

**PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES**  
**FINANCIAL PLANNING and ALLOCATION COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, April 24, 2019 – 7 pm**  
**Yeomans Hall**  
**323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

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

**Members Absent:** Dean Toepfer.

**Also Present:** Steven M. Everett, First Selectman; Mark Walter, Town Administrator; Beverly Ciurylo, Finance Director; Maria Geryk, Horace W. Porter School Superintendent; Alysa Gwinell, Horace W. Porter School Principal; Chris Lent, BOE Chairman; William O'Brien, Selectman; Lisa Napolitano, Selectman; Lisa Massicotte, Reporter from the Chronicle; and numerous other citizens.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** E. Sharpe called the meeting to order at 7 pm.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 BUDGET:**
4. **Presentations of the proposed budget by representatives of the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen.** M. Geryk presented the proposed FY 2019-20 BOE budget. She explained the budget process included known costs, known grants available, budget history and current student needs. The total BOE budget request is \$12,736,826, with a net decrease of \$89,000 (\$.69%). M. Geryk provided the projected impact of federal grants, cost comparison for High School/Porter PK-8 and Special Education cost comparison. M. Geryk provided the notable increases in the BOE FY 19/20 budget, which included Professional Development; Curriculum Support 5-year plan; Technology Plan; E. O. Smith Tuition, and Transportation. M. Geryk provided the notable decreases to the BOE FY 19/20 budget, which included Health Benefits; Tuition Magnet; Out-placement; and High School Services. M. Geryk explained that there will be staffing adjustments of 3 full-time employees with no financial implications, 1 additional certified staff member and 1 non-certified staff member. M. Geryk provided the projected 19/20 enrollment for the Magnet Programs with a tuition cost of \$192,000. The 19/20 projected enrollment for PK-8 at 426 students and Grades 9-12 at 253 students. M. Geryk explained the notable additions to the BOE Capital Plan which included a Safety Grant and a Generator.

M. Walter presented the proposed FY 2019-20 Town budget. He discussed revenues, and notable increases and decreases in the proposed budget. M. Walter explained that some of the revenue decreases included the reduction of the Education Equalization ECS Grant by \$138,782, the Veterans Tax Relief was cut and the LoCIP Reimbursement money of \$234,000 which will be utilized towards the salt shed and is expected to be completed this July. M. Walter explained that the BOS FY 19/20

Appropriations has an increase of \$1.76%. He provided information on the notable increases and decreases in the operating budget. Several notable increases are the potential state mandated municipal contribution for the state teacher's requirement of \$39,708 and Waste Disposal Services of \$22,576. The Waste Disposal services are showing an increase due to an increase in cost in recycling. Decreases included a reduction of \$4,300 for phone service; commercial insurance reduction of \$4,750; and a reduction of \$5,000 for Lake Management Advisory because the cost for the invasive species abatement services were less than anticipated. M. Walter provided some explanations on some of the significant Capital Appropriations. This included the first installment of \$175,000 for the Hunt Road Culvert and installment 1 of 4 payments for the Hop River Bridge. M. Walter explained that the culvert and bridge were brought to our attention by the State because they needed to be repaired. M. Walter explained that the proposed mill rate is 29.33, which will not change from the current mill rate.

**4.1 Opportunity for any elector or qualified voter to be heard regarding the recommended appropriations.**

Brian Pedersen, 211 Rte. 66 expressed concern about the reduction to the budget for Rec Park. He requested FiPAC to reconsider the cut of \$30,000 to the Rec Park budget.

Paul Kubala, 37 Lake Rd. asked for clarification in the BOE budget on the 403b retirement benefit and technology equipment and clarification on the TAR fund.

Chris Tolsdorf, 104 Hunt Rd. provided public comment on Rec Park and the use of the Brand Fund money for the Rec Park project. He stated he hoped FiPAC shows responsiveness to the concerns of the citizens

Carol Wiggins, 96, Rte. 6 asked if FiPAC could talk a little more on how they came to the decision to use \$580,000 from the General Fund to keep the mill rate the same as last year. E. Sharpe explained that the BOE budget for special education students was down significantly; therefore, we did not need as much money for special education. He also responded that FiPAC looked at what constitutes a healthy general fund balance.

Carmen Vance, 1 Beach Rd. asked what percentage is left in the General Fund. B. Ciurylo stated 17%

T. Currier, 15 Columbia Landing asked about the exact amount of reserve in the General Fund and urged FiPAC and BOS to continue moving forward on the Rec Park project.

Jeff Buskey, 17 Lake Ridge Rd. expressed concern about the condition of the basketball court.

M. Ramsey asked what percentage of the mill rate the \$30,000 cut from the Rec Park budget constituted.

**5. RECESS:** E. Sharpe closed the Public Hearing at 8:15 and went into recess.

**6. OLD BUSINESS:**

**6.1 Modification of the proposed FY '19-20', as FiPAC deems advisable.**

E. Sharpe MOVED to restore \$15,000 to the BOS Capital Budget for Rec Park Improvements and use \$15,000 from the General Fund to cover the additional \$15,000 being budgeted. K. Peck SECONDED the MOTION. 3 Approved E. Sharpe, K. Peck & M. Patel: 3 Opposed R. Szegda, J. Ortiz & T. Shepard. The MOTION did NOT PASS.

R. Szegda MOVED to AMEND E. Sharpe's MOTION and MOVED to put \$30,000 back into the BOS Capital Budget for Rec Park Improvements and take an additional from the \$30,000 the General Fund. E. Sharpe did not accept R. Szegda's MOTION since he felt it would not pass.

T. Shepard MOVED to put back \$25,000 into the BOS Capital Budget for Rec Park Improvements and take an additional \$25,000 from the General Fund. J. Ortiz SECONDED the MOTION. 3 Approved (R. Szegda, J. Ortiz and T. Shepard). 3 Opposed (E. Sharpe, K. Peck, M. Patel). The MOTION did NOT PASS.

R. Szegda MOVED to restore \$15,000 to the BOS 19/20 Capital Budget for the Rec Park Improvements and take an additional \$15,000 from the General Fund. J. Ortiz SECONDED the MOTION and the MOTION CARRIED 6.0.

E. Sharpe MOVED to send the proposed FY 2019-20 budget with the changes for consideration at the Annual Town Budget meeting on May 14, 2019 at 7 pm in Yeomans Hall. J. Ortiz SECONDED the MOTION and it CARRIED 6.0

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**7.1 FiPAC Special Meeting Minutes of 3/27/19.** R. Szegda MOVED to approve the FIPAC minutes of 3/27/19 as presented. E. Sharpe SECONDED and the MOTION CARRIED 5.0.1 with K. Peck abstaining.

**8. CORRESPONDENCE:**

**8.1** BOS Meeting Minutes for 3/5/19 & 3/19/19.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**10. TRANSFERS:** T. Sheppard MOVED to APPROVE the following Transfers totaling \$5,825. K. Peck SECONDED the MOTION and the MOTION CARRIED 6.0.

<b>TRANSFER #/AMOUNT</b>	<b>FROM A/C DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>TO A/C# DESCRIPTION</b>
2019 #022 / \$3,100.00	10-4410-011 / Salaries- Public Works OT	10-4420-010 / Salaries-Waste Disposal
2019 #022 / \$640.00	10-4420-500 / Professional / Tech	10-4420-230 / Electricity
2019 #022 \$50.00	10-4420-500 / Professional / Tech	10-4400-515 / Contracted Services
2019 #024 / \$640.00	10-4440-230 / Electricity	10-4116-230 / Electricity

2019 #025 / \$300.00	10-4117-120 / Telephone	10-4117-230 / Electricity
2019 #025 / \$220.00	10-4117-240 / Fuel	10-4117-230 / Electricity
2019 #026 / \$875.00	10-4410-240 / Fuel	10-4115-240 / Fuel

11. **NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will follow the Town Budget Meeting on May 14, 2019.
12. **ADJOURNMENT:** J. Ortiz MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:58 pm and the MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie