

**Town of Columbia
FISCAL POLICY BOARD
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2011**

8:30 A.M.

Horace W. Porter School Conference Room

Members Present: Bev Ciurylo-Fiscal Manager, Francine Coss-Superintendent, Jonathan Luiz-Town Administrator, William Mulcahy-Board of Education Member, Earnest Sharpe-FIPAC Chairman, Carmen Vance-First Selectman

Also Present: Dick Szegda, Columbia Selectman

Staff Present: Karen Johnson-Superintendent's Secretary

I. Call to Order

B. Ciurylo called the June 8, 2011 Fiscal Policy Board meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

II. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2011

C. Vance **MOVED** and E. Sharpe **SECONDED** to approve the May 11, 2011 regular meeting minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIES: 5-0-1

B. Ciurylo, F. Coss, J. Luiz, E. Sharpe, C. Vance VOTED FOR THE MOTION

W. Mulcahy ABSTAINED

III. Correspondence – None

IV. Old Business

A. Andover Hebron Marlborough Youth Services – Selectman Dick Szegda provided Fiscal Policy Board members with an overview of his involvement with Andover Hebron Marlborough Youth Services, the support services that have been provided to Columbia this year and what can be offered in the future. Community based issues are handled more effectively and divert children from juvenile justice services. Additional services will address younger kids with troubled behavior and work with Columbia families. In the long run, providing these services to children and families will be a cost savings to Columbia tax payers. The Juvenile Review Board will not continue to be offered to Columbia if the Town does not become a full AHM member. Fiscal Board members discussed a past meeting with AHM Executive Director Joel Rosenberg, the great job the AHM counselor has done this year, the cost for increasing the counselor's time from one to two days per week, reorganizing the counselor's time, duplicating services by Town or school agencies, current services provided by AHM, the cost for out placing students and DCF placements, if this should be a Fiscal Policy meeting topic and Columbia's declining population. Mr. Szegda thanked the Board for their time and offered to present this information at a future Board of Education meeting. Board members agreed to review this topic in October.

B. Non-Certified Union Contract – Mrs. Coss reported negotiation dates have not been scheduled due to a Board of Education family member's illness. The Board is waiting for confirmation of a tentative date of June 18th. The non-certified contract runs out on June 30th and contract conditions will remain flat until the contract is settled.

C. State Municipal Funding – Mr. Luiz reported it appears there will be no cuts in state municipal aid. Mr. Sharpe questioned the process for issuing supplemental tax bills.

V. New Business

A. End-of-the-Year Projections – Mr. Luiz reported although the Town has not received some anticipated grant money and there is a deficit in revenue that will be offset by property tax funds, municipal spending projections are right on the mark. Mrs. Coss reported the Board of Education is focusing on spending grant money that will expire in the June/September time frame. These funds will be spent on capital projects that were cut from the Board of Education's budget. Approximately \$360,000 in tuition funds will be returned to the Town.

VI. Fiscal Department – Mrs. Ciurylo reported the audit will be starting, encumbrances have begun, a special meeting may be needed for end-of-year transfers and a software update will be forthcoming.

VII. Audience

VIII. Other – Board members discussed:

- School roof – a consultant will be obtained.
- Accreditation – The Board of Education is considering using New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC) for an accreditation process. Mrs. Coss explained this process will go into the 2013/2014 school year and future budgets will include increased funding in the Dues & Fees and Professional Development lines for NEASC membership, the expense of bringing an accreditation team to Horace Porter School and Porter teacher summer writing of the accreditation document.

IX. Adjournment

B. Ciurylo **MOVED** and E. Sharpe **SECONDED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

MOTION CARRIES: 6-0

Next meeting: July 13, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Johnson, Superintendent's Secretary