

Board of Finance
Special Meeting Minutes

Meeting Held September 10, 2020 at 6:00 pm via remote conference due to Covid 19

- 1- **Call to order:** Chairman Ezzes called the meeting to order, also in attendance were BOF Members Dick Bochinski, Greg Murhpy, Amy Gare, Jeff Farr, Rone Baldwin and Allan Grauberd, BOE Finance Director Phil Cross, BOE Chairman Tony Pesco, Town Finance Director Rick Darling, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Superintendent Bill McKersie and Weston Residents

- 2- **Discussion/Decision regarding the Board of Education's request to have the Board of Finance establish a non-lapsing account for the Board of Education, and authorize the transfer of \$177,568 into said account from available remaining funds in the Board of Education's 2019-20 Operating budget. Board of Education Chairman Anthony Pesco, Finance Director Phil Cross and Superintendent Dr. William McKersie.** Mr. Darling spoke about the structure of the transfer. Mr. Luiz said the Town Attorney has advised that the BOF has the sole authority to establish the non-lapsing account. Mr. Cross spoke about the costs of reopening the schools as well as the increase in student body. Mr. Baldwin asked why the non-lapsing account would be used to offset costs associated with an unforeseen increase in student population. Baldwin said he feels that the non-lapsing account should only be used for COVID 19 related expenses. Mr. Bochinski MOVED, pursuant to the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-248a, that the Board of Finance create a non-lapsing account for the Board of Education, and that the Board of Finance authorize the transfer of \$177,568 into said non-lapsing account from unexpended available funds in the Board of Education's fiscal year 2019-20 operating budget with two caveats: first, that said funds shall be spent only on unbudgeted school re-opening expenses; and second, that the non-lapsing account shall be under the control of the Town Finance Director. Mr. Grauberd suggested adding "unbudgeted Covid related expenses" to the motion. Mr. Bochinski disagreed. Mr. Murphy seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Gare then left the meeting.

- 3- **Discussion regarding the August 31st report on first installment tax collections for FY 2020-21. Rick Darling, Finance Director.** Mr. Darling discussed a collections report he created. Mr. Darling then said we are in very good shape and he will run another report for September at which point the three month deferment accounts will be due. Mr. Grauberd asked if those accounts did indeed pay, would we be at the budgeted 98% collection rate. Mr. Darling said that all other things equal, we would be but cautioned about pending tax appeals. Mr. Baldwin pointed out that we still have the second half collection process to consider.

- 4- **Discussion regarding the reviewing the five year budget forecast.** Mr. Farr discussed his findings concerning recent home sales and how the sale prices of those homes compare against the assessed values. He presented his 5 year budget plan with different mill rate scenarios.

- 5- **Discussion/decision regarding approval of minutes from the July 9th and August 20th regular and special meetings.** Mr. Bochinski asked to have corrections made to the August 20th minutes showing Mr. Ezzes was present and Mr. Murphy was not. Mr. Bochinski moved to approve the July 9th minutes as submitted and the August 20th minutes with changes to item #1 and item #8. Mr. Grauberd seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

6- **Adjourn** – Mr. Bochinski moved to adjourn at 7:15pm. Mr. Grauberd seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by: Randi Derene, Administrative Assistant

UNAPPROVED