

Board of Finance
Special Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2020 at 6:00 pm
(via remote conference)

- 1- Call to order:** Board of Finance Chair Steve Ezzes called the meeting to order at 6 pm. He was joined by fellow Board members Rone Baldwin, Dick Bochinski, Amy Gare, Jeff Farr, Allan Grauberd, and Greg Murphy, as well as Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Finance Director Rick Darling, Sean Laudati and Steve Fraysier from BL Companies, and Mark Burns from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT).
- 2- Discussion about bridge projects: Cavalry Road, Michael's Way, River Road and Davis Hill Road. Jonathan Luiz, Town Administrator.** The Board listened to a presentation from Mark Burns from the Connecticut Department of Transportation, and Sean Laudati and Steve Fraysier of BL Companies. Mr. Luiz reiterated that the Town of Weston has been working with the State and BL companies for four years on the bridge projects and explained that the Towns of Weston and Westport will be sharing the costs of replacing the bridge at Calvary Road with an approximate 30% / 70% split. Mr. Laudati and Mr. Fraysier then provided details on the work needed, projected costs, timelines associated with each bridge for example, and answered questions from Board members. The Board of Finance members spoke at length about budgeting timelines, fund balances and amortization, as well as when these funds would need to be made available at each stage. Mr. Luiz and Mr. Darling will provide a financial update concerning available bridge funds to the Board of Finance at a future meeting.
- 3- Discussion regarding the Town road paving program and potential funding sources.** Mr. Ezzes opened the discussion up with an overview of expectations for the conversation, determining whether or not to accelerate the paving schedule, if yes, timing and costs associated with the timing and a plan on how to finance this. He asked Mr. Farr to lead the discussion as he had spent time with the paving consultant and Mr. Farr discussed the model and reforecast the scenarios previously presented. Mr. Grauberd gave his opinion on the poor state of the roads and that paving them should be a priority. Extensive discussion ensued between the Board of Finance members over potential bonding, the utilization of the general fund and other larger expenditures like the radio project and a significant ask for education capital expenditure. Mr. Ezzes asked Mr. Luiz to go back to Board of Selectmen and ask what they want to do. Mr. Luiz said that the goal of the Board of Selectmen is to get the town roads up to a 70 RSR rating. They will come back to the Board of Finance with a road funding proposal in their proposed Capital Budget along with a recommendation on how to fund it.
- 4- Discussion regarding the November tax collector report and comparison to budget. Rick Darling, Finance Director.** Mr. Darling provided updates to the Board of Finance on current tax collections, noting that the first half installment payments are about \$141 thousand short of the 98% budgeted collection amount. He mentioned the three month deferral account was at six

with an outstanding total at \$50K, and December collections will further reduce this variance. Mr. Darling said that the first half will be ready to discuss in the Board meeting in January, he will also have a look into the second half and will be able to compare to last year.

- 5- **Discussion/Decision regarding fiscal year ending 2019-20 line item transfers (Decision postponed from November meeting). Rick Darling, Finance Director.** Formally adopting what was presented last month. Mr. Murphy moved to approve the 2019-20 line item transfers. Mr. Bochinski seconded this. The motion carried unanimously.
- 6- **Discussion/Decision regarding approval of the October 8, 2020 meeting minutes.**
- 7- **Discussion/Decision regarding approval of the October 27, 2020 meeting minutes**
- 8- **Discussion/Decision regarding approval of the November 10, 2020 Tri-Board meeting minutes**
- 9- **Discussion/Decision regarding approval of the November 12, 2020 meeting minutes.** Mr. Bochinski moved to approve the minutes from October 8, October 27, November 10 Tri-Board meeting and the November 12 minutes as corrected. Mr. Farr seconded this. Motion carried unanimously. Comments were heard from Mr. Murphy on whether more content should be noted in the minutes, Mr. Luiz explained the abbreviated format and that the meetings are recorded via video.

10- Adjournment: Mr. Ezzes adjourned the meeting at 8.15pm

Minutes submitted by: Sara Beer, Executive Administrative Assistant