

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

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BOARD OF FINANCE -Minutes-

Regular Meeting
Hybrid Meeting- In Person and Online

May 19, 2022
7:00 PM

**Minutes are not official until approved at the next regular meeting*

Members Present (a quorum of 4 members is required to conduct business):

Mike Makuch- Chairman
Stephanie Summers
Pete Tanaka
Joseph Sherrell
Christina Mailhos
Lisa Woolf
Jim Gilligan

Also Present:

Donna Latincsics- Business Manager
Alex Moore- Chief WFD #1
Members of the Public

Chairman Mike Makuch called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

SEATING OF ALTERNANTES:

Mike made a motion to seat Jim Gilligan for Geoff Prusak.
Pete seconded.
All in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

None to approve

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

None

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OLD BUSINESS:

Budget status:

Currently around 80% through projected expenses and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through the fiscal year, Donna and Mike said that looks fine.

WFD #1 request for additional funds: Chief Moore- claimed that they are over budget mostly due to repairs having to be made to the ambulance as well as the pumper truck. They are looking for 23K and Donna says she thinks she can find the funds within the budget. Mike remembers that last year this was also a problem and they asked for \$13k and the BOF was allowed to give 10k. Chief Moore says that they are currently 6k over budget. Chief Moore recalls that last year they were over budget due to ambulance repairs as well. Donna is going to look through every department to see if there are any funds that can be transferred to give the fire department their additional funds without having to call an emergency town meeting.

Mike brought up the 15 years of missed tax returns/non-profit filings and the payroll lien that was caused due to a clerical error and asked what's the status of the payroll lien. Donna believes that the lien has been corrected and released and she is going to double check to make sure. Chief Moore ensures the BOF that they are working with their accountant and are rectifying the internal situations that caused the issues.

Updates from representatives to other committees

ARPA:

Christina reminded everyone what the process is for allocating funds. She went over where the remainder of the funds stand, said some of the projects have been completed and came in under budget and mentioned some of the proposed projects coming up in the next ARPA meeting; one of which was brought forth from the BOS for funds to be allocated for "employee retention bonuses" for town employees. Mike mentioned this particular project sounds like a conflict of interest as well as an ethics problem: people shouldn't be able to vote on their own raises and would like some more thought put into the logistics of that.

School Building Committee:

They are still looking at either building a new school or renovating Hall school. They are working on land assessments and waiting for the Board of Ed to release their education specifications.

Town Employee Bargaining Agreement:

Increasing 2.2%, 2.75% and 2.75% respectively for this year and the following two years. The town employees are owed retroactive pay, but it was budgeted for so it will not affect the current budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

Setting the fiscal year 2023 mil rate:

Peter moved to set the mil rate to increase by 1.26, making it 31.25

Mike seconded the motion

All in favor

Motion passes

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Revenue collector suspense list: Janice explains that the high rate for motor vehicle tax is likely due to the students going to UConn who are either out of state or international students who purchase vehicles while they are here and then go back home without paying the taxes.

Mike made a motion to accept the list and authorize the chairman to sign it

Pete seconded

All in favor

Motion passes

Pete made a motion to adjust the mill rate due to the clerical error, mill rate to increase by 1.28, making it 31.27

Mike seconded the motion

All in favor

Motion passes

Fund balance transfer:

Mike made a motion to approve the fund balance transfer for fiscal 23 budget of \$490,230.00

Pete seconded

Stef, Donna, and Mike discussed that this transfer will leave the balance at around 10%.

Christina wanted to mention that she saw on social media that people thought it was a gimmick to artificially keep taxes low by playing around with the fund balance, Mike and Christina repeated that every year they try to stay between 8 and 12 percent

All in favor

Motion passes

Appointment of auditor:

Pete made a motion to appoint the firm of Mahoney Sabol & Company for professional auditing services for the Town of Willington for fiscal year ending 2022 for \$42,000 and fiscal year 2023 for \$43,300

Mike seconded

All in favor

Motion passes

Review previous budget seasons and lesson learned for the future:

Mike referenced past times when the board has said we should have/could have, and would like people to be more proactive with ideas to keep things in mind for the future. He brought up a form that a few people used and maybe it can be tweaked. Mike asked if anyone has any ideas. Stef said some of our budget data as a town is not as readily available as she would like it to be (maybe on line). She understands that it's been difficult because of being on zoom etc., the info that the voters and towns people see at town meetings could be made simpler for people to read who are not always involved

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with the process, so they know what is being asked of them. Maybe the BOF can have more accessibility to the budget data. She states that some local towns do provide this information to the public. Christina agrees with Stef. Elisabeth Woolf would like to know if extra budget can be made to the BOF for the secretarial processes to have the recording secretary help compile the budget information so it can be posted to the town's website.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

Lisa mentioned to Janice that perhaps she could go to the local university's Bursars office to request them to not issue the final/graduation papers for graduation until they pay their tax responsibility. Janice mentioned she will look in to that and also says that the bad debt can be collected for up to 15 years by sending it to a collection agency.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

Nothing new, besides stay healthy.

Peter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 pm.

Mike Seconded this motion

All in favor

Motion passes

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Sperry
Recording Secretary

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WILLINGTON, CT.
2022 JUL 20 A 10:07

TOWN CLERK