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Patricia B. O'Sullivan
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Board of Finance Special Meeting

Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday February 26, 2018 7:00 p.m.

(Unapproved)

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

Board Members Absent: P. J. Shanley and Pat Romano

Staff: John Cifarelli, Finance Director; Audrey Geer, Assistant Finance Director; Art Williams, Treasurer; Deborah Satonick, Recording Secretary

Guests: Dr. Charles Dumais, Superintendent of the Amity School District, Terry Lumas, Director of Amity Finance and Administration

1. Call to Order

- Chairman Houlihan called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., and asked the Board members to introduce themselves.

2. Public Participation

- Mr. John Belfonti, 67 Hampton Circle, Orange, introduced himself as the Chairman of the Amity Finance Committee. He expressed his support of the proposed 2018-2019 Amity budget and spoke in favor of the 1% State allowance for Capital improvements. Mr. Leahy inquired about the rationale of this new legislature. Dr. Dumais indicated that the State would allow Amity to use 1%-2% in surplus money for future Capital improvements. This House bill will allow Amity to defray the total cost of the upcoming bond and to establish a long term Capital plan.
- Mr. Thomas Hurley, 1050 Garden Road, Orange, is a member of the Amity Board of Education. He reported that he intends to make a motion to fund \$200k for two school resource officer positions, one at the Bethany middle school and another at the Orange location. While he is one member of a thirteen member Board, he feels that student safety is of paramount importance and hopes that the motion will be approved. Mr. Hurley also indicated that he is supportive of the 1% set aside of surplus money allowed by the State to be used for Capital improvements.

3. Presentation of the Amity 2018-2019 Budget – Dr. Charles Dumais

- Dr. Dumais gave a brief overview of Amity’s achievements in academics, athletics, the arts, and community services. He discussed the agreement with Albertus Magnus College for Amity’s Transition Program, as well as utilizing the old firehouse as an alternative to outsourcing. Dr. Dumais reported that Amity received the Technology Integration Grant of \$10k to be used to instruct teachers on the latest technologies. Dr. Dumais also discussed facilities, operations, Bond projects, and technology. Lasting, Dr. Dumais reminded the Board of Finance that Amity has earned eight consecutively clean audits.
- Dr. Dumais presented the 2018-2019 proposed budget, noting that there was a 1.87% increase from last year. However, with a realized savings on claims, this monetary savings was applied to the new budget, reducing the total budget increase to 1.21%, or \$49,026,535. The budget is summarized as follows:

Town of Orange	\$24,181,870	(0.68% increase)
Town of Woodbridge	\$14,712,485	(0.17% decrease)
Town of Bethany	\$ 9,295,901	(2.10% decrease)

- Dr. Dumais discussed the major forecasting assumptions regarding Fund Balance, staffing, student enrollment, building improvements, debt services, and the budgeted medical reserve of 25% for the Self Insurance Fund. The Board thanked Dr. Dumais, Ms. Lumas, Mr. Belfonti, and Mr. Hurley for their attendance.

4. Amity Update – Mr. Nuzzo

- Mr. Nuzzo had no additional information at this time.

5. Vice Chairman’s Report – Mr. Leahy

- Mr. Leahy reported that this fiscal year the Town of Orange was unable to fund most of their Capital item requests. He commented on the Amity presentation by noting that Amity continues to have sizable budget surpluses each year and noted that the Board of Finance unanimously passed a motion to approve an Amity budget of a 1% increase or less. He mentioned the State deficit and noted that the Town received only 50% of the ECS Grant money.
- Mr. Leahy presented a report by Brown and Brown of CT, Inc. regarding the medical/dental claim reserve level. According to Mr. Fiorello, representative of the company, a 15%-21% is the acceptable level of reserve. He pointed out that Amity’s funding is at a higher projection level.
- Mr. Leahy pointed out that the Amity surplus to date was \$1,498,196, but some of this surplus money was transferred to their Capital and Reserve Fund, leaving a current surplus of \$432,604. Mr. Leahy explained the zero-based budgeting process by using the previous year’s actuals. He illustrated that the actual 2018-2019 Amity budget represents a 5.12% increase as

Amity used last year's budgeted amount, including their surplus, in their calculations for the 2018-2019 budget.

6. Discussion and Approve the Minutes- January 22, 2018 & February 2, 2018

January 22, 2018 Board of Finance Minutes

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

Mr. Moffett made a motion to approve the amended January twenty-second, 2018 Board of Finance minutes, seconded by Mr. Nuzzo. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

February 2, 2018 Board of Finance Minutes

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

Mr. Moffett made a motion to approve the amended February second, 2018 Board of Finance minutes, seconded by Mr. Leahy. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

7. Discuss Possible Workshop Dates

- The Board of Finance members discussed possible budget workshop dates and agreed to meet on March sixth, at 7:00 p.m., at the Orange Board of Education Meeting Room. The Orange Board of Education will present their proposed 2018-2019 budget at this special Meeting. The Grand List should be ready prior to this meeting.

8. Review 2017-2018 Revenue and Expenditure Reports

Revenue Report

- Mr. Williams advised that tax collections are going well, with a 98.9% collection rate. This is higher than last year at this same time, with a 96.9 % collection rate.

Expenditure Report

- The expenditures are slightly over on computer expenses and telephone repairs. There was no further discussion at this time.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Nuzzo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m., seconded by Mr. Moffett. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick, Recording Secretary