



## **Board of Finance Regular Meeting**

Monday, September 18, 2023  
Meeting Room -Town Hall 7:00 p.m.

*(Unapproved)*

### **Attendance**

**Board of Finance Members Present:** Chairman Kevin Houlihan, Vice Chairman James Leahy, Kevin McNabola, Joseph Nuzzo, and Ajeet Jain

**Board of Finance Members Absent:** Kevin Moffett

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

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### **1. Call to Order & Introduction**

- Chairman Houlihan called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and asked the members to introduce themselves.

### **2. Public Dialogue**

- Mr. Leahy gave his prayers and best wishes to Mr. Moffett and his family on behalf of the Commission members. He is greatly missed by his peers and wished a speedy recovery. There was no additional public dialogue at this time.

### **New Business**

### **3. Amity Update – Mr. Nuzzo**

- Mr. Nuzzo attended the Amity Finance Committee meeting last week and the quarterly performance results were discussed at this meeting. Mr. Nuzzo presented an overview of the quarterly performance of the Amity Pension, OPEC, and Sick and Severance to the Board of Finance members.
- Mr. Nuzzo reported that the overall Amity surplus from the previous budget is 2.4 million. Two percent of this surplus has been transferred to their Capital Account and the remaining 1.4 million will be credited to the respective towns.
- Mr. Nuzzo mentioned that there was a discussion at the AFC meeting regarding a new

program in Special Education and the need to transfer funds to extend Special Education Services to the end of the year, as this is now an unfunded State mandate. When a student reaches the age of 22, they are entitled to receive Special Education services until the end of their academic school year.

- Mr. Leahy noted the tuition revenue of eight out of area students attending Amity and would like more information on this at the next BOF meeting, if possible. Mr. McNabola noted that wage rates are increasing and inquired about future contract negotiations. Mr. Leahy added to this broad discussion, noting that the Amity Debt Service is declining substantially.

#### **4. Vice Chairman's Report – Mr. Leahy**

- Mr. Leahy gave a presentation regarding “Double Pay in Education” in which the State of Connecticut is funding student enrollment for the same student in two different schools. To illustrate the point, if a student is enrolled in any type of magnet school rather than the assigned school based on the zip code of their residence, the State of Connecticut pays student enrollment for both schools on behalf of the same student. While there are some students from Amity that fit this category, it does not have a major impact to the Town of Orange at this time.
- Mr. Leahy reviewed the ongoing Amity surplus since 2007, highlighting that their budget increases each year is oftentimes larger than the remaining surplus from the previous year. He noted that fiscal budgets should be based on actuals so as not to create an inflated budget, a burden on taxpayers, and a resulting surplus.

#### **5. Discuss & Vote to Return Excess Cost Sharing Reimbursement to OBOE**

- Mr. Cifarelli explained that this is routinely done every year and shared the memo from Ms. Koch.

*Mr. Leahy made a motion to transfer \$133,528 from the Town to the Board of Education. Mr. McNabola seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.*

#### **6. Funding Request**

##### **A. Allocate Funds from American Rescue Funds for Design Engineering Svc. For Brookside Dr. & Glenbrook Rd.**

- Mr. Cifarelli explained that these requested funds are to prepare construction bid documents. The Town will be using Cardinal Engineering for this project.

*Mr. McNabola made a motion to allocate \$138,600 from the American Rescue Fund to Cardinal Engineering for engineering design services to prepare construction bid documents for Brookside Dr. & Glenbrook Rd. Mr. Jain seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.*

**B. Allocated Funds from American Rescue Fund for Construction Engineering Services at Old Country Lane & Coachmans Lane**

*Mr. Leahy made a motion to approve \$27,500 to Cardinal Engineering for the Construction Engineering Services for Old Country Lane & Coachmans Lane. Mr. McNabola seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.*

**C. Allocated Funds from Capital Account to Fund New Doors at Public Works Garage**

- Mr. Cifarelli explained that this request was approved by the Board of Selectmen for three mechanic bay doors in the amount of \$20,170 to Crawford Door of Stratford. The trucks will not be able to get out of the bays with malfunctioning doors.

*Mr. Leahy moved to approve \$20,170 from the Capital Account to Crawford Door of Stratford for the replacement of three mechanic bay doors. Mr. McNabola seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.*

**8. Discussion and Approval of June 19, 2023 Minutes**

- The Board members made edits as necessary.

*Mr. McNabola made a motion to approve the revised June 19, 2023 minutes, seconded by Mr. Leahy. All were in favor, with Mr. Jain and Mr. Nuzzo abstaining. The motion PASSED.*

**10. Review Revenue and Expense Reports for September 2023**

- Mr. Cifarelli reported that tax collection is good, and residents pay in person, by electronic checks and credit cards. There might be a shortfall in line item Water for Fire Hydrants as the water fee has increased and new hydrants have been added within the town.
- Union contracts have been settled and Mr. Cifarelli has completed the salary transfers. He took all questions as they arose.

**9. Adjournment**

*Mr. McNabola made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. minutes, seconded by Mr. Leahy. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Deborah Satonick  
Recording Secretary