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Patrick S. O'Sullivan  
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## **Board of Finance Regular Meeting**

Town Hall Meeting Room  
Monday January 22, 2018 7:30 p.m.

*(Unapproved)*

**Board Members Present:** Chairman Kevin Houlihan, Vice Chairman James Leahy, Kevin Moffett, Joseph Nuzzo, and Pat Romano

**Board Members Absent:** P. J. Shanley and Robert Bocek

**Staff:** John Cifarelli, Finance Director; Finance Director, Art Williams, Treasurer; Deborah Satonick, Recording Secretary

### **1. Call to Order**

- Chairman Houlihan called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m., and asked the Board members to introduce themselves.

### **2. Public Participation**

- There was no public participation.

### **3. Amity Update – Mr. Nuzzo**

- Mr. Nuzzo reported that he attended the Amity Finance Committee meeting that evening and Mr. Dumais presented the proposed 2018-2019 budget. The main budget drivers are salary and benefits, technology and textbooks, debt service, and Special Education and transportation. The proposed budget represents a 1.35% increase for the Town of Orange, or \$324,507.00.
- Student enrollment was also a topic of discussion at this meeting. Mr. Nuzzo noted that next year's student enrollment would decrease by sixteen students. Mr. Nuzzo also cited the risk factors to be excess cost reimbursement at 75% reimbursement, vacancy turnover, and the Self Insurance Fund. Mr. Dumais indicated at that meeting that he would like to use some of their yearly surplus to fund the Self Insurance Fund at 25% as well as establish a five-year plan for technology.

- There was a discussion on the proposed bonding for artificial turf, HVAC replacement, library renovations, a new parking lot, among other Capital expenditures. Mr. Moffett explained that the football field has been built on swamp and is easily ripped up. He felt that artificial turf, costing \$965,000.00, would be a good choice in the long term. He added that this technology has advanced and the materials used are nontoxic.
- Mr. Nuzzo concluded by stating that Amity saved money by switching to LED lighting and they hope to partner with the town of Woodbridge for additional savings with purchases.

**4. Vice Chairman’s Report – Mr. Leahy**

- Mr. Leahy explained that the Orange Volunteer Fire Department has lost needed revenue by not being able to sell raffle tickets using the postal system. He encouraged residents to make donations to the fire department.
- Mr. Leahy noted that after six months into Amity’s operating budget, there is a surplus of \$840,827.00. Mr. Leahy felt that Amity budgets higher than what is actually required for their medical and dental insurance and would like to discuss this further. He explained that any new budget should start with last year’s budget. Amity, however, starts their budget planning with a much higher number. This is an erroneous number as it includes the previous year’s surplus into their baseline number.
- Mr. Leahy reported that there are two new members on the Amity Board of Education, Mr. Browe and Mr. Belafonte, both from the Town of Orange. Bethany residents previously filled these positions.
- Lastly, Mr. Leahy presented a calendar for the purpose of budget planning, noting that Amity would like to vote on their budget by February twelfth. The Orange Board of Finance agreed that this was early, particularly in light of the uncertainty with the State of Connecticut.

**5. Review and Discuss 2017-2018 Revenue and Expenditure Reports**

Expenditure Report

- Mr. Williams cited some legal issues with planning and zoning that might require the transfer of funds to litigation. The Board briefly discussed some future developments within the Town. They include a Veterans Administration walk in clinic, two hotels, and an assisted living home.
- Ms. Romano inquired about the salary for the new Library Director, and Mr. Williams explained that this line item covered the overlap of pay for the previous director as well as the new director. It was noted that the expenditure for Family Counseling Services is typically \$90k - \$100k range.

- Ms. Cifarelli mentioned that the town is in need of a new phone system that could cost \$300k. The town will also need additional funding for computer repairs and technology. There is a balance of \$10k in Town Pensions and Mr. Cifarelli will look into this.

#### Revenue Report

- Mr. Williams reported that the collection of taxes has been consistent and better than last year at this same time. All state construction projects are on hold at this time. The railroad project for the town of Orange has been cancelled and the Derby Milford Road Bridge is on hold due to the shortage of State funding.

#### **6. Discussion and Approve the Minutes- December 18, 2017**

- The Board members reviewed the minutes and made revisions as necessary.

*Ms. Romano made a motion to approve the amended December eighteenth, 2017 Board of Finance minutes, seconded by Mr. Nuzzo. All were in favor, with Mr. Moffett and Mr. Leahy abstaining. The motion PASSED.*

#### **7. Discuss and Approve The Budget Workshop Schedule – February 2, 2018**

*Ms. Romano made a motion to approve the Board of Finance 2018-2019 Budget Workshop, seconded by Mr. Moffett. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.*

#### **8. Adjournment**

*Mr. Leahy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m., seconded by Ms. Romano. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.*

Respectfully Submitted,

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Deborah Satonick  
Recording Secretary