

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
FINANCIAL PLANNING and ALLOCATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, March 20, 2019 – 7 pm
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT

Members Present: Chairman Earnest Sharpe; Todd Shepard; Kelley Peck; Judy Ortiz; Richard Szegda, Mike Patel.

Absent: Dean Toepfer.

Also Present: Mark Walter, Town Administrator; Beverly Ciurylo, Finance Director; Steven Everett, First Selectman; Maria Geryk, Superintendent; Christopher Lent, BOE Chairman.

CALL TO ORDER: E. Sharpe called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**
2. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - 2.1 **Resignation of Jeff Viens, Vice Chairman from FiPAC.** E. Sharpe recognized the resignation of Jeff Viens.
 - 2.2 **Notification of new appointment to FiPAC.** E. Sharpe recognized and welcomed Mike Patel as the new member to FiPAC.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - 3.1 **Approval of Special Meeting Minutes of 3/13/19.** R. Szegda MOVED to Approve the minutes of 3/13/19. K. Peck SECONDED. 5:0:1 with M. Patel abstaining.
4. **FiPAC BUDGET DISCUSSION (CONTINUED):** E. Sharpe shared a spreadsheet on the potential budget changes and budget impacts. This was to be used as an aid when discussing the proposed budget so different scenarios can be reviewed. His presentation included the use of fund balance (\$400,000), additional use of TAR funds (\$24,056) and reducing the BOE by \$39,000 (the estimated amount of the teacher pension contribution). R. Szegda asked about teachers' pension contribution and if FiPAC reduced the BOE budget by \$39,000, would that affect the MBR. M. Geryk explained that the state mandated teacher pension contribution does not affect MBR. Discussion ensued.

R. Szegda asked if FiPAC could reduce the BOE budget and not impact current goals that the school is working on. M. Geryk explained that with some minor reductions in the supply lines, consultants, postage, and technology, the BOE could still reach their current goals. She stated that they would maintain the additional staff persons that are currently budgeted. E. Sharpe presented an alternative idea of cutting the BOE's budget by \$89,000 and at the end of the year, FiPAC would give \$60,000 into the non-lapsing account. Discussion ensued about that alternative

idea. C. Lent stated that in the next BOE meeting, he will bring this option to the board. K. Peck asked about the \$700,000 increase to BOE. M. Geryk explained this includes the staffing salaries, which included \$75,000 for a new behavioral specialist teacher and \$24,000 for a new para-professional. A discussion about a behavioral specialist teacher and options ensued. M. Geryk explained that this teacher would perform risk assessments, behavioral intervention, and behavioral expectation. She does not feel it's a position that the school will need forever, but she explained it's a position that the school needs now.

E. Sharpe went through a few more scenarios with FiPAC including using more from the TAR account and less from the General Fund. E. Sharpe had questions regarding the Rec Area Improvements Project: the urgency of the road and the parking lot and if the Brand money can be spent on the parking lots. He suggested to reduce the Rec Area Improvement budget by \$80,000. Discussion ensued. R. Szegda asked if someone from the Rec Department could be at the next FiPAC meeting. M. Walter explained that he will ask G. Murphy and M. Volza if they can attend. After discussions, E. Sharpe reviewed the different options and how it would affect the budget. B. Ciurylo explained the LOCIP account currently has \$195,000 and next year the Town will receive another \$39,000 entitlement. This will bring the total Town LOCIP entitlement to approximately \$230,000. She will update the 19/20 budget document to reflect the additional \$25,000 of TAR funding and the full amount of the LOCIP entitlement. Discussion ensued more on the BOS Capital Budget and the possibility of reducing it. R. Szegda expressed he is strongly opposed from taking the \$80,000 out of Rec Park budget. E. Sharpe asked the FiPAC members to review the capital as well as the rest of the budget further and come back to the next meeting for further discussion.

J. Ortiz MOVED to reduce the BOE budget by \$89,000, K. Peck SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:1 with M. Patel abstaining. E. Sharpe explained that the BOE has the right to appeal.

K. Peck asked about taking the teacher pension line out of the budget and add it back in if it passes. Discussion ensued.

5. **TRANSFERS:** None.
6. **NEXT MEETING(S):**
 - 6.1 03/27/19 FiPAC Special Meeting – Budget Workshop.
 - 6.2 04/03/19 FiPAC Special Meeting – Budget Workshop (tentative).
 - 6.3 04/17/19 FiPAC Regular Meeting
 - 6.4 04/24/19 Public Hearing
7. **ADJOURNMENT:** K. Peck ADJOURNED the meeting at 8:34 pm. J. Ortiz SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANAMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie