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Patrick B. O'Sullivan
TOWN CLERK



Board of Finance Regular Budget Workshop

Town Hall Meeting Room
Thursday, February 13, 2020 7:00 p.m.

Approved

Attendance

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

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

Guests: Dr. Jennifer Byars, Superintendent of Amity Schools; Theresa Lumas, Director of Amity Finance & Administration

1. Call to Order

- Chairman Houlihan called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Public Participation

- There was no public participation at this time.

3. Presentation of the Amity 2020-2021 Budget

- Dr. Byars presented the Mission Statement and the continued goals for the Amity school district. She then proceeded to highlight the many accolades that the school district has received in academics, athletics and the arts. She made mention that Amity is in the top 4% rank of high schools in the USA, with 25 AP classes and 78 student clubs and organizations. Amity has been awarded School of Distinction and ranks 16th within the State of Connecticut.
- The main budget considerations are contractual obligations, Federal and State mandates, Special Education, and department requests. Department requests include an additional technology individual, two school Resource Officers for the middle schools, one additional

social worker, and two additional transition coordinators, each working ten months of the year. Technological infrastructure concerns, such as new servers, are also addressed within the budget, as is the purchase of new science textbooks.

- The proposed 2020-2021 Amity budget is a 3.79% overall increase from last year, which equates to a 2.39% increase, or a \$25,326,739 dollar increase, for the Town of Orange. Dr. Byars mentioned holding a Special District Meeting to appropriate 1%, or \$495,483 of the 2019-2020 operating budget to the Capital and Nonrecurring fund for future Capital items. This is the maximum amount allowed by State statute. Items of consideration within the Capital budget are saving for the replacement of the all weather field in 10-15 years and/or a bond for a new roof at the school. Chairman Houlihan recommended that this Capital account not be used for the future replacement of the turf field, as taxpayers will be paying for the field twice within the same budget.
- Mr. Leahy reviewed the following data from Amity from FY 05-06 to FY 19-20: Yearly budgets; yearly surplus; number of students; and FTE's (full-time equivalents). Based on this data, Mr. Leahy presented the following analysis:
 1. Students: 13.9% decrease from FY 2009-2010 to FY 2020-2021
 2. FTE's: 4.0% increase from FY 2005-2006 to FY 2020-2021
 3. Students per FTE: 16.0% decrease from FY 2009-2010 to FY 2020-2021
 4. Yearly Budget: 2.38% average annual increase from FY 2006-2007 to FY 2019-2020.
 5. Surplus: \$1,389,422 average from FY 2005-2006 to FY 2018-2019
 6. Comparison of Budget Increase to Surplus: In the last 10 years, the Budget surplus has been greater than the Budget increase requested 9 times.
 7. Amity Budget Increases – Two methods of Assessment:
 - a. Budget to Budget, 2.38%
 - b. Actuals to Budget, 5.54%
- The Board of Finance thanked Dr. Byars and Ms. Lumas for their presentation of the 2020-2020 Amity budget.

4. Amity Budget Discussion & Possible Vote on the 2020-2021 Amity Budget

- The Board members discussed the proposed Amity 2020-2021 budget and after careful consideration decided to make their recommendation through a motion.

Mr. Leahy made a motion to approve a 2% budget increase in the proposed 2020-2021 Amity budget, with minimal flexibility up to a 2.5% increase, upon the sole discretion of Chairman Houlihan. Ms. Romano seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

5. Budget Discussion for 2020-2021 Fiscal Year

- Finance Director Cifarelli gave corrected salary information within the Library and Police Department. He added that Mr. Williams will have a Revenue Report available shortly and that he would send this information out via email.

6. Discussion and Approval of Minutes - January 27 and February 7, 2020

- The Board reviewed both sets of minutes and made revisions as necessary.

January 27, 2020 Minutes

Ms. Romano made a motion to approve the revised January twenty-seventh, 2020 minutes, seconded by Mr. Moffett. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

February 7, 2020 Minutes

Mr. Shanley made a motion to approve the revised February seventh, 2020 minutes, seconded by Mr. Moffett. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Shanley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m., seconded by Mr. Nuzzo. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick
Recording Secretary