

**Town of Columbia
T Special Meeting Minutes
Financial Planning and Allocation Commission
Wednesday, March 11, 2015
7:00 pm.**

**Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT. 06237**

Members Present: Chairman Earnest Sharpe; Judy Ortiz; Richard Szegda; Todd Shepard; Jeff Viens; Marcia Morrison.

Members Absent: Kelley Peck

Also Present: First Selectman Carmen Vance; Interim Town Administrator Mark Paquette; Superintendent Lol Fearon; Finance Director Bev Ciurylo; Principal Alyssa Gwinell; BOE Chair Kerry Hoffman; members of the BOE and numerous citizens.

1. **Call to Order:** E. Sharpe called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - 3.1 **FIPAC Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2015:** E. Sharpe MOVED to approve the February 18, 2015 minutes with the following amendment: He stated that the motion in the February 18, 2015 minutes was not included. The amendment was made stating " J. Viens SECONDED the MOTION to approve the February 18, 2015 minutes." J. Viens SECONDED the MOTION to approve the February 18, 2015 with the revision and the MOTION CARRIED 5:0:1 with J. Ortiz abstaining.

4. **Correspondence**
 - 4.1 **BOS Regular Meeting Minutes of 2/17/15**
 - 4.2 **BOS Special Meeting Minutes of 2/26/15**
 - 4.3 **BOS Regular Meeting Minutes of 3/3/15**
 - 4.4 **BOE Special Meeting Minutes of 2/11/15**
 - 4.5 **BOE Special Meeting Minutes of 2/23/15**
 - 4.6 **BOE Regular Meeting Minutes of 3/2/15**
 - 4.7 **BOE Special Meeting Minutes of 3/6/15**
 - 4.8 **Fiscal Policy Board Regular Meeting Minutes of 2/11/15**

5. **Old Business**

6. **New Business**

Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget presentations by the BOE & BOS: L. Fearon presented the proposed FY 15'16' BOE budget to FiPAC. He spoke about full time employee retirements and stated that the replacement hires will be paid at a lower rate, therefore creating savings in salaries. L. Fearon discussed proposed budget increases which include health benefits, transportation, tuition cost, supplies, transition services and special education costs. He explained that the BOE looks for what is most cost effective regarding special ed students and programs. L. Fearon discussed proposed budget decreases in the proposed FY 15'-16' BOE budget. He stated that the

proposed decreases would be in unemployment compensation, legal services, professional services, contracted service software and equipment.

M. Paquette presented the proposed FY 15'-16' BOS budget to FiPAC. He discussed notable appropriations increases including the Registrar of Voters, assessment, public records and police records. He discussed new appropriations pertaining to the Capital Budget which include work on Hennequin Road, Erdoni Road, school projects and phase 3 of the Library expansion project. M. Paquette stated that the current mill rate is 27.13 and the proposed mill rate is 28.33 (an increase of 1.20 mills). He discussed the amount that would be raised by property taxes as well as mill rates from FY 06'-07' to the present.

K. Hoffman thanked L. Fearon and staff for all the hard work put in to creating the proposed FY 15'-16' BOE budget. She expressed that she feels a good budget has been put together.

C. Vance stated that she would like to see the increase come down a bit closer, or to 0% if possible. She thanked M. Paquette and B. Ciurylo for all their hard work that was put in to creating the proposed FY 15-16' BOS budget.

E. Sharpe MOVED to add the following item to the agenda: "6.3 Audience responses to the budget presentations." T. Shepard SECONDED the MOTION and it CARRIED 6:0.

6.2 FiPAC response to the budget presentations: Discussion ensued regarding the proposed FY 15'-16' BOE and BOS budgets. E. Sharpe asked that FiPAC think about possible cuts in order to get a 0% tax increase and if part of the General Fund should be used to help reduce the current proposed tax increase.

6.3 Audience responses to the budget presentations: None.

6.4 Transfers: R. Szegda MOVED to approve the following transfers:

AMOUNT	FROM A/C #, DESCRIPTION	TO A/C #/DESCRIPTION
\$742	Assessor: 10-4132-500/Prof. Tech	10-4132-Salaries
\$19,000	Contingency: 10-4800-900	DPW Rep./Maint.: 10-4410- 600

J. Ortiz SECONDED the MOTION and it CARRIED 6:0.

7. Audience of Citizens: on matters not pertaining to the budget presentations: None.

8. Next Meeting: The next FiPAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 7 pm.

9. Adjournment: T. Shepard MOVED to adjourn at 8:36 pm and the MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.