



ORANGE, CONN
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECORDS

2021 SEP 24 AM 8:18

Kevin Houlihan
TOWN CLERK

Board of Finance Regular Meeting

Monday, September 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, and Joseph Nuzzo

Board of Finance Members Absent: P. J. Shanley and Patricia Romano

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

1. Call to Order

- Chairman Houlihan called the meeting to order at 7:16 and made introductions. He requested a moment of silence in memory of Pat Zeoli and Bob Shanley. The Board expressed their sympathy and condolences to the families.

2. Public Dialogue - Old Country Road & Coachman's Lane Residence

- Mr. Alfred Bucknall, 439 Old Country Road, spoke on behalf of himself and seven of his neighbors regarding the longstanding flooding issues on Old Country Road and Coachman's Lane. A letter from all eight residents was sent to the Orange Board of Finance and photographs depicting the extensive damage to these homes was shared with Board members. The residents would like the Board members to consider funding Mr. Brinton's project that was presented as a Capital Project last year.

New Business

A. Funding Requests

1. Memo from Bob Britton Requesting Funding for Old Country Rd/Coachman's Lane Flooding Issue

- Mr. Cifarelli explained that this item was on Capital Projects list for \$150k last year to dredge the stream and to replace two out-of-date the culverts. However, this new request from Mr. Britton for \$30k is

to hire a professional engineering firm to design a comprehensive plan to remedy the flooding issue, as the flooding has grown more severe with time. Once a plan is prepared, the project will go out for approval and bidding.

Mr. Leahy made a motion to use \$30k from the Capital Fund to hire a consulting engineering firm to perform surveying, hydrology, and hydraulics to size the culverts and to prepare plans for permit applications for bidding and construction for Old Country Road and Coachman's Lane. Mr. Moffett seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

2. Memo from Bob Britton Requesting Funding for Stone-Otis House Repairs

- Mr. Cifarelli advised that the STEAP Grant of \$20k, with the Town match of \$20k, does not cover the full scope of the work to be done by Valley Restoration at \$74,700. As a result, select items were eliminated from the project to keep the cost at \$40k.

Mr. Moffett made a motion to allocate \$40k from the Capital Fund, with \$20k to later be reimbursed back into the Capital Fund from the State, for the repair work at Stone-Otis House. Mr. Nuzzo seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

3. Memo from Don Foyer Requesting Funding to Purchase New Pickup Truck

- Mr. Cifarelli explained that the purchase of a new pickup truck was a Capital request last year. The truck is beyond repair and will be taken off the road if not approved. The truck will be auctioned and the expected value of \$5k will be put into the Fund Balance as miscellaneous income.

Mr. Nuzzo made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$40k for the purchase of a new pickup truck. Mr. Leahy seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

B. Orange Visiting Nurses Financial Presentation – Lisa Pimenta

- Ms. Pimenta introduced the Finance Manager and the Medicare Accountant. She proceeded to give a brief history on the Orange Visiting Nurses, which has been in operation since 1937. She discussed the recent trend from traditional Medicare to Managed Medicare Plans, their current staffing, their patient cliental, how COVID has impacted the organization, and their method of reimbursement payments. Ms. Pimenta answered questions from the Board members as they arose.
- It was noted that the number of patients is down, home visits by clinicians are down, and Medicare revenue is down by as much as 30%. The organization has also been negatively impacted by COVID. Mr. Cifarelli mentioned that the American Recovery Act might allocate some money to cover a portion of the lost revenue for years 2020 and 2021 and suggested that they explore this avenue. It was noted that it is the responsibility of the Town of Orange to cover their shortfall from the General Fund Balance. The OVNA is making every attempt to increase their patient count and they will give an updated financial report in January.

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

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

Mr. Leahy made a motion to approve the transfer of \$204,564 from the General Fund to the OBOE for Excess Cost Sharing Reimbursement for Special Education. Mr. Moffett seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

D. Amity Update

- Mr. Nuzzo advised that a 1% appropriation was unanimously approved to the Capital Nonrecurring Account. The Pension performance was discussed and the performance and balance of a number of other Amity accounts was also reviewed. Mr. Nuzzo advised that the current surplus is approximately \$453k to date.
- Lastly, the Amity football field is complete and it is actively being used by a number of teams.

E. Vice Chairman's Report

- Mr. Leahy displayed a pie chart to illustrate that over 63% of the budget was expended last year to fund education. He discussed the ongoing large Amity surpluses over the years, which has been on a steady rise. These surpluses are an unnecessary tax burden on residents. As the Town looks for avenues to fund OVNA shortfall, road repairs, and Capital items like new culverts, these ongoing Amity surpluses present an opportunity of potential funds to address these issues.
- Mr. Leahy also discussed the Amity Medical and Dental Account, highlighting the discrepancy between the expected claims and the amount budgeted. He suggested a mapping between the Word Document and the Excel Document to reconcile these differences.

F. Discussion and Approval of June 21, 2021 BOF Regular Meeting

- The Board members reviewed the June 21, 2021 BOF minutes and made revisions as needed.

Mr. Nuzzo made a motion to approve the revised June 21, 2021 BOF minutes, seconded by Mr. Leahy. All were in favor, with Mr. Moffett abstaining. The motion PASSED.

G. Review Revenue & Cost Reports for June 30, 2021 & August 30, 2021

- Mr. Cifarelli reviewed the Revenue and Cost Reports with the Board members and took questions as they arose. He discussed the minimum wage increase and its overall impact to Town employees.

Old Business

A. Tropical Storm Isaias

- Mr. Cifarelli indicated that there were no new updates at this time. All claims have been submitted and

reimbursement could take as long as a year.

B. Adjournment

Mr. Leahy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 p.m. Mr. Moffett seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Satonick
Recording Secretary