

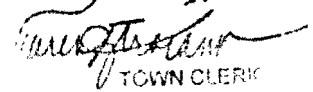
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STAFFORD, CT

Board of Finance
Regular Meeting

2020 MAY -4 AM 10:14

April 29, 2020 7PM

Zoom Meeting ID 868 0137 1932

2 pages

TOWN CLERK

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:16 pm. Present via Zoom were Chairman Francis Moriarty , members David Walsh, Anthony Pellegrino, Sal Titus and Matthew McKenney. Also present were alternate members Conrado Ulloa, Steven Geryk and Richard Shuck.

Upon motion of Mr. Walsh and seconded by Mr. Pellegrino, the Board voted unanimously to seat Mr. Ulloa as a member, due to the vacancy which was created pursuant to the resignation from the Board of Finance of Gary Fisher. A quorum was established.

Also participating via Zoom were First Selectman Mary Mitta, Chief Financial Officer Lisa Baxter, Board of Education Chairman Sonya Shegogue, and Superintendent of Schools Steven Moccio.

2. Upon motion of Mr. Walsh and seconded by Mr. Ulloa, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the March 9, 2020 meeting.
3. First Selectman Mitta presented the proposed FY 20/21 Board of Selectmen's budget. The total budget of \$13, 567,140 encompasses \$10,744,833 for General Government, \$2,256,675 for Debt Service and \$565,532 for the Stafford Public Library, representing an expenditure increase over FY 19/20 of \$296,653. She noted increases in Fixed Charges, General Highways and other miscellaneous budgets.

First Selectman Mitta also reported that the Town realized an additional \$150,000 in FY 19/20 as revenue from the sale of town property. She requested that the Board of Finance consider utilizing that amount to offset the town budget, for a net budget increase of \$146,653. Further discussion with the Board and CFO Baxter noted that the \$150,000 was already applied in the revenue projection for FY 20/21 and could not additionally be counted as a reduction on the expenditure side.

Discussion was held on the purchase and financing of public works vehicles, lease purchase vs. outright purchase of major highway equipment, insurance costs, repairs to town hall, revenues from the Building and Zoning departments, impact of crumbling foundations, Grand List projections, the General Fund balance, the Unassigned Fund Balance (currently at 10.57%) and the Board of Finance policy to stay between 10-14% at all times, and costs to the budget as impacted by the pandemic.

Superintendent Moccio and Board of Education Chairman Shegogue reviewed the FY 20/21 Board of Ed budget which was last presented to the Board of Finance on March 2, 2020. The budget at that time was \$28,822,792, representing an increase of \$770,575 or 2.75% over the current year.

Superintendent Moccio and Chairman Shegogue spoke about the major changes since the March 2, 2020 meeting that had occurred in the school system due to the pandemic and the Governor's Executive Order closing schools. They detailed the current status with the switch to online teaching , negotiations with the bus company on the transportation contract, special education costs, the uncertainty of when schools will reopen or if summer school/remedial actions will be mandated, the food program offered with seven days of meals for anyone age 18 or under, and any projected savings.

The Board thanked First Selectman Mitta, Board of Education Chair Shegogue and Superintendent Moccio for their work to date on the budget.

The Board of Finance affirmed that it did not wish to see an increase in the mill rate, and would be expecting reductions from both budgets to meet that goal. CFO Baxter will forward to the Board of Finance updated projections of revenues as received.

4. Chairman Moriarty stated that a special meeting of the Board of Finance will be scheduled shortly to fill the vacancy on the Board due to the resignation of Gary Fisher.
5. A motion to adjourn by Mr. Walsh, and seconded by Mr. Pellegrino, was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Erin Kirchhoffer
Recording Secretary

The video recording of the meeting is posted to the Town Website www.staffordct.org