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Patrick B. O'Sullivan
TOWN CLERK

Board of Finance Special Budget Workshop

OBOE 2nd Floor Conference Room
Wednesday, March 24, 2021 6:00 p.m.

(Unapproved)

Attendance)

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

Board Members Absent: Joseph Nuzzo

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

1. Call to Order & Public Dialogue

- Chairman Houlihan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted that there was no public dialogue.

Mr. Leahy made a motion to move Item #5 "Discussion and Approval of March 15, 2021 Regular Meeting" to Item # 2 on the Agenda. Ms. Romano seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

2. Discussion and Approval of March 15, 2021 Regular Meeting

- The Board members reviewed the minutes and made edits as required.

Ms. Romano made a motion to approve the revised March 15, 2021 Board of Finance Regular Meeting. Mr. Shanley seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

3. Budget Workshop

- Mr. Shanley asked if going forward the Board of Finance attachments could be sent over in landscape format to make it easier to read. Mr. Cifarelli agreed to do so in the future.
- Mr. Cifarelli reported that Mr. Williams, Town Treasurer, made a number of reductions on the Revenue Report. Mr. Cifarelli shared these revenue losses in detail with the Board members. With these

revenue reductions of \$350,440 being considered, the total estimated revenue projection is now \$75,872,177.

- Mr. Leahy suggested that based on the historical data regarding Amity’s large end-of-year surpluses over the last four years, the Board of Finance should appropriate an amount to be returned to the town that is more in line with this data. After some discussion, it was unanimously agreed that \$850k is the correct dollar amount that corresponds to their historically large end-of-year surpluses.
- Mr. Cifarelli reviewed the Capital items in the Board of Education budget and the Town budget. A number of items were removed from the OBOE general budget and moved into Capital items. Having removed these items, the new OBOE budget for 2021-2022 is \$22,109,416. The fee for Munis is \$80k, which is shared equally between the OBOE and the Town of Orange. However, the full amount will be paid on the Town side in the 2021-2022 proposed budget. Mr. Cifarelli mentioned that \$200k in Capital will be approved by the Board of Selectmen to repair the pipes and lighting at High Plains Community Center.
- The Board members reviewed the current Fund Balance. If \$500k is transferred from the Fund Balance to the Capital Fund, the fund balance will be at 17%.
- While increasing class size could reduce the number of teachers, the Board members felt that this would not be a good time to suggest such an option. There was some concern that 2021-2022 budget might not pass if teachers had to be cut. However, Chairman Houlihan will speak with Dr. Scarpetti about reducing their proposed budget by \$100k. Their current 2021-2022 proposed budget has a 3.20% increase. The overall 2021-2022 tentative budget is as follows:

Town	\$28,872,873
OBOE	\$22,009,416
Amity	\$25,236,005

- Mr. Cifarelli reported that the first payment of \$125k by Racebrook Country Club was renegotiated and will be made in June 2022. This will be added revenue to the budget. In an attempt to reduce the mill rate even further, it was suggested using \$700k from the Fund Balance. Mr. Leahy would like to reduce the mill rate to 2.99 %. While the other Board members agreed, they also felt that this would be challenging in light of the Grand List loss.
- Mr. Leahy will be writing an article for the paper and would like to cover the Connecticut Stimulus dollar amount being awarded to the Town of Orange as compared to neighboring towns. The Town of Orange gets 2%, which is considerably lower than most other towns in Connecticut.
- Mr. Cifarelli included a letter from the tax collector, Ms. Pierson. The letter highlighted the revenue collection over the fiscal year, along with the challenges she has faced due to the poor economy.
- Mr. Leahy presented the Budget Calendar and the next Budget Workshop meeting is scheduled for March 30th, Tuesday, at 6:00 p.m. at the Orange Board of Education Conference Room.

OLD BUSINESS

4. Review Cost of tropical storm Isaias

- There was no discussion at this time.

5. Adjournment

Mr. Shanley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Ms. Romano seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Satonick
Recording Secretary