

BOARD OF FINANCE

Regular Meeting Minutes

In Person; TOB, Common Room & Virtual Meeting via ZOOM

October 21 2021

7:00 PM

**Minutes are not official until approved at the next regular meeting*

Members Present (a quorum of 4 members is required to conduct business):

Mike Makuch – Chairman

Peter Tanaka – Secretary

Matt Clark

Stephanie Summers

Members Absent:

Geoff Prusak – Vice Chairman

Christina Mailhos

Brenda Abrams – Alternate

Lisa Woolf – Alternate

Also Present:

First Selectwoman Erika Wiczenski

Willington Fire Company #1 Chief Alexander Moore

Superintendent Phil Stevens

Members of the Public

Chairman Mike Makuch called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None. September minutes need to be reviewed before approval.

PRESENT TO SPEAK

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Public Health Crisis Update

a) General Update

Connecticut's current high vaccine rate and the spread of the virus, will hopefully have less impact on the State over the Winter. House prices have now exceeded 2005 & 2006, which was prior to the 2007 & 2008 bubble. Unemployment rate is currently 6.1% for the state and Willington at 5.9%. Positivity rates are staying down in the area which is a good sign of public health in general. Today's UCONN rate was a .06% positivity rate for 3,700 tests. The State rate was 1.9% out of 20,500 tests.

At the Eastern Highlands District meeting earlier today, it was stated that in 10 months they have held 140 clinics and given over 11,000 shots.

b) Update on federal funding (American Rescue Pla

The ARPA Committee has met once and has an upcoming meeting on Monday at 1:00pm. For the CARES money, originally the towns told that money needed to be spent by 12/30/2020. FEMA was reimbursing at a rate of 75%. FEMA reimbursed our totals at 100% and Willington received the remaining FEMA amount of \$5,014.57 of municipal CRF funds. It needs to be used before it has to be returned for non-use. Looking at additional computers (laptops to be used as desktops) for staff at the Town Office Building. We received the money last fiscal year but need to spend the money this year. Will make purchases out of the current budget but may come back to ask for transfer into that department for expenditures.

The Town had allocated money for AED devices and Chief Moore reported that the DPH Commissioner has signed off on the Town of Willington becoming a Heart Safe Community.

2) Ambulance Service to the Town of Union

Status almost the same as the last meeting. Have re-connected with the First Selectman in Union and are working towards a meeting date with First Selectwoman Wiecenski and Chief Moore to continue discussions.

5) Reports of representatives to other committees, etc.

a) School Building committee

Chairman Makuch reported that the SBC has held a few meetings since the last Board of Finance meeting. With approval of funds from the Town Meeting, the Committee is now moving towards an RFP. First Selectwoman Wiecenski reported that as of last night's meeting, the Committee worked on a contractor for the school enrollment study and decided to contract with Dr. Peter Prowda. The Committee is working on a draft RFP for the OPM and the working group is going to try to draft it. Collier's has offered to review it for free as well.

b) Board of Education bargaining agreement

The BOE bargaining agreement has now been resolved. Superintendent Stevens reported that with each year there is a total cost of a 2.75% increase. The total cost was with step movements. The rest of the money went to the Top Step. There is an extension of the contract with no language changes. Every 2 years there is step movement and in the third year there is no step movement. M. Clark commented: 9% over 3 years.

c) Town Employee bargaining agreement

P. Tanaka reported that the Town side of the table has been meeting. First Selectwoman Wiecenski has been in discussion with the other party. Have not had an official meeting with the other side; issues with lawyers/union representation. First Selectwoman Wiecenski reported that they anticipate dates to be set in the coming weeks.

d) Region 19 Administrator's contract

Chairman Makuch reported that he attended the recent meeting; and was invited to attend an introductory meeting for negotiating contracts for Region 19 personnel. Representing the board, there is a lot of extra pressure on the system due to Covid and value the system and the people. Facing loss of revenue with crumbling foundations and the pandemic and capital expenses coming up, hopefully they keep that in mind as they move forward. First Selectwoman Wiecenski reported that it is an opportunity for member towns to meet and share their status.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Board of Education non-lapsing fund:

a) Procedure discussion

Superintendent Stevens stated that the Board of Finance can authorize expenditures up to \$20,000 in a single account. Anything over that amount, requires BOF approval and a town meeting approval. Issue: The first time this fund was created, the discussion was around trying to maintain and not add any money to the BOE budget. If there were additional special education costs that were unbudgeted, the BOE would not be able to cover those costs. Statute allows that once it's there in the account, it's at the discretion of the BOE and needs to fall under the BOE statute requirements; including special education related, out placements, etc this is a requirement of the Board of Education. The request this evening is that the Board of Education, from the money that they have returned from last year's budget, are requesting \$64,000.00 from their 2021 budget to move into a nonlapsing fund knowing that they anticipate moving \$100,000.000 out of that non lapsing fund, depending on the policy.

b) Allocation/Transfer

Chairman Makuch made a motion to approve the transfer of \$64,488.00 from the approved fiscal year 21 Board of Education budget appropriation to the Non-Lapsing Education Fund.

S. Summers seconded the motion.

VOTE: 4 YES (S. Summers, P. Tanaka, M. Clark, M. Makuch) 0 NO
Motion passes.

2) September 2021 revenue and expense report from the Treasurer

Review of revenue and expense report from the 1st Quarter.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence that the board members saw in regards to the ambulance salaries. First Selectwoman Wiecenski, Chief Moore and Chairman Makuch will meet on Friday.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

None.

GOOD & WELFARE:

This is the last meeting of this term and there is potential that some of the members of this term might be different. Chairman Makuch: This time that we have been working thus far has been challenging. The Board has conducted good and prudent work with taxpayer money. Look forward to moving into the Fall and into the budget season soon.

P. Tanaka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49pm.

Chairman Makuch seconded the motion.

VOTE: 4 YES (P. Tanaka, S. Summers, M. Clark, M. Makuch) 0 NO

Respectfully submitted,
Kelsey Allard
Interim Recording Secretary

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TOWN CLERK