



TOWN OF COLUMBIA

Minutes
Fiscal Policy Board
September 27, 2017
Horace W. Porter School Conference Room

Members Present: Beverly Ciurylo-Finance Director, Ernie Sharpe-FiPAC Chairman, Mark Walter-Town Administrator, Lol Fearon, Superintendent, Christopher Lent-Board of Education Chairperson

Others Present: Judy Oritz-FiPAC member

Absent: Carmen Vance, First Selectman

1. Call to Order – Chairperson B. Ciurylo called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.
2. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of June 21, 2017 – M. Walter MOVED, E. Sharpe SECONDED to approve the minutes of June 21, 2017. MOTION CARRIES 5:0.
3. Correspondence – No correspondence was received.
4. Old Business – Mr. Fearon said the Board of Education received the resignation of the Food Services Director in September. The BOE recently entered into a contract with EASTCONN to run the food services program. EASTCONN will manage staff, procure supplies and submit reports. This is a 5 year contract with an initial cost of \$21,000 per year. The cost of replacing the Food Services Director position was estimated at approximately \$64,000 including salary and benefits.

Any deficits to the food services program will no longer be funded by the BOE. EASTCONN is providing similar services in Pomfret, Scotland and Hampton and the districts report positive experiences and increased hot lunch sales. At this time hot lunch prices are not increasing.

5. New Business:
 - A) Discussion - Impact of State Budget Proposals

Members noted the “soft” deadline for the State budget is 10/1/17. There has been discussion at the State the deadline may be revised to 10/15/17.

Members discussed the state budget and the lack of the legislation to pass a budget. There was also a discussion on the Governor’s Executive order that may be imposed on October 1, 2017. The Board of Education has been reviewing its 17/8 budget and has imposed a soft freeze. The Town is looking at capital to see what projects can be delayed until there is a state budget.

B) Board of Selectmen and Board of Education Plan of Action/Response Regarding State Budget

The Fiscal Policy Committee discussed possible implications of the proposed budgets. They determined it is premature to plan for possible reductions of State funding until the State sets a budget.

A meeting was tentatively scheduled for the Tri-Board (FiPAC, BOE and BOS) on Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at 7:00 in the Town Hall Conference Room.

6. Finance Department – Mrs. Ciurylo reported the auditors will be here on 10/18/17. The ED001 has been filed. Cleanout of the old financial records in the old firehouse is expected to be completed by the end of October.
7. Audience – no comments were received.
8. Adjournment
E. Sharpe MOVED, L. Fearon SECONDED to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 a.m. MOTION CARRIES 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Morey, Clerk