



ORANGE, CONN.
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Board of Finance Regular Meeting

Monday, February 28, 2022
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

Guests: Lisa Pimenta, Director of OVNA; Anna Saldamarco, OVNA; Jim McPherson, CPA, JM & Peach & McPherson

1. Call to Order & Introduction

- Chairman Houlihan called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Public Dialogue

- There was no public dialogue at this time.

New Business

2. OVNA Financial Presentation

- Mr. McPherson, with the assistance of Mr. Leahy, gave a slide presentation to assist with the financial presentation. He discussed the 2020-2021 Yearly Cost Report, noting that the new methodology for Medicare reimbursement, in addition to COVID, contributed to a loss in revenue. The total loss for the 2020-2021 fiscal year was \$293,972, with revenue remaining fairly consistent at \$996,901. Mr. McPherson felt that the realized loss for this year was significantly less than 2019-2020, which was \$427,222. This is due to a dramatic reduction in their expenses by approximately 30%.
- Mr. McPherson explained that the town requires the School Program, which does not generate any revenue. The School Program covers the nursing staff at the three elementary schools, Mary L. Tracy, Hope Academy, and Hebrew Day School.

- Mr. McPherson explained that some Visiting Nurse Association healthcare systems generate some profit by fundraisers and investment income, adding that the OVNA does not generate profit and is unlikely to do so in the future. Ms. Pimenta highlighted the advantages to having a municipality OVNA versus an independent VNA healthcare system.
- Mr. McNabola pointed out that revenue from Medicare visits have dropped by about 50%. Mr. Leahy suggested articles advertising the Orange Visiting Nurses Association and the services they provide in an attempt to generate more revenue. Ms. Saldamarco felt that this was a good idea. She advised that their marketing department has done little advertising during COVID, noting that the OVNA provides services not only Orange, but also to Woodbridge, West Haven, and Milford. The Board thanked everyone for the thorough update on Orange Visiting Nurses Association.

Mr. Leahy made a motion at 8:10 p.m. for a five-minute recess, seconded by Mr. Moffett. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

2. Amity Update/Vice Chairman’s Report

- In the absence of Mr. Nuzzo, Vice Chairman Leahy proceeded to present the Amity update. Their original 2022-2023 budget was 6.27% and the Orange Board of Finance made a motion to support up to a 0.41% increase in their budget. Mr. Leahy, using a PowerPoint presentation, illustrated how local residents are being overtaxed due to Amity’s \$3 million dollar surpluses over the last four years.

3. Discussion and Approval of Minutes – February 16, 2022 Special Meeting

- The Board members reviewed the February 16, 2022 Board of Finance minutes and made edits as deemed appropriate.

Mr. McNabola made a motion to approve the revised February 4, 2022 Board of Finance minutes, seconded by Mr. Jain. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

4. Budget Discussion

- Finance Director Cifarelli advised that the current revenue warrants a mill rate of 33.25 for real estate and personal property, and the mill rate for cars will be dropped to 29. The surplus refund from Amity has not been added yet to the proposed budget and the State reimbursement of \$700k for the reduced car tax has been added. Mr. Cifarelli expressed some concern for next year as Southern CT Gas Company will be moving out of Orange and there will be a property revaluation within the same year.

{Mr. Nuzzo arrived at 8:50 p.m.}

- Mr. Nuzzo gave a brief update on Amity. Their adjusted proposed budget was 4.92% and after considerable deliberation, their proposed 2022-2023 budget was reduced to 4.80%. Mr. Browe and other members finally agreed to look at the individual line items that have been generating a surplus over a number of years in the hope of finding additional reductions

within the budget.

5. Review Revenue and Cost reports – January 31, 2022

- Mr. Cifarelli advised that tax collection is at 99%. Due to COVID, pool memberships are down. It is expected that Building Permits will increase during the spring and summer. On the expense side, Public Works has depleted most of their Overtime line item due to storms. Mr. Cifarelli answered all questions from the Board members as they arose.

Old Business

1. Tropical Storm Isaias

- Mr. Cifarelli reported that the Town received an additional \$241k last week, making a total of \$279,561. He advised that this will now be removed from the Agenda.

2. Annual Audit Review

- Chairman Houlihan advised that the Annual Audit Review, presented by Ms. Loso, is on the Agenda for Monday, March 7th at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Meeting Room.

3. Orange Board of Health – Dr. Mohammad March 21, 2022

- Mr. Cifarelli reported that Dr. Mohammad will be coming before the Board of Finance at the regularly scheduled March Board of Finance meeting. Mr. Leahy suggested that his materials be sent to Board members in advance so that they can be projected on PowerPoint to the OGAT audience.

4. Adjournment

Mr. McNabola made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m., seconded by Mr. Moffett. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Satonick
Recording Secretary