



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

Fiscal Policy Board

Minutes

March 13, 2019

Members Present: Beverly Ciurylo-Finance Director, Ernie Sharpe-FiPAC Chairman, Mark Walter-Town Administrator, Maria Geryk-Superintendent, Joanne Prague Doyle-Board of Education Vice Chair

Absent: Christopher Lent-Board of Education Chairman, Steven Everett-First Selectman

1. Call to Order - Chairperson B. Ciurylo called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.
2. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2018 – E. Sharpe MOVED, M. Walter SECONDED to approve the minutes of 11/14/18 as presented. MOTION CARRIES 4:0 (J. Prague Doyle ABSTAINED)
3. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2018 - Mrs. Ciurylo requested the minutes of 9/4/18 be tabled until a quorum of the members present on 9/4/18 are in attendance.
4. Correspondence – No correspondence was received.
5. Old Business
 - A) MBR Update – B. Ciurylo reported that there was a Town Meeting to approve the \$215,193 additional appropriation so that the Board of Education 18/19 Budget was in compliance with the State Minimum Budget Requirement. The funds have been transferred from the General Fund and reporting with the state has been updated.
 - B) CT-CHIP and Health Insurance Update – M. Geryk said the Town and the BOE voted to move forward with the exploration of changing insurance carriers from Anthem to Cigna. The Broker met with staff. The teachers' union contract has an exploration period of 30 days but at this time, the change appears to be moving forward without concerns.

Changes in the dental plan will be presented and include increased services so the change should be well received.

- C) Retirement Plans Update – A meeting with Bill DiCristofaro of Empower is scheduled after the Fiscal Policy. This meeting includes meeting the representatives from the three unions as a follow up to the meetings held with the staff.
- D) 18/19 Budget Updates – B. Ciurylo reported the Town 18/19 budget is still within budget and has a couple of budget items pending; such as, an unemployment claim and IT Security audit. Both the Capital and Board of Education budgets are in good shape. The BOE operating budget is in good shape. Several items on the BOE Capital Plan have been moved for completion to 2018/2019 and will be paid with funds from the 18/19 BOE Operating budget. Currently, the BOE projects returning approximately \$150,000 to the Town pending further review of upcoming projected and actual spending.

E. Sharpe noted that he reviewed the 19/20 budget document for the upcoming FIPAC budget meeting and questioned the rate of collection compared to the mill increase. He would expect increased collection amounts due to the mill increase. B. Ciurylo noted that she would review and update the necessary information to include more current information.

- E) Teachers Retirement Contribution – B. Ciurylo included a separate line in the 19/20 budget. Direction from the State indicates the funds are to be included in the BOE budget. Communication from the State indicated this will not impact the MBR. An adjustment to the BOE budget in the amount of \$39,708 will need to be done. Mrs. Ciurylo noted the teachers' retirement contribution will change each year going forward by about \$40,000.

6. New Business

- A) 19/20 Budget – B. Ciurylo explained LoCIP (Local Capital Improvement Plan) funds can be used to fund projects such as the salt shed or road repairs and other projects. The application to the State will need to be submitted to get state approval on the project. The town is planning on submitting the salt shed once complete but will need to confirm that it is part of a flood plan or the state may not approve the project. Mrs. Ciurylo mentioned that a decision will need to be made on when to submit the application. The timing of the project completion and submitting the application could impact when to show the reimbursement. This could have an impact on the 18/19 budget or the 19/20 budget depending on the application. She will be following up on this with the auditors. There is approximately \$200,000 available and another \$39,000 anticipated to be funded in 19/20. If the funds are not used or requested, they are carried forward. Consensus was to hold off on the application until after 7/1/2019.
- B) Novus IT Services – The Town and BOE are currently waiting for a renewal contract and it is anticipated there is a 3% increase in costs. The BOE is moving forward with an IT security assessment. The Town is also looking into the IT security audit. Increased awareness concerning potential viruses and threats are prompting additional assessments and training.

C) Town Ordinances: CVFD Property Tax Abatement and Zoning Fees

M. Walter explained Fire Department volunteers with 25 years of service will be given property tax abatements as a thank you for their service to the Town.

Zoning Fees – M. Walter said zoning fees may be increased to cover fixed costs for legal notices placed in the newspaper. The fee schedule is currently under review.

D) State & Legislative Update – M. Walter reported there are ongoing discussions including forced regionalization and possibly charging all towns one mill to cover the deficit. Another item under consideration from the State, is to send all car taxes collected by towns to the State.

E) 19/20 Fuel Costs – M. Walter said he is hoping fuel costs decrease. We are currently not locked into a cost.

B. Ciurylo said the 19/20 budget reflects the “as is” fuel cost at this time.

F) Finance Department – No updates to report.

8. Audience of Citizens – No comments were received.

J. Prague Doyle asked how to initiate the process to secure additional hours and services for social services in Town. She said there is a need for assistance and it is difficult to reach the person who provides assistance. Access Health is very difficult to reach as well.

B. Ciurylo suggested the Access Health agreement be reviewed to see if additional services can be added. M. Walter is going to look into this further.

9. Adjournment – The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Morey,
Board Clerk