

Regular Meeting Minutes
Financial Planning and Allocation Commission
January 20, 2010 at 7:30 pm
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT. 06237

Present: Chairman Earnest Sharpe, Joanne Gyure, Cindy Harrison, Scott Petrequin, Judy Szegda-Ortiz, and Mike Robertson.

Also Present: Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz and Caitlin Dineen of the Chronicle.

1. Call to order: E. Sharpe called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Approval of Minutes:

3.1 FIPAC Regular Meeting Minutes of 11/18/09: E. Sharpe MOVED to approve S. Petrequin SECONDED and MOTION CARRIED 6:0.

3.2 FIPAC Regular Meeting Minutes of 12/16/09: E. Sharpe MOVED to approve S. Petrequin SECONDED and MOTION CARRIED 6:0.

4. Correspondence

4.1 BOS Regular Meeting Minutes of 12/15/09

4.2 BOS Regular Meeting Minutes of 1/5/10: C. Harrison asked if Drabek/Vanderbilt lawsuit settlement is of monetary value. J. Luiz answered no.

4.3 BOE Policy Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes of 12/14/09

4.4 BOE Policy Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes of 12/21/09

4.5 BOE Special Meeting Minutes of 1/11/10

4.6 BOE Policy Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes of 1/11/10

4.7 BOE Budget Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes of 1/11/10: S. Petrequin commented on the Board of Education's consideration of such a potential large increase in the Fiscal Year '10-'11 Board of Education budget. M. Robertson expressed concern about such a large potential increase.

4.8 Fiscal Policy Board Regular Meeting Minutes of 12/8/09

5. Old Business

5.1 Finance Department Update: J. Luiz explained that there has been no change in the status of the Finance Department at this time. J. Luiz thanked the Finance Department for all their hard work.

5.2 FY '08-'09 Audit Update: J. Luiz updated the Commission on the FY '08-'09 audit. He stated that the auditors were happy with the progress Columbia has made since its last audit. He explained that there is one issue still currently being worked on, and that a second extension has been filed. E. Sharpe asked if a second extension could expose the town to penalties. J. Luiz stated that he is not

aware of any possible penalties, but will be looking into this and reporting back to the Commission.

5.3 FY '09-'10- Budget Mid-Year Expenditure Analysis: J. Luiz provided FIPAC with a mid-year report on the FY '09-'10 BOS Operating Budget. He also provided a mid-year report of the Town Revenue Budget. J. Luiz briefly summarized the two reports. S. Petrequin asked about the status of the town's road salt and road sand budget. J. Luiz stated that so far the town is within budget, but that more storms could change that.

E. Sharpe spoke of Public Act 9-06 and how under the Act, the town stands to lose out on future Education Cost Sharing (ECS) revenues from the state of Connecticut because the Board of Education's Fiscal Year '09-'10 budget was not funded at the Fiscal Year '08'09 level, minus the reductions to the FY '09-'10 Board of Education budget made by the Board of Selectmen in consideration of federal stimulus grant funding. . He said that in order for the town to avoid the loss of future ECS revenues, the Board of Education's Fiscal Year '09-'10 Budget would have to be increased by approximately \$ 111,000 before June 30, 2010. E. Sharpe stated that he did inquire of the State of Connecticut Department of Education about Columbia requesting a waiver from the funding obligations contained in Public Act 9-06, and that he was informed that a waiver is not an option and that the town should increase funding to the Columbia Board of Education in an amount to meet the level funding requirements of the Public Act. E. Sharpe will look into this issue further to see what options the town has and will report back to the Commission. J. Luiz spoke of the draft budget which was presented to the BOS at the 1/19/10 meeting. He explained that he will be working on the draft budget with the BOS over the next couple months before presenting it to FIPAC.

E. Sharpe MOVED to address agenda item 6.2, entitled, "Transfers", and agenda item 6.3, entitled, "FY '10-'11 Budget Cycle Consideration before addressing agenda item 6.1, entitled, "Election of Officers." C. Harrison SECONDED the MOTION and it CARRIED 6:0.

6. New Business

6.2 Transfers: None.

6.3 FY '10-'11 Budget Cycle Consideration: E. Sharpe inquired about employee insurance costs increasing due to hospital premiums going up. J. Luiz said that there may be an increase of approximately 15% per employee insurance costs. J. Luiz explained that he is scheduled to meet with Tax Collector Carol Price the first week of February. He stated that she will have a good idea then as to what the town's tax collection rate will be for 08-09. E. Sharpe stated that he would like J. Luiz to schedule a Tri-Board meeting for the BOS, FIPAC and BOE in the near future to discuss current financial outlook. J. Luiz will be scheduling a Tri-Board meeting for the BOS, FIPAC and BOE shortly after he meets with C. Price.

6.1 Election of Officers: C. Harrison MOVED to nominate E. Sharpe as Chairman. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:1 with E. Sharpe abstaining. M. Robertson MOVED to nominate C. Harrison as Vice-Chairman. J. Gyure SECONDED the MOTION and it CARRIED 5:0:1 with C. Harrison abstaining.

7. Audience of Citizens: None.

8. Next Meeting- The next FIPAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at 7:30 pm.

9. Adjournment:

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly A. Bona