

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

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Patricia B. O'Sullivan
TOWN CLERK

Board of Finance Budget Workshop Special Meeting

Mary L. Tracy School Meeting Room

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 7:00 p.m.

(Unapproved)

Board Members Present: Chairman Kevin Houlihan, Vice Chairman James Leahy, Kevin Moffett, and P. J. Shanley

Board Members Absent: Joseph Nuzzo and Pat Romano

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

Guests: Dr. Vince Scarpetti, Superintendent of Orange Board of Education; Mary-Jo Sierakowski, Business Administrator OBOE

1. Call to Order

- Chairman Houlihan called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., and introduced the Orange Board of Finance members.

2. Public Participation

- There was no public participation.

3. Presentation of the Orange Board of Education 2018-2019 Budget- Dr. Scarpetti

- Dr. Scarpetti acknowledged the Orange Board of Education members and the Administrative Team members present at the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.
- Dr. Scarpetti began his presentation by outlining the mission statement of the Orange Board of Education. Mr. Leahy indicated that he appreciated their mission statement. Dr. Scarpetti continued by presenting the highlights of the current year, which include the following: 2:1 devices for grades k-2, professional learning, scientific research based interventions (SRBI), and next generation science standards (NGSS).
- The OBOE goals for 2018-2019 include the following: ensure safe schools, create strong foundations, strengthen teachers' skills, and empower students. Dr. Scarpetti noted that the main budget drivers continue to be salaries and benefits (83% of the budget), followed by

Special Education. The increase for Special Education for 2018-2019 is \$286,259. Dr. Scarpetti also noted that the projected 2018-2019 total student enrollment increases from 1097 students to 1110 students.

- Dr. Scarpetti discussed some of the unfunded mandates, such as the New Teacher Orientation, and Mr. Leahy suggested that the State have no future mandates unless they can fully fund them.
- The proposed OBOE 2018-2019 budget increase is 2.49%, or \$500,718. Budget decreases were realized in curriculum, textbooks and instructional supplies, technology, building and facilities. Dr. Scarpetti reviewed the proposed budget by each line item and took all questions.
- Administrative Salaries will decrease as the principal of Mary L. Tracy is leaving and the new principal will start at a lower salary. Postage and School Office Supplies will also decrease as the student welcome packet is being sent electronically. Ms. Sierakowski mentioned that their summer school program had been paid for by a grant, however, parents are now paying it for.
- Special Education was discussed in great detail, and Ms. Sierakowski stated that this segment of the budget is volatile and difficult to forecast. She discussed the Special Education District Transportation and Outplaced Transportation and noted that the number of outplaced students will drop from nine students to six students. Dr. Scarpetti noted that there are 22 spoken languages within the OBOE population, and the school is responsible to provide a translator for PPT meetings if needed.
- Dr. Scarpetti concluded his presentation with a brief discussion on utilities, building operations, and insurance/compensation. Chairman Houlihan thanked Dr. Scarpetti for a sound budget and called a five-minute recess.

4. Discussion and Approval of the Minutes – February 26, 2018

- Mr. Leahy made numerous additions to the minutes.

Mr. Moffett made a motion to approve the revised February twenty-sixth, 2018 Board of Finance Special Meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Leahy. All were in favor, with Mr. Shanley abstaining. The motion PASSED.

5. Budget Workshop – 2018-2019 Budget

- Mr. Leahy gave a projection on how the Town of Orange earned AAA credit rating. He discussed at length the decrease of State support for Orange and reiterated that the State should not have future mandates unless they were prepared to fully fund them. Mr. Leahy noted that Governor Malloy's current proposed budget would decrease State support for Orange by \$1,486,975, or 93%. This will have a significant impact on taxpayers.
- Mr. Leahy gave an update on the Capital Projects that will be funded as follows:

1. Municipal Phone System - **\$325k – Funded in 2018-2019 budget**
2. Transfer Station DEEP Requirements - \$37k to be funded in the 2017-2018 Budget
3. 2004 Pickup Truck for OBOE - **\$35k- Funded in 2018-2019 Budget**
4. Additional Wiring for Ethernet Ports - **\$60k –Funded in 2018-2019 Budget**
5. Gas Water Heaters at Peck Place School - **\$49k – Funded in 2018-2019 Budget**
6. Equipment Building at Transfer Station - \$25k – Funded in 2017-2018 Budget
7. Driveway at Transfer Station - \$36k – Funded in 2017-2018 Budget
8. Transfer Station Office - \$15k – Funded in 2017-2018 Budget

Total Capital Expenditures in 23018-2019 Budget is **\$469,000**

- As the current Fund Balance is high, funds from this account may be used to pay for some of the Capital Expenditures. Mr. Cifarelli noted that an IT Director position would not be filled until the end of this year.

6. Discuss Possible Workshop Dates

- The Board of Finance members discussed possible meeting dates for budget workshops and agreed that the next Board of Finance Budget Workshop will be scheduled on Monday, at 7:30 p.m., at Town Hall.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Shanley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m., seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick,
Recording Secretary