

**FiPAC Special Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, April 4, 2018 – 7 pm**  
**Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room**  
**323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

**Members Present:** Chairmen, Earnest Sharpe; Judy Ortiz; Dean Toepfer; Jeffrey Viens; Todd Shepard; Richard Szegda

**Members Absent:** Kelley Peck

**Also Present:** Town Administrator, Mark Walter; Finance Director, Beverly Ciurylo; Linette Dooley

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** E. Sharpe called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. **FiPAC BUDGET DISCUSSION (CONTINUED).** B. Ciurylo, Finance Director started the discussion by going into detail on the projected expenditure variances as of 04/04/18. She stated that the Town will probably not be spending the \$5,000 budgeted for Unemployment Compensation because there are no pending claims. Group Insurance has a variance of \$25,000 due to changes in the projection of staff enrolling in the Health Insurance plan. As previously presented, \$50,000 budgeted for teacher pensions in the 17/18 budget is not being spent. It is anticipated that \$8,000 of Legal expenditures will not be spent. It is anticipated that there will not be any referendums this year so B. Ciurylo estimated a savings of \$5,500 in the Registrar of Voters salary line. She added that the Resident State Trooper usually comes under budget and is anticipating that \$20,000 will not be spent in that line. The total variances in Operating expenditures are at \$113,500. B. Ciurylo stated that the BOE could possibly return \$50,000. That is a conservative projection while the 17/18 budget expenditures and encumbrances are being reviewed. The projection will change as B. Ciurylo works with Lol Fearon, Superintendent regarding the end of year expenditures. With the BOE savings the total is \$163,500. B. Ciurylo also reviewed the projected variances for town revenue. Currently, there is an approximate shortage of \$14,000 in revenue, which will hopefully be covered by year-end property tax collections and collection of town fees. The Capital Budget was also updated for anticipated year end spending and 18/19 projected spending. B. Ciurylo stated that these are all estimates at this time and the figures could change.

B. Ciurylo stated that tax collection is going very well and stated the 17/18 collection rate is around 98%. M. Walter stated that there is one more property off the tax sale list. He also mentioned that Carol Price, Tax Collector, is anticipating that another \$70,000 will be collected by the end of the fiscal year from the \$204,832 of uncollected taxes year to date.

E. Sharpe asked for clarification on the MRSA grant money for \$26,000. B. Ciurylo and M. Walter explained that the grant is to be used for capital road and bridge projects. B. Ciurylo stated that this grant has been received and is included in the 17/18 revenue variance for intergovernmental revenues.

E. Sharpe stated that he did not hear a lot of support for K. Peck's comments during the last budget workshop regarding cutting the BOS budget and asked if anyone would like to comment further on this. J. Viens stated that he thinks that the BOS can cut \$25,000 from the budget and that it is a reasonable number. R. Szegda disagreed and said he feels the BOS is already a lean budget. E. Sharpe stated that procedurally FiPAC may amend the budget in any way they want and that FiPAC would have to send a specific amendment for the BOS to come back with cuts to the budget. If FiPAC does make a change, then there would be another FiPAC Budget workshop to schedule. J. Veins asked to check the Charter specifically. M. Walter checked the Town Charter and read Section 9.6 – Budget Review of the Charter.

E. Sharpe asked again if there was any interest by the attending FiPAC members in cutting the BOS budget by \$25,000. There was no interest to make a motion for a BOS budget reduction and discussion ended.

R. Szegda MOVED to approve the proposed 2018-2019 BOS Operating Budget as presented. D. Toepfer SECONDED and the MOTION CARRIED 6:0.

R. Szegda MOVED to approve the proposed 2018-2019 Capital Budget as presented. J. Ortiz SECONDED and the MOTION CARRIED 6:0.

E. Sharpe began the discussion of the spreadsheet that he had provided FiPAC to help aid in their analysis of the budget. Discussion ensued regarding how much to use from the General Fund and the mill rate impact.

R. Szegda MOVED to use \$400,000 from the General Fund to offset the proposed 2018-2019 budget increase and proposed that the mill rate be set at 29.91. J. Viens SECONDED the MOTION and the MOTION CARRIED 6:0.

4. **NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will directly follow the Town Public Hearing on the proposed 18/19 Budget on 4/25/18, Yeomans Hall at 7pm
5. **ADJOURNMENT:** J. Ortiz MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:00 PM and J. Viens SECONDED and the MOTION CARRIED 6:0.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie