



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

**Fiscal Policy Board
Minutes
July 11, 2018**

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

Absent: Christopher Lent-Board of Education Chairman

1. Call to Order – Chairperson B. Ciurylo called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
2. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of June 13, 2018 –
 - E. Sharpe MOVED, M. Walter SECONDED to approve the Minutes of 6/13/18 as revised. Corrections were requested as follows:
 - Pg. 2 – Walters revised to Walter
 - Pg. 2, D. 36,000 KW hours revised to 100,000 KW hours
 - Pg. 2, G – Excess Cost Reimbursement - ...and a change in the special education cost was reported in March.
 - MOTION CARRIES 3:0:2. S. Everett and L. Fearon ABSTAINED from voting.
 - e. Correspondence – no correspondence was received.
 - f. Old Business:
 - A) 2017-2018 Town and Board of Education – Mrs. Ciurylo reviewed the Actual and Anticipated Revenues report dated 7/10/2018. The Town's remaining balance is \$107,145.29 pending the Emergency Management and Rec Park Grants which could reduce the return to the Town.
The current year end balance for Town expenditures is \$306,360.26 which does not include the Board of Education. The surplus is partially due to not having to pay out teacher

pensions and some IT equipment which wasn't purchased. Anticipated cuts of approximately \$400,000 are expected from the State and the surplus will help cover those costs.

The Board of Education budget currently has a surplus of \$282,810.39. The surplus is due in large part, to special education tuition costs which were budgeted but not needed. Mr. Fearon explained special education costs are quite fluid and can go up and down throughout the year. Students who graduated earlier than anticipated and program changes account for the surplus.

5. New Business

A) 2018/19 Board of Education Budget – no updates were reported at this time.

B) Minimum Budget Requirement - Mr. Fearon has been in touch with the State Department of Education in an attempt to obtain updated information concerning the MBR for next year. He explained how budgeting for students who move in and out of district or require residential placements, then leave the district, artificially inflate the MBR. He noted the State Board has not granted waivers in the past to reduce MBR. Mr. Sharpe said he would like to see the law changed but it has been his personal experience that the State is not flexible on this issue.

C) BOE School Summer Projects Update – Mr. Fearon reviewed the Summer Building Projects which include:

The installation of electrical, sprinkler and exhaust systems in the Cafeteria Balcony, painting in E-Wing, and the replacement of broken windows and balancers in the building. The LED Project is progressing and work is scheduled for July and August. Loan agreements have been completed and approved. The revised Solar Project contract has been approved by the Board of Selectman and permits are pending. Work is scheduled for July and August. NOVUS is overseeing the installation of the VOIP system and cable upgrades. Work is currently ongoing for this project.

Mr. Everett asked if there have been any updates to the score board in the gym?

Mr. Fearon said a new score board has been funded by the Lions Club and Rec Department.

Mr. Walter mentioned items stored in the old Fire House will need removed. The fluorescent bulbs stored in the building by the School will be removed appropriately due to mercury in the bulbs. The salt shed, girls soft ball field, path around rec park and repaving of Town Hall are all projects in the works. Discussion was held concerning closing Town Hall during repaving. A note will be sent out to residents notifying them of the closing when the parking lot is repaved.

6. Finance Department – Mrs. Ciurylo anticipates the Auditors to arrive on Thursday, 7/12. She has been working to update and align the Board of Education Chart of Accounts and closing out yearend accounts. She will be addressing the ED001 in August.
7. Audience – No comments were received.
8. Adjournment
E. Sharpe MOVED, L. Fearon SECONDED to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Morey, Clerk