TOWN OF COLUMBIA
Fiscal Policy Board
May 8, 2019
Horace W. Porter School Conference Room
8:30 am

1. Call to Order 8:30am.

   Attendees: Bev Ciurylo, Finance Director; Steven Everett, First Selectman; Maria Geryk, Superintendent; Ernie Sharpe, FIPAC Chairman; Mark Walter, Town Administrator.

   Absent: Chris Lent, Joanne Prague Doyle, Judy Ortiz.

2. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2018 - TABLED
   Need C. Lent to approve. E. Sharpe requested that M. Geryk contact C. Lent to get a verbal approval since the only other people who can approve to have a quorum is B. Ciurylo and M. Walter. They approved minutes as presented but need C. Lent to vote.

3. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2019
   Mark motioned and Maria seconded. No changes. Passes 5-0.

4. Correspondence: NONE

5. Old Business:
   A) Update on Transition to CIGNA Insurance:
      B. Ciurylo explained that meetings are being held with the CIGNA reps to review the transition to CIGNA with staff. Enrollment forms are being completed so that all staff information is up to date. The plan is to have enrollment information to CIGNA by the end of May so that ID cards and debit cards are sent to staff by the third week of June. A group transfer of the staff's health savings account to the new health savings account custodian, HSA Bank, is being set up. Forms will be distributed for those staff who wish to participate. Otherwise, the staff have options on what to do with their health savings account with Benefit Wallet, current health savings account custodian after July 1 when the Town and BOE will be on the CIGNA plan. Bev mentioned that there was difficulty with Benefit Wallet

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in getting correct information for the transfer of funds but now have information that will be sent out to staff soon.

B) Retirement Plans Update: M. Walter received feedback from the Town staff on the potential move to Empower for the Town's retirement plan. He received both positive and negative feedback and followed up with some of the staff. He is giving the broker a year to make improvements since he received some negative comments regarding him. He also followed up on references on Empower and the broker. The references were positive. M. Walter plans on putting the move to Empower on the BOS agenda for the 5/21/19 meeting. M. Geryk followed up that there was language in the certified contract on approving a change in the 403b plan provider. The certified union was having a vote May 8th to approve the change. She will send notification out on the vote once she receives the results. M. Geryk will put the move to Empower on the BOE agenda for the June 3rd meeting if the certified vote is to move forward. M. Walter is following up to see if Empower has a written proposal on Town costs if the BOE does not approve the move to Empower. B. Ciurylo mentioned that Empower will be notifying former employees and retirees in all the plans of the change to Empower.

C) Update on Board of Selectmen and Board of Education Projects: M. Geryk reviewed the current projects that are being planned and/or completed by BOE:

- Water tank upgrade to remove corrosion.
- LED project is completed but had an issue with invoice. This was resolved.
- Classroom air conditioners and facilities washer & dryer have been purchased. Electrician is completing wiring.
- HVAC Duct cleaning is scheduled for June
- Fire Alarm system is pending a quote. This was a request by the Fire Chief.
- Windows Upgrade in classrooms.
- Generator Replacement should be completed Summer 2019.
- Fencing will be installed around trash area at Porter.
- IT Security Assessment is currently underway.
- New sinks are being installed to replace ones that are corroding. Plus, bathrooms were power washed.
- New Math curriculum has been purchased.
- New Display sign is still in the process for quotes. PTO and possibly Little League will be providing funding. It is hoped to be installed in time for the new school year. Planning & Zoning, Board of Selectmen and Board of Education will need to approve the sign selected.

M. Walter reviewed current town projects:

- Softball field is still under construction but progress has been stalled due to the weather. The field is built and the fencing needs to be completed.
- Street sweeping is almost complete and catch basin are being replaced.
- Milling has started. Currently, Public Works is on Cards Mill Road.
- New Salt Shed is almost completed.

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- Rec Park is looking good. The tennis court and the basketball court are being upgraded this year with capital funds that had been slated for the new Pavilion. Brand funds will be used to help fund the new Pavilion.
- Public Works fuel tank is installed. A cement pad needs to be installed next to it.
- IT Security Assessment is being set up for the Town.
- Town Hall roof replacement has started.

6. New Business

A) Novus IT Services: B. Ciurylo mentioned that the renewal contracts are pending. Other quotes received by Novus is upgrading the BOE and BOS to Windows 10 as well as the BOE is adding project management to Novus's duties.

B) Town Ordinances: CVFD Property Tax Abatement and Zoning Fees: M. Walter explained that the new zoning fees are pending final review by Planning & Zoning as well as BOS approval. S. Everett noted that some fees are staying the same and others will be increasing. No details were requested. M. Walter also explained the update to the CVFD Property Tax Abatement to include retirees.

C) State & Legislative Update: M. Walter mentioned that the CTA (Certified Teachers Association) and CCM (Connecticut Conference of Municipalities) are against the shift of the teacher pension to the towns. The BOS is preparing a resolution to send to representatives Tim Ackert and Cathy Osten that Columbia is not in favor of the shift to towns for the teacher pension payments. M. Walter requested that M. Geryk work with the BOE to do the same thing. M. Walter also mentioned that CCM is working on MBR (Minimum Budget Requirement) reform. M. Geryk provided an update of figures for the ECS (Education Cost Share) Grant. It showed that Columbia is not receiving as deep of a reduction as the information provided to towns in February.

D) 19/20 Fuel Costs: M. Walter noted that the fuel costs for oil and diesel are still not locked in. He will be following up with East River Energy (current vendor) for an update and if prices have come down. He may look at CRCOG to see if the Town can join in the bid they had completed.

E) 19/20 Budget and Annual Town Meeting May 14th, 7:00 p.m. Yeomans Hall: B. Ciurylo gave a reminder of the upcoming Town budget vote. E. Sharpe requested the M. Walter provide an update on property tax collections for the meeting. M. Walter commented that the Tax Collector is finalizing a report and that the collection rate is currently between 98% and 99%.

B. Ciurylo noted that the State has sent the balance of the ECS grant and that the town received about a $33,000 adjustment for the prior year Special Education Grant. The State has also sent the balance of the Town Aid Road funds as well as most of the other municipal aid due to the town.

E. Sharpe questioned the $2.2 million Hop River State Trail Project and if the state is funneling the funding through the town. B. Ciurylo and M. Walter confirmed that the state is now directly funding the project 100% without the use of town funds. This project has been removed from the 19/20 propose capital budget.

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There was a brief discussion the BOE and the BOs financials. There is a projection that funds will be returned by both to the General Fund.

F) Next meeting: June 12th: Discussion was held on whether to hold the next meeting on June 12th or postpone for a week since that is the last day of school. Consensus was to keep the meeting as scheduled.

7. Finance Department: B. Ciurylo noted that the department is getting ready for year end and the upcoming annual audit. The department is also prepping for the transition to CIGNA and HSA Bank as well as the potential move to Empower.

8. Audience: NONE

9. Adjournment: 9:25am. M. Walter motioned to adjourn. M. Geryk seconded. Motioned carried 5-0

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