that the Board will cover changes made to the draft budget suggested from the first two budget workshops. The Board will ask any questions they have and then residents will have their turn.

Mr. Ejnes then turned the meeting over to Mr. Hogan who explained that this is the third Budget Workshop and some changes were made from the last draft budget presented to the public. The budget now reflects a 1.37% budget-to-budget increase and a tax levy increase of 2.90, which is .16 lower than our tax cap allowable tax levy of 3.06. He thanked the Board and residents for their input going back to the initial budget café on November 29th. Over the course of the past three budget cycles the District has eliminated approximately 100 positions including administrative, teaching, support staff, clerical and custodial staff positions. Mr. Hogan continued that we have seen the loss of academic programs such as FLES, while incurring an increase in our class sizes K-12. Also, we have cut sports programs including wrestling, golf, 7th grade boys' and girls' volleyball and basketball, as well as all intramurals District wide. We have also seen a 20% reduction in student clubs. Responsible contracts for all employees have been settled and thanked all for recognizing the challenges of the economic times and helping us meet those challenges. The District has utilized our reserves to control tax increases and have begun to rebuild those reserves as we move into the future. Administration is pleased to present to the Board a draft budget that does not call for cuts to professional and support staff, while maintaining the educational, co-curricula and athletic programs for our students. Mr. Hogan then turned the meeting over to Mr. Cunningham.

Mr. Cunningham then gave a brief PowerPoint presentation that covered the five-year tax history and five-year budget history; what the financial future will look like if we used more fund balance to lower tax levy growth to 2.25% and another with a tax levy of

2%; current financial forecast based on the presented proposed budget and the forecast assuming use of additional \$250,000 of fund balance to suppress the tax levy and another forecast assuming 2% tax levy increase and the use of fund balance to balance the 2012-13 budget; and future budgets: 2% hard cap vs. allowable cap and explained tax effects future years' budgets. The budget will be adopted at the April 17th Business Meeting, the Budget Hearing is on May 8th and the Budget Vote is on May 15th.

The Board had discussions on restoring elementary after-school intramural sports asking how that would impact the present draft budget; keeping consistency in programs to maintain student performance; the mentoring program being worthwhile; paperless Board meetings; postage costs; Excel funds and building repairs and what repairs cannot be put off anymore.

Residents then had the opportunity to ask their questions. Consensus of the Board and residents was that this is a sound and fiscally responsible budget and should be placed before the voters as is. If there are more cuts to the present budget it would hurt future years. Ms. Di Miceli would like the budget a little lower. Ms. Rilling asked what would happen if the budget failed. Mr. Hogan explained we can put the same budget up for a re-vote, change the budget and put up for a re-vote and if that second vote fails, the District will go to a contingency budget. The Board and residents agree that information about the 2% tax cap should be made clearer and promote the education of what the tax cap means to school districts.

At 10:26 p.m. the Budget Workshop was adjourned.

Kathryn Girolamo, District Clerk