

2021 DEC 23 AM 8:49

Kevin Houlihan
TOWN CLERK



Board of Finance Regular Meeting

Monday, December 20, 2021
Meeting Room -Town Hall 7:00 p.m.

(Unapproved)

Attendance

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

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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Public Dialogue

- There was no public dialogue at this time.

New Business

3. Funding Requests:

A. Memo from Kristy Macci Teixeira, RN, Chairman of the Orange Board of Health, requesting Additional Funding from the American Rescue Plan

- Ms. Teixeira advised that this request is in response to the pandemic and is totally separate from their regular operating budget, which has not increased. If approved, the funds would come from the American Rescue Plan Act, which expires on December 2024. The First Selectman did not support their original request, and as a result, several line items were eliminated, reducing this request to \$45,792.00. Mr. Cifarelli advised that this amount, if approved, would be about 10% higher due to Workman's Compensation and FICA.

- Ms. Teixeira and Dr. Mohammed explained in detail the role and responsibilities of the Orange Board of Health to the local Orange residents. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to, weekly vaccination clinics at High Plains Community Center, contact tracing, and staffing to handle insurance reimbursements and the paperwork required for the Federal Government.
- After much discussion and deliberation, Mr. Leahy suggested funding a three-month pilot program in order to review the data to determine ongoing funding requirements. The Board members agreed with this approach and a motion was made.

Mr. Leahy made a motion to approved \$25k from the American Rescue Plan Act for a three-month pilot Covid-19 Mitigation Plan at which time the Orange Board of Health will return to the Orange Board of Finance to present data for possible future funding. The Orange Visiting Nurse Association will collaborate with the Orange Board of Health in handling the insurance reimbursements and the paperwork required for government reimbursement. Mr. McNabola seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

B. Memo from Kathy Charbonneau Executive Director Orange Chamber of Commerce Requesting Funding

- Mr. Novicki, Board President, and Ms. Charbonneau, the new Executive Director, spoke on the role of the Orange Chamber of Commerce and their current financial needs. In an attempt to assist and promote local businesses, they have been negatively impacted due to the pandemic. They are requesting a one-time \$10k allocation to improve their IT infrastructure and to allow Ms. Charbonneau the opportunity to work the additional hours needed to generate income producing programs and to improve overall operations.

Mr. McNabola made a motion to approve \$10k as a one-time funding allocation to the Orange Chamber of Commerce to be transferred from line item #2134401551100 Salary – Elderly Coordinator. Mr. Moffett seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

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

C. Request to Expend up to \$45k from Capital Account to Purchase New Vehicle

- Mr. Cifarelli explained that the funding is intended to purchase a new SUV Police vehicle and give the 2017 vehicle that is currently being used by Chief Gagne to the First Selectman.

Mr. Leahy made a motion to approve up to \$45k for the purchase of a new police vehicle that will be fully outfitted and give the current vehicle being used by Police Chief to the First Selectman. Mr. Moffett seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

D. Request from Pension Board for up to \$12k for an RFP for Defined Contribution Plan

- Mr. Cifarelli briefly explained the Defined Benefit Plan, which is a closed plan with seven employees remaining, and the Defined Contribution Plan. Mutual of America currently is the holder of these funds and the request of \$12k is for the RFP project by Fiducient Advisors.

Mr. McNabola made a motion to approve a transfer \$12k from line item #2134401551100 Salary – Elderly Coordinator to fund the RFP project by Fiducient Advisors. Mr. Nuzzo seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

E. Request \$25k for Funding for Bicentennial Committee Planning Activities

- Mr. Cifarelli reported that Mr. O’Sullivan is heading this committee and Mr. Hiza is also involved. Fireworks, a parade, and other activities are being planned.

Mr. Nuzzo made a motion to approve a \$25k transfer from the Fund Balance to fund the Bicentennial Committee, seconded by Mr. McNabola. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

4. Amity Update

- Mr. Nuzzo reported that Dr. Byers will be presenting the proposed 2022-2023 Amity Budget at the January 24th Board of Finance meeting. The proposed budget began at 7.16% and was reduced to 5.4%. He indicated that their claims and medical expenses have both increased this year.

5. **Vice Chairman’s Report & Possible Vote on Percentage Increase to support Amity Budget**

- Mr. Leahy pointed out that 63% of the entire budget is allocated to education. While student numbers are declining, staffing requirements are increasing disproportionately. Mr. Leahy focused heavily on Amity’s extravagant surpluses over the last ten years and pointed to the fact that these surpluses continue to overtax residents. The Board members agreed to wait on any possible vote on the percentage increase they will support until after the Amity budget presentation at the January Board of Finance meeting.

6. Discussion and Approval of Minutes – November 15, 2021

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

Mr. Leahy made a motion to approve the revised November 15, 2021 BOF minutes, seconded by Mr. Jain. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

7. Revenue and Cost Reports for November 31, 2021

- Mr. Cifarelli took all questions from the Board members regarding the Revenue and Expenditure

Reports. The current revenue tax collection was focused on during this discussion and Mr. Cifarelli noted that tax bills for supplemental motor vehicle went out earlier this year.

11. Adjournment

Mr. Moffett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m. Mr. McNabola seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Satonick
Recording Secretary