



ORANGE, CONNECTICUT
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Board of Finance Special Meeting

Monday, June 6, 2022

Meeting Room -Town Hall 7:30 p.m.

(Unapproved)

Attendance

Board of Finance Members Present: Chairman Kevin Houlihan, Vice Chairman James Leahy, Kevin Moffett, and Kevin McNabola

Board of Finance Members Absent: Joseph Nuzzo and Ajeet Jain

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

1. Call to Order & Introduction

- Chairman Houlihan called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

2. Introductions

- Chairman Houlihan asked all of the Board of Finance members to introduce themselves.

3. Public Dialogue

- Jody Dietch, 601 Harborview Road, spoke on behalf of the Amity 2022-2023 proposed budget. She compared the Amity surplus with that of the Town of Orange and cited that the town has had a much larger surplus every year compared to the Amity surplus. She also admonished the Orange Board of Finance and asked them to present the actual facts and not their negative opinions regarding the Amity budget.
- Debra Kitter, 936 Green Circle, noted that the OBOE asked and received a 3% increase without any challenge from the Orange Board of Finance. She cannot understand how the Board members expect Amity to accept a 0.41% increase when contractual obligations alone exceed this amount. She cannot understand why the Board is not supporting high school education.
- Rob Lim, 956 Corn Cob Lane, believes that Amity requires a necessary surplus for any unexpected emergencies that may occur. It is fiscally responsible to have a budget reserve and as Amity cannot have the budget reserve, they accomplish this through their budget surplus.

This surplus is a cushion built into their budget for any uncertainties that may occur. Mr. Lim also suggested that the Town work on economic development to increase the Grand List for additional revenue for the town.

- Alexandra Onuf, 956 Corn Cob Lane, does not feel that 0.41% increase, which was approved by the Orange Board of Finance, is sufficient funding for Amity. She added that it is up to Amity, not the Orange Board of Finance, to determine staffing requirements at the school. She felt that the 3.19% budget increase for the Amity 2022-2023 budget should be approved.

New Business

Mr. Leahy made a motion to move Item #6 “Allocate Funds for Faro Crash Scene Laser Scanner & Software with Drone Mapping Software” to Item #4 on the Agenda. Mr. McNabola seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

4. Allocate Funds for Faro Crash Scene Laser Scanner & Software with Drone mapping Software

- Chief Gagne explained that this is new equipment is to replace obsolete equipment that is over ten years old. This laser technology is state-of-the art and quickly and accurately maps out scenes of a crash and/or crime scene for possible civil and criminal court use. This new equipment includes Drone Mapping Software that takes multiple 3-D photos very quickly.
- Mr. Cifarelli suggested a motion be made to allow him to transfer up to \$50k from the Police Salary Accounts to fund this purchase.

Mr. McNabola made a motion to allow Mr. Cifarelli to transfer up to \$50k from the Police Salary Accounts to fund the purchase of the Faro Crash Scene Laser Scanner and Software with Drone Mapping Software. Mr. Moffett seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

Mr. Leahy made a motion for a five-minute break, seconded by Mr. Moffett. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

[The meeting resumed at 7:59 p.m.]

Amity Update

- In the absence of Mr. Nuzzo, Mr. Leahy gave an update on the Amity Board of Education meeting on May 31st. The superintendent made a presentation, with a thirty-minute allotment for individuals to speak in favor of the budget and another thirty-minute allotment to hear from those individuals not in favor of the budget. The Amity Board of Education advised that while it is their job to determine the dollar amount of the 2022-2023 budget, it is up to the superintendent to determine how that money should be allocated.

6. Vice Chairman's Report

- Mr. Leahy made use of visuals to explain Amity's actual budget increases over the last four years. Each year, the Amity surplus dwarfs their actual budget requests. Based on statistical facts, Amity has had four historic years of a wasteful \$3 million dollar surplus each year.
- Mr. Leahy illustrated that with a 0.41% increase, absolutely no budget cuts are required. In addition, the list of proposed increases in the 2022-2023 budget can be covered by funding in the current budget. Without any budget increases for next year, there would still be over a \$500k surplus. He based his information on reviewing the statistical data obtained over the past several years regarding the Amity budget.

7. Discussion and Approval of Minutes – May 9, 2022 Special Meeting

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

Mr. McNabola made a motion to approve the revised May 9th, 2022 Board of Finance minutes, seconded by Mr. Leahy. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

8. Review Revenue and Expense Reports for May 2022

- Mr. Cifarelli advised that there will be a surplus in revenue at the end of the fiscal year and Racebrook Country Club has made their first payment. The Expense Report was also briefly reviewed with the Board members.

9. Adjournment

Mr. McNabola made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m., seconded by Mr. Leahy. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Satonick
Recording Secretary

