



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

**Fiscal Policy Board
Minutes
February 12, 2020
Horace W. Porter School Conference Room**

1. Call to Order order at 8:35

Present: Bev Ciurylo, Ernie Sharpe, Maria Geryk, Chris Lent

Absent: Mark Walter, Judy Ortiz, Steven Everett

2. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2019

M. Geryk Moved, C. Lent seconded carries 4:0

3. Correspondence

Bev – ECS down approximately \$52,000 but this is a first round proposal.

4. Old Business:

A) Empower transition update - B. – accounts open, paperwork transitioned, website is live. sending email today. Reamortize payments of people with loans – currently looks as though youre behind in loans – effects 6-8 people.

Maria – massive project you been busy with.

Bev – working with Empower people have been very helpful. Some questions on townside – fee restoration. Fee base up .08% on Town side – some questions.

Maria – thanked bev for all of her efforts in this project.

B) IT Security Assessment – Town implementing some of the budget impact next year – Maria – boe \$60000 Town 10-14K. Upgraded emails to 365. Work started. Password manager, additional training to avoid email scams.

Maria – one time cost of \$40K is a one time cost of the project.

C) Follow up on the Tri-Board Meeting - Bev felt meeting went well. E. Sharpe – haven't seen a calendar for budget season. Bev – emailed during last FiPAC meeting. Send boe calendar to Bev.

BOE presents 3/2 -

E. Sharpe – hard copies of last years budget for FiPAC meeting – overview of whats on which pages.

E. Sharpe working on table of contents – will share with Bev – helpful to new people on FiPAC.

5. New Business

A) BOE Nonlapsing Account - Bev – possibly a request this year. Change in the law. C. Lent – statute revised to increase amount up to 2%. BOE would like FiPAC to consider MOA – MOA to be reviewed to see if it includes percentages – update to per statute.

E. Sharpe – if there's a lot of money left – put extra funds in there in case theres a big hit in the fund possibility of student needs – something to consider.

Maria – yes – following year build into budget.

Chris – not necessarily tied to special education.

Bev – unforeseen expense.

Bev – currently at \$215,000. No limit on what's in the account but there is a limit on what can be added per year.

B) CT-CHIP / Cigna 20/21 renewal - Bev – budget impact for next year – initially told 19.5% due to not having a full year of claims history – looking at obtaining old claims. Hoping figure is reduced.

Maria – boe \$160K Bev - Town 50K - Town increasing copays by 1% to help cover the cost.

C) Minimum Budget Requirement - Bev & Maria spoke with Kevin Chambers of how numbers have been calculated – 42.99 based on fte prek and charter – look at 5 year history – find year of highest drop in student population – anything we are funding. 2017-18 drop of 42.99 - compared to cost per pupil expenditure. Came up with \$386,000 credit.

Maria – you look at the 5 year history – and choose the highest drop then the drop is crossed off. Difficult to predict and calculate.

Maria – looking

Special Ed costs are not calculated into MBR calculations.

Bev – cap discussion 2.5% thinks state looking at it. Maria in effect in MA.

Ernie – caps?

Bev – no caps.

\$630K over mbr this year – Maria

Ernie – state senator and state rep – disturbing no feedback.

Bev – giving towns opportunity to reduce boe budgets.

Ernie – will this impact us this year? Changes effect us this year?

Bev – yes. Use to go back 1 year and now 5 years.

C. Lent – established by statute – Bev – yes.

Maria last year increased \$215K now over by \$630K. Feels population will be fairly stable.

Ernie – if someone went o Kevin Chambers office – calculate upcoming years budget now ?

Maria – yes he could.

D) FY 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 Budgets -

Bev 19-20 budget running smoothly boe moving some things to this year. There will be some funds available.

C. Lent asked about IT conversions this year instead of next year.

Bev – too early to predict surplus. Maria feels fundings consistent with last year unless something changes. Would like to purchase curriculum materials this year.

Ernie – anything you can do to nail number down.

Fire truck will need purchased early – Bev \$600K cost.

Town side in a good position too.

E) Tentative – Legislative Update - Mark not in attendance – table until next month.

F) Other Business

Ernie – look at budgets compare budgets – looking at what was actually spent and comparing budget perspective.

Bev – looking at capital for adjustments.

Ernie - truck Bev – small truck lease. Maria used a few times per week – discussion small used truck.

6. Adjournment

Adjourned at 9:12. C. Lent , 2nd E. Sharpe – carries 4:0.