



THE TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF FINANCE MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 16, 2017

A Board of Finance Meeting for the Town of Woodbridge was held in the Central Meeting Room at the Town Hall, Woodbridge, Connecticut on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 6:00 pm

PRESENT: Chairman, Matthew Giglietti; Vice Chairman, Sandy Stein (6:06 pm); Karen Cusick; Andrew Esposito; Paul Kuriakose

ALSO PRESENT: Administrative Officer / Director of Finance, Anthony Genovese; Budget Analyst, Karen Crosby

Chairman Matthew Giglietti called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FY18 BUDGET – CHIP DUMAIS, SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Chip Dumais presented his proposed FY18 budget (attached). Chip stated that they have been working hard to determine how the Governor's budget may affect Amity.

Amity Regional High School has six National Merit Finalists. Three Amity staff members were sent to national conference to make presentations.

STAR is a universal assessment that it is given to every student except the seniors. Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge use this student assessment tool. Students continue to excel in the Arts. Students are encouraged to give back to the community. They are involved in many projects.

Amity has had seven consecutive clean audits. They are very proud of the finance department and the work that they do. Amity Regional High School and the Orange Middle School have both been identified as EnergyStar Facilities. Those two schools are powered by UI and the Bethany facility is powered by CL&P which has a different process to go through for that distinction, they will go through that process.

Chip reported that the FY18 Superintendent's budget proposal is \$48,769,642 which represents an increase of 1.95%. The Woodbridge portion is \$14,522,266 an increase of 1.53%.

Andy asked Chip about the Resource Officer. The officer used to be in the Amity budget and it is no longer there, is there a reason. Chip responded that he doesn't think it was ever in the budget but the previous superintendent didn't want it in the school budget. Matt stated that it had been in the Amity budget but John Brady took it out of the budget.

Matt stated that the Amity Board of Education has started to look at the Amity Finance Committee.

It would not be a wise thing to do to change the Finance Committee. There have been seven clean audits and before that, it was a mess. The committee has worked well. Their vote is strictly advisory.

Sandy stated that it is very collaborative and it is informative. The Towns are told what is going on with finances so there is a sense of trust. The committee has served a very important role for all three towns.

Andy stated that memories are very short. People forget about the weekly meetings on approval of expenditures. The committee played a very important role in mentoring through that whole process.

Matt reported that the Finance Committee met Monday night and they were to recommend the budget to the Board. They tabled that due to the uncertainties regarding the State revenue.

Sandy asked what the debt service look like over the next 10-15 years. Chip responded that in the document, debt service is addressed.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER / DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT

Tony reported on revenues and expenditures through January 2017 with a projected surplus of \$265,000 at the end of the fiscal year. The projected fund balance at 6/30/2017 would be \$4.7M or 10.01% of the annual projected expenses at the end of the year.

Revenues

Interest income is doing very well and there is a surplus due to the sale of the golf equipment.

Expenses

Assessor – experiencing a surplus of \$10,000 due to a vacant position

Parks Dept – projected to experience a surplus of \$30,000 due to the elimination of the parks foreman position.

Debt Service – will experience a surplus of \$125,000 due to the timing of the issuance of the remaining debt on the Beecher Road School project.

State Budget Update

Tony reported that the special education excess cost grant revenue is going up significantly. The Governor is increasing this in a way to cover special education expenses. Education Cost Sharing grant is reduced significantly. CCM had a forum with Ben Barnes. These items are all up for discussion and not set in stone. The Governor has also suggested that the Towns pay a portion of the teachers' pension that is underfunded. The Governor suggested that the prevailing wage be increased for construction projects which hasn't been raised in many years.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board of Finance voted (Giglietti/Esposito) unanimously to approve the January 19, 2017 minutes as presented.

LIAISON REPORTS

Amity – Matt reported that the Finance Committee did not recommend the Superintendent's budget to the Board of Education due to the uncertainties in Hartford. The Board of Education did not do anything on the budget. Matt is concerned about the Amity Finance Committee.

Fire – Paul reported that the department is looking at dispatch software solution at a cost of between \$50,000 and \$150,000. They are looking at off-the-shelf packages. This will tighten up dispatch calls.

Human Services – Karen reported that there was no meeting.

Police – Andy reported that the meeting was executive session for interviewing potential police officers.

Library – Sandy was unable to attend. The Friends of the Library donated \$7,000 to the Library. LED lighting is being installed in the Library and when complete they may save up to \$9,000 in electricity. The book return amnesty goes through the end of this week. You will receive a \$1 reduction in the fine for each food item donated – "Food for Fines".

WBOE Finance Committee – Sandy reported a \$17,000 gap as there are some new students to consider for special education and will probably go back up. They try to find as much savings as they can. They have experienced about a 56% reduction in usage of products used for heating and cooling.

Matt reported that Anthony Taddei has resigned as pool director. That is a major loss, he is not only the pool director he is also a contractor. Anthony would fix things there also clean the bathrooms.

The Board of Selectmen will meet on February 21st for their budget recommendations. The Board of Finance will meet on March 7, 2017.

The Board of Finance voted (Giglietti/Cusick) unanimously to adjourn at 6:58 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Crosby
Budget Analyst