



**Town of Columbia
Fiscal Policy Board
September 14, 2016**

Horace W. Porter School Conference Room
8:30am

Members Present: Bev Ciurylo-Finance Director, Lol Fearon- Superintendent, Ernie Sharpe-FIPAC Chairman, Carmen Vance-First Selectman, Mark Walter-Town Administrator

Members Absent: Christopher Lent- BOE Chairman

Others Present: Judy Ortiz-FIPAC member, Kathy Tolsdorf- BOE member

1. **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 by Bev Ciurylo.

2. **Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2016**

Mrs. Ciurylo moved to approve the minutes; Mr. Sharpe seconded it and the motion passed 5-0.

3. **Correspondence**

There was not correspondence.

4. **Old Business:**

- a. **Library Project Update:** The library is in the process of moving to the updated location. The BOS and library board have been discussing the final look of the library; including the shelving and space for library patrons to sit.
- b. **Non Lapsing Account:** FIPAC will be discussing this issue at their next meeting on September 21, 2016. FIPAC agrees in spirit of writing a resolution, not an MOE. FIPAC will decide if BOE needs approval from FIPAC to spend money from the non lapsing account. FIPAC will approve any money going into the account. A decision needs to be made at the next FIPAC meeting on setting up this account so that it is done before the audit begins.
- c. **15/16 Budget update:** The BOE has \$93,926 surplus in their budget. All expenditures have been paid and reported to the state. The library budget is over budget and more funds will need to be transferred to the capital line as well as some expenditures (which will not be reimbursable with the state) will need to be reclassified to the operating budget. The transfer to capital will have to go to a town meeting. Still finalizing the Town 15/16 expenditures due to review of library expenditures and the need to reclass some of those expenditures to the 15/16 operating budget from capital.

5. **New Business:**

- a. **ED001:** Mrs. Ciurylo reported that this BOE report was filed on time with the state as of August 31, 2016. This is the annual BOE filing to report all of the BOE expenditures (operating, capital as well as grants) to the state.
- b. **CCJEF Ruling:** Mrs. Ciurylo distributed copies of articles from the Hartford Courant regarding the Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding. Mr. Fearon also distributed copies of a summary on the ruling. A ruling was made that may affect how much money Columbia receives from the state for education. The ruling indicated that the distribution of funds is not adequate for some towns. It said that the ECS funds will be evaluated as well as the special education funding. Teacher evaluations will also be re-examined. The state has 180 days to develop a plan that addresses the ruling. Not clear if this ruling will be appealed by the state.
- c. **State Reductions:** After the election, there may be a 5% decrease in town funding from the state. There is a discussion about whether medical expenses should be covered by the schools or if they should be covered by the student's health insurance.

6. **Finance Department**

- a. Annual audit planned for Week of October 19th
- b. Mr. Fearon announced that Brenda Morey has been hired as the new superintendent's secretary and Barbara Wilson is the new Special Services Director.
- c. A town meeting is scheduled for 9/20/2016 to approve the purchase of the land in back of the transfer station and to accept Conservation Easement and Access Easement Agreement as well as a driveway easement on a portion of Wickford Road.

7. **Audience**

None

8. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:30am. Mr. Sharpe motioned to approve and Mr. Fearon seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

The next Fiscal Policy meeting will be Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at 8:30am at the H.W. Porter conference room.