



ORANGE, CONNECTICUT  
TOWN OFFICE  
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## **Board of Finance Special Meeting**

Monday, May 9, 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, Joseph Nuzzo, Kevin McNabola, 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 7:48 p.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

### **2. Public Dialogue**

- There was no public dialogue at this time.

*Mr. Nuzzo made a motion to move Item #10 "Discussion and Approval of Minutes" to Item # 3 on the Agenda. Mr. Moffett seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion **PASSED.***

### **New Business**

### **3. Discussion and Approval of Minutes**

#### a. March 21, 2022 Regular Meeting

- Mr. Cifarelli explained that a motion had been left out of the Approved March 21, 2022 minutes and they needed to be corrected and re-approved.

*Mr. Leahy made a motion to revisit the Approved March 21, 2022 Board of Finance minutes in order to make the necessary correction. Mr. Jain seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion **PASSED.***

*Mr. Leahy made a motion to add the motion that was left out of the minutes and re-approve the amended March 21, 2022 Board of Finance minutes. Mr. Moffett seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.*

b. March 28, 2022 Special Meeting

*Mr. Leahy made a motion to approve the revised March 28, 2022 Board of Finance minutes, seconded by Mr. Jain. All were in favor, with Mr. Moffett abstaining. The motion PASSED.*

c. April 21, 2022 Budget Hearing

*Mr. Moffett made a motion to approve the revised April 21, 2022 Board of Finance minutes, seconded by Mr. Leahy. All were in favor, with Mr. Moffett and Mr. Nuzzo abstaining. The motion PASSED.*

[Mr. McNabola arrived at approximately 7:50 p.m.]

#### **4. Amity Update/Vice Chairman's Report**

- The Amity Finance Committee met prior to the BOF meeting, and Mr. Nuzzo shared his notes from that meeting. Mr. Nuzzo gave a complete update on the performance of the Amity Pension Plan, OPEC, Sick and Severance, and their other accounts. Overall, performance is down this quarter.
- Mr. Nuzzo discussed the current Amity surplus to date, which is over \$850k. He noted that their proposed 2022-2023 budget, with a 3.99% increase, was not approved by all three respective towns. Some residents disapproved of the hiring of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Instructional Coach as well as the addition of several other positions in light of decreasing student enrollment. Their revised budget will go to referendum on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Houlihan explained that residents will vote on the Town budget on May 18<sup>th</sup> and if Amity is unable to get an approved 2022-2023 budget, their budget will revert back to last year's budgeted amount.

#### **5. 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. He noted that 67% of Orange residents rejected the proposed 2022-2023 Amity budget. The Annual Orange Town Meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday, May 11, 2022. The Board members encouraged everyone to vote favorably for the Town budget, stressing that this does not mean that they are voting for the Amity budget. This vote for the Amity 2022-2023 budget is a separate vote scheduled for May 24<sup>th</sup>. Finance Director Cifarelli advised that they not change the mill rate in light of the uncertainty of the Amity budget. However, he does not feel that Amity will substantially reduce their budget.

## **6. Budget Discussion and Possible Vote on Mill Rate**

- Finance Director Cifarelli advised that the State budget was approved and the mill rate for motor vehicles was changed from a 29 to 32.46. Based on new calculations, the mill rate for real estate and personal property will change from 32.75 to 32.71.

*Mr. Leahy made a motion to set the mill rate for real and personal property at 32.71 and for motor vehicle at 32.46, assuming that the 2022-2023 Town budget is passed. Mr. Moffett seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.*

## **7. Discussion and Possible Vote to Transfer Funds from General Fund to Capital Fund**

- After much discussion, it was agreed to transfer 1.5 million dollars from the General Fund into the Capital Fund.

*Mr. McNabola made a motion to transfer 1.5 million dollars from the General Fund to the Capital Fund. Mr. Jain seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.*

## **8. Funding Request**

### **a. Allocate Funds to Purchase Used Public Works Truck - \$153k**

- Mr. Zeoli located this truck at auction in Pennsylvania with a little over 5,000 miles. He sent out two town employees to inspect the vehicle and it was in good condition.

*Mr. Leahy made a motion to transfer \$153k from the Capital Account to purchase a 2019 dump truck for Public Works. Mr. Moffett seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.*

### **b. Allocate Funds to Purchase New Police Firearms - \$50k**

*Mr. Nuzzo made a motion to transfer a total of \$50k from Dispatch Software, Utility Clerk Salary, and Secretary Salary to ammunition. Mr. Moffett seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.*

### **c. Allocate Funds to Pave Roads - \$1,400,000**

*Mr. Leahy made a motion to use \$1,400,000 from the American Rescue Fund for the paving of roadways. Mr. Moffett seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.*

## **9. Discuss and Possible Vote to Fund Items from Okenquest Capital Planning Committee**

- Mr. Cifarelli reviewed and prioritized the top eight items on the Capital Project List. He requested \$406k from the Capital Fund to fund these items.

*Mr. McNabola made a motion to approve \$406k from the Capital Fund to fund the eight Capital items as presented at the BOF meeting. Mr. Moffett seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.*

#### **10. Review Revenue and Expense Reports April 2022**

- Mr. Cifarelli and the Board members reviewed both the Revenue and Expense Reports. Mr. Cifarelli noted that revenue from taxes is good and expenditures are down.

#### **4. Adjournment**

*Mr. McNabola made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m., seconded by Mr. Jain. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Deborah Satonick  
Recording Secretary