



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

Fiscal Policy Board

Minutes

June 10, 2020, 8:00 a.m.

Present: Ernie Sharpe-FiPAC Chair, Steven Everett-First Selectman, Mark Walter-Town Administrator, Maria Geryk-Superintendent, Beverly Ciurylo-Finance Director

Other: Judy Ortiz-Selectman

1. Call to Order – B. Ciurylo opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m.
2. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes May 13, 2020 E. Sharpe MOVED, , M. Geryk SECONDED to approve the minutes of May 13, 2020. MOTION CARRIES 5:0.
3. Correspondence – No correspondence has been received.
4. Old Business
 - A) Non lapsing Account Policy Update - E. Sharpe is revising a draft which FiPAC will act upon next week.
5. New Business
 - A) Reopening plans for Town & School Facilities – Mark Walter has been working with all departments repositioning desks and moving employees to insure social distance. Screens are being put in place and cloth masks are on order. Social distance stickers will be placed on floors. The Senior Center will be the most cautious reopen. The van will be up and running within the month – possibly July 6th. He expects the Town to be up and running by appointment in July. The Town transfer station is up and running with the exception of the swap shop.

Maria Geryk – In terms of the school there are many unknowns. Summer instruction will be remote for students requiring support. Summer cleaning lists are complete and facilities projects will be completed by July to allow time to prepare for the Fall. Massachusetts has provided direction which is helpful and includes restrictions of 10 students per classroom, 2 adults per classroom and maintaining the same cohorts. Distancing students at Porter has been reviewed and would require an additional 15 classrooms if all grade levels return. Hand washing stations, face coverings for staff and students, more support in the nurse's office and 2 nursing stations are a few of the areas the school administration has

reviewed. Desks will need to be 6 ft. apart. Cleaning procedures would be dramatically different with additional cleaning throughout the day. Transportation will be another challenge and would most likely diagonal seating and seating at a distance. She is anticipating additional transportation costs. Supplies for the first 12 weeks have been planned and supplies will be ordered. So far, the state of CT Dept of Education has not provided a resource for ordering supplies. Discussions related to partial return schedules have been discussed. She anticipates changing FT schedules to include more staff during the day and additional staff in the nurse's office. Instructionally she is looking at purchases of FM systems – to be assist students to hear teachers wearing masks. Swivels will be ordered so iPads can provide teacher instruction in other classrooms. Contractual conversations will be occurring because staff will be asked to work in a different way. She notes there are many unknowns related to, facility needs, staffing, transportation, change of protocol and procedures. Most children will be in a cohort with limited traffic in the building. Foggers have been purchased to disinfect classrooms and outdoor equipment. Mark requested information concerning the foggers from Mike. Repurposing classrooms within the building seems possible at this time. Other districts will be using town buildings to accommodate student classes.

S. Everett asked if we are in touch with any school systems who attend school year-round and if they are experiencing increases in illnesses. The illness has been horrific for the over 60 age group. He would like to see statistics of those under the age of 40. He is very happy to hear there are plans in place and modifications have been incorporated as needed. Kudos to Porter for the way they have handled this difficult situation.

M. Geryk noted there have been questions of starting the school year earlier. This would involve renegotiating contracts. S. Everett would like to know if other schools who open earlier are experiencing an increase in Covid incidents.

B) FEMA & OPM COVID Reimbursements – B. Ciurylo reports funding to schools is looking to be approximately \$20,000. School reimbursements are on hold for now. At a recent OPM meeting an estimate of \$39,000 for the first round for reimbursement was mentioned. She will need to apply first to FEMA, then apply to the State. Deadlines are changing. The goal between FEMA and the State is that all towns will be reimbursed at 100%.

C) 2019-2020 Preliminary Year End Budget Estimates

B. Ciurylo reports the revenue side for the Town could end up at a \$250,000 surplus due to tax collection and ECS grants. Grants are coming in. Special Ed grant was short by \$50,000. Preschool tuition is coming in on budget. \$234,000 is expected from LOCIP.

M. Geryk said the school projection is slightly lower than previously reported. The renegotiation of the transportation contract resulted in a savings of approximately \$100,000. She anticipates approximately \$550,000 to be returned to the Town but notes additional items are yet to be posted. She anticipates an additional \$100,000 of purchases will be required to address PPE and COVID preparations and expects approximately \$500,000 to be returned to the Town.

Capital – M. Geryk noted the generator project has been started. Permits are delaying progress at this time. Camera work is underway. Sinks are in but we are waiting for the plumber. Ceiling tiles are being installed. Painters are being hired. School projects are on track and she is encouraging more work to be completed.

M. Walter reported on the Town Capital Projects - Road at Rec Park is finished. A purchase request for guard rails will be at approximately \$20,000. B. Ciurylo noted two land purchases are complete. Covid purchases will be posted for both the Town and School. She expects a return of approximately \$100,000 on the Town side.

E) Legislative Updates

F) Other Business

M. Walter noted an additional \$1900 per year contract due to the retirement plan was rolled into the CIRMA policy.

6. Adjournment: The next meeting: July 8, 2020

E. Sharpe MOVED, S. Everett SECONDED to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Morey, Clerk