



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

**Fiscal Policy Board
April 11, 2018
Horace W. Porter School Conference Room**

Members Present: Beverly Ciurylo-Finance Director, Ernie Sharpe-FiPAC Chairman, Mark Walter-Town Administrator, Lol Fearon-Superintendent,

Others Present: Judy Oritz-FiPAC member, Jeff Viens-FiPAC Vice Chairman

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

1. Call to Order – Chairperson B. Ciurylo called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.
2. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2018
L. Fearon MOVED, E. Sharpe SECONDED to approve the minutes of January 10, 2018.
MOTION CARRIES 4:0.
3. Correspondence – no correspondence was received.
4. Old Business:
 - A) 2018/19 Budget Discussions – E. Sharpe reports that FiPAC moved all 2018-2019 budget proposals forward to Public Hearing which is scheduled on April 25, 2018. Presentations will be made by both the BOS and BOE and comments from the public will be received. After adjournment of the public hearing, FiPAC will hold a meeting and can vote to change budgets based on comments received at the public hearing.
M. Walter said a meeting to review the plans for Rec Park is scheduled on April 19th and will include public input. The presentation will include budget figures showing the 5-year Capital Plan that has been proposed starting in 2018-2019 as well as the total cost of the Master Plan for all the phases of this project.
 - B) Budget Impact from the State – M. Walter contacted Tim Ackert and stated that the legislature is trying to get the ability to propose cutbacks and not just the governor. L. Fearon said the state has missed a deadline

for voting on and adjusting the budget. He also stated that the superintendents are trying to get a concrete definition on the holdbacks. Holdbacks as used by the governor could mean that the towns may eventually receive the funds and then the holdbacks would not be considered a cut. Area superintendents are treating the holdbacks as cuts. Depending on how the state perceives the holdbacks, this could impact the amount the anticipated ECS grant for next year as well as what could be calculated for MBR.

E. Sharpe said the Town's budget reflects cuts and they are not anticipating a return of funding from the state.

5. New Business

- A) Artisenergy Solutions – Electricity Conservation Project – L. Fearon explained an energy audit was performed last fall at the school. There are approximately 1200 light fixtures inside and outside of the school. Artisenergy provided a proposal to retro-fit all lighting (indoor and out) with LEDs. The net total cost for the project is \$214,485.46 after the Eversource incentive. Funding from the State has been significantly reduced since the Town completed this project and converted to LED. Electric consumption by the school is most likely the highest in Town. A 4 year 0% financing loan is available. Eversource provides a 15% incentive. The annual cost is approximately \$33,000 and would need to be covered within the proposed 17/18 BOE budget due to the timing of the project. Subsequent years would be budgeted for. The potential cost benefit over the life of the building would be a substantial savings to the Town. The project is estimated to take 5-10 days. Mr. Fearon wanted to provide the information to the Fiscal Board and if they are in support, this will be included on the BOE's May agenda.

Consensus of the group is that the potential for cost savings is worth pursuing.

6. Finance Department

Mrs. Ciurylo has been working on the Uniform Chart of Accounts (UCOA) for both the Town and the Board of Education. She had just completed the required upload of 2015/16 Town figures and will be working on the 2016/17 reporting to OPM. At this time, she is not required to change the chart of account numbers to UCOA. After attending a workshop on the new Electronic Financial System (EFS) for the Board of Education, she learned the filing the 17/18 ED001 has been revamped and will need to use the new system. She will be working on learning the new system over the next 4 months so that the 17/18 ED001 will be filed on time by September 1.

7. Audience – no comments were received.

8. Adjournment

E. Sharpe MOVED, L. Fearon SECONDED to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 a.m.
MOTION CARRIES 4:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Morey,
Board Clerk