

Town of Columbia
Financial Planning and Allocation Commission
Special Meeting Budget Workshop Minutes
Wednesday, April 29, 2020 – 7:00
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
And Zoom Video Conferencing
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT. 06237

Members Present: Ernie Sharpe, Chairman; Kelly Peck Co-Vice Chairman; Richard Szegda, Co-Vice Chairman; Jeff Viens; Judith Jordan; Brian Pedersen.

Members Absent: Mike Patel.

Also Present: Mark Walter, Town Administrator, Bev Ciurylo, Finance Director, Maria Geryk, Superintendent, Steven Everett, First Selectman.

This is a web-based call, so we are operating under the following procedures: This session is being both video and audio-recorded. Commissioners and staff will generally remain on mute except when speaking or voting and will generally be keeping video of themselves on throughout the meeting. There will not be any public comment during this Budget Workshop Meeting. If a member of the public creates an audio or video disruption, they may be manually ejected from the meeting upon recommendation of staff or the chair.

- 1. Call to Order:** E. Sharpe called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.
- 2. Approval of Minutes:**
- 3. Approval of FiPAC Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2020.** R. Szegda. MOVED to Approve the FiPAC Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2020. J. Viens SECONDED and the MOTION CARRIED 6.0.
- 4. Budget Workshop with FiPAC Discussion:** E. Sharpe asked S. Everett to summarize the updated recommendations for reductions to the Board of Selectman budget.

S. Everett explained that at the BOS special meeting on April 28, the BOS approved additional reductions of the BOS proposed 2020-2021 budget with a net Capital budget decrease of \$3,000 and a net Operating budget decrease of \$10,106, totaling \$13,106.

For the Capital budget, there was an additional \$5,000 added to the Rec Park Renovation and \$8,000 for a 40-yard container was removed from the Transfer Station Equipment line. The container would be purchased with this year's funds. For the operating budget, the reductions included \$6,800 for the purchase of salt. The salt shed is currently full, and the Public Works Director did see a need to purchase additional salt. One of the postage lines was reduced for \$1,000 and the Library reduced its budget by \$2,306. S. Everett added that these reductions are in addition to the approved \$257,158 reductions approved by FiPAC last week.

B. Ciurylo followed up that the new BOS reductions result in less being allocated from the fund balance by \$13,106 reduction that this still reflects a zero mill rate increase. B. Ciurylo also stated that the Education Cost Share (ECS) grant was received by Town and it was approximately \$100,000 more than anticipated in the current year budget. These additional funds will be added to the General Fund at year end.

R. Szegda MOVED to Approve the proposed budget with the BOS changes as of 04/28/20 and move the Proposed 2020-2021 Annual Town Budget to the Public Hearing. E. Sharpe SECONDED and the MOTION CARRIED 6.0.

5. Next Meeting

5.1 Schedule Public Hearing Date. After some discussion, it was decided to hold the Public Hearing on the proposed budget via Zoom Virtual meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2020. E. Sharpe noted that there will be a brief presentation by M. Walter, Town Administrator and M. Geryk, Superintendent. M. Walter explained that the public will be able to provide their input in a variety of ways. The public can send their comments via the email to PublicInput@columbiact.org, by mail to his office and by the “chat” feature during the Zoom virtual meeting. E. Sharpe requested that the Audience of Citizens portion of the meeting be after the budget presentation.

5.2 Schedule FiPAC Final Vote on Budget and Mill Rate: After a brief discussion, the FiPAC final vote on the budget and setting the mill rate will be Wednesday, May 20, 2020 during the Regular FiPAC meeting.

6. 5/06/20 FiPAC Special Meeting – Budget Workshop: This meeting has been canceled.

7. Adjournment. E. Sharpe MOVED to Adjourn the Meeting at 7:28pm. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie