

# TOWN OF POMFRET

■ Board of Finance ■

For Immediate Release

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## **POMFRET BOARD OF FINANCE TO HOST PUBLIC HEARING ON 2023-2024 PROPOSED BUDGETS**

A public hearing to present the proposed 2023-2024 budgets to Pomfret residents will be held on Monday, April 24, at 7 pm, at Pomfret Community School.

The Board of Education and Board Selectmen presented their original budgets to the Board of Finance in March. The combined total of \$14,440,140 was an increase of \$572,037 over the current FY 2023 budget. Without any reductions or use of surplus funds, the increase would raise the mill rate approximately 1.6 mills

At a special meeting on April 4, the Board of Finance reduced the budgets by \$80,000, cutting \$70,000 from the \$11,145,427 education budget and \$10,000 from the \$3,294,713 government budget.

The original education budget represented an increase of \$437,584 or 4.1%. With the reduction, the budget proposal stands at \$11,075,427. Most of the increase is attributed to salaries, high school and special education tuition, and transportation.

On the government side, the original budget request was a \$134,453 or 4.25% increase. Salaries, benefits, human services, and civic and cultural programs account for most of the increase.

According to Board of Finance Chair Margie Huoppi, "This is the second year with a budget increase of over \$500,000. Unfortunately, we have no control over many of the line items, and the increased cost of living is also a factor." She said the Board of Finance is planning to tap into several surplus funds to keep the mill rate increase between .6 and .7 mills.

"We need Pomfret residents to attend this public hearing and let us know if these budgets are acceptable," Huoppi said. "If necessary, we will make further adjustments before sending the budget to the Town Meeting in May."

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