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Michael S. O'Dell
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Board of Finance Regular Meeting

Monday, June 21, 2021 7:00 p.m.
Meeting Room -Town Hall 7:00 p.m.

(Unapproved)

Attendance

Board of Finance Members Present: Chairman Kevin Houlihan, Vice Chairman James Leahy, Joseph Nuzzo, and P. J. Shanley

Board of Finance Members Absent: Kevin Moffett and Patricia Romano

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

1. Call to Order

- Chairman Houlihan called the meeting to order at 7:12 and made introductions. There were no emails or public participation.

2. New Business

A. Amity Update

- Mr. Nuzzo reported that the current Amity surplus is 2.1+ million dollars. A primary driver for this surplus is their Medical Account, which is over 1 million dollars favorable.
- The non-resident Amity tuition rate for next year is \$19,170, which represents a 3% increase from last year. There are three nonresident students in attendance for next year. The Special Education non-resident rate is \$19,623.

B. Vice Chairman's Report

- Mr. Leahy spoke on Amity's longstanding pattern of overbudgeting and the burden placed on taxpayers. Mr. Leahy noted that \$875k has been budgeted into next year's budget as our return from Amity's current budget surplus. Mr. Shanley suggested that Amity be reminded that \$875k has been added to our 2021-2022 budget and that this money has been accounted for in next year's budget.

C. Discuss and Approve Funding for High Plains CC Steam Tunnel Pipe Replacement - \$200k

- Mr. Cifarelli spoke in detail on this project. After the asbestos wrapping the pipes was removed, the pipes were found to be leaking. Mr. Brinton obtained a grant to reinsulate the pipes and United Illuminating will reinsulate the pipes once they have been replaced. The grant is a sizable amount of money and the intention is to become more energy efficient.
- Mr. Cifarelli explained the funding for the pipe repairs. The amount of \$235k has been encumbered from the previous budget and can be used for this project.

Mr. Shanley made a motion to allocate up to \$200k from line item 21450009-57000 to repair the pipes at High Plains Community Center. Mr. Nuzzo seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

D. Discuss and Vote to Return Excess Cost Sharing Reimbursement to OBOE

Mr. Shanley made a motion to table this discussion and vote until their next meeting. Mr. Leahy seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

E. Discuss and Vote for Finance Department to Encumber Money from Police Salary Accounts in the Amount of \$104k to Buy Two Police Cars

- Mr. Cifarelli requested a motion to encumber up to \$104k from a number of Police salary accounts to purchase the two police vehicles that were requested by Chief Gagne.

Mr. Leahy made a motion to allocate up to \$104k from encumbered funds from the Police salary accounts for the purchase of two new police vehicles. Mr. Shanley seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

F. Discuss and Vote for Finance Department to Encumber Money from Park & Rec Labor Accounts to Buy Scoreboard at Brinley Field

- Mr. Cifarelli explained that the scoreboard is twenty-five years old and is beyond repair. Mr. Cifarelli indicated that the funds can be taken out of the Parks and Recreation labor count. Mr. Shanley suggested that the Town look into putting in a scoreboard at Fred Wolfe Park as well as address the field drainage issues at the Amity Middle School. Mr. Leahy suggested that the fees for using the fields be reviewed for a potential increase.

Mr. Leahy made a motion to allow the Finance Department to encumber funds from Park and Recreation labor accounts to pay for a new scoreboard at Brinley Field. Mr. Nuzzo seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

F. Discussion and Vote to Transfer Funds from General Fund to Capital Fund

Mr. Leahy made a motion to transfer \$1.5 million dollars from the General Fund to the Capital Fund. Mr. Shanley seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

- Mr. Cifarelli advised that the Fund Balance is at 18%, giving us a good credit rating and a lower interest rate on bonds. This transfer of funds will have no impact on altering this standing with the bank.

G. Discussion and Approval of May 17, 2021 BOF Special Meeting

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

Mr. Shanley made a motion to approve the amended May 17, 2021 Board of Finance minutes. Mr. Nuzzo seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

3. Review Revenue and Expense Reports from May 31, 2021

- Finance Director Mr. Cifarelli reviewed in detail both the Revenue and Expense Reports and answered all questions from the Board members.

4. Old Business

A. Review Cost of Tropical Storm Isaias

- Mr. Cifarelli advised that there have been no changes since last month's report on tropical storm Isaias.

B. Joint Meeting with OVNA

- Ms. Lisa Pimenta, Director of the OVNA, was unable to attend this meeting. A joint meeting will be scheduled in the fall. Mr. Cifarelli indicated that it is unlikely that there will be a July Board of Finance meeting.

C. Adjournment

Mr. Shanley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Mr. Leahy seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Satonick
Recording Secretary