

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

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BOARD OF FINANCE

Regular Meeting
Hybrid- In Person and Online

September 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
Geoff Prusak
Peter Tanaka
Christina Mailhos
Elisabeth Woolf (alt)
Jim Gilligan (alt)

Also Present:

Erika Wiecewski
Donna Latincsics
Troy
Members of the Public

Chairman Mike Makuch called the meeting to order at 7:27 PM.

SEATING OF ALTERNANTES:

Pete makes a motion to seat Jim Gilligan for Stef Summers
Mikes seconds
All in favor
Motion passes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

None to approve

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

Nick Tella, 49 Myrtle Road, "I am kinda upset that the minutes only go to June on the website, I was trying to get some information about stuff going on and I didn't see anything on the website. So, I am concerned about that. I know EDC, I think it was last night, they were talking about they have \$70,000 that they might send back to ARPA, I know propane tanks with the board have been mentioned. I don't know if you guys can work and see if any of that money- \$18,000 has been mentioned- can come out of that ARPA money, it is something that has been floating around and I figured I would bring it up to you

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guys. I see that you guys get the representatives report from ARPA so it has been brought to my attention that there is a non-profit that got approved for money called 'Your Community Cares' they're not based out of here, they're based out of Manchester. There's other issues, and concerns that they have people tied to Town Hall, which is why they got the money and some of the arguing points that they have had is that the money would go to Senior Center or something, and if that was the case the Senior Center should have applied for those funds. I was watching that John on the EDC on 8/10 at 14:02 was mentioning that the money was for local businesses and non-profits and at minute 17:44 he had stated they were denying a business because they weren't registered in Willington and they were registered in Mansfield. If that was true on August 1st, why did 'Your Community Cares' get approved if others aren't. My concern is that there are family connections." Pete asks Nick if that was ARPA money. Nick says "yeah that was ARPA money but I know that they give you guys the reports and such and I just wanted to let you guys know that there's people getting funding that don't belong in Willington while we are denying other people that are in Willington so that makes no sense. That's all." Mike says we don't typically engage, but Nick some of these concerns should be voiced at the next ARPA meeting, but we certainly will be paying attention to it because we have a rep on the ARPA Commission.

OLD BUSINESS:

Budget status financial report

Mike asks Donna if she wants to talk about any highlights from the report. Donna says it looks like its on track for two months of revenue and two months of spending. Erika mentions that there have been changes in this report from the last report as this is August and the last report was from July and there was a deadline within that timeframe. Mike states we are running about \$700,000 ahead of last year, but it looks like we are running about the same percentage of collection as we were last year. Donna has no expenditure concerns, but we have already exceeded the budget on the revenue side due to interest rates going up as well as receiving a building permit from Love's for \$60,000. Erika wants to add that they are starting to see significant increases in supplies, for example they bought some pipe for a project, a year ago it was \$600 now it is \$3000 so although a few line items are turning out favorable, it might become a wash.

Update from the School Building Committee Representative

Mike says all of the subcommittees are working as well as a task group to create a public outreach delivery (to update the public with what they are doing). The BOE is working on finalizing the education specification which creates a roadmap for the size of the school and what the design will be. The committee meets again next Wednesday. Peter Latincsics- who is on a financial subcommittee for the SBC- comes forth with a list of transaction details to share with the BOF. His list entails expenditures to date from the first awarded \$100,000. He believes that the SBC was denied the additional requested \$100,000 that the townspeople voted on due to lack of information and hence the purpose of the list. Peter acknowledges there are funds that are encumbered, but not yet used. Basically the closer it gets to the referendum, the more the funds will be used. They have somewhat of a retainer style contract set up with Colliers Project Leaders who is the consultant. Mike adds that this is the information that will be included in the public outreach.

ARPA Update

Christina says right now they are in their holding pattern because the second tranche of funding only partially came, so they are waiting for the rest. The next meeting is Monday. She also

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mentions some clarifications about the concerns with "Your Community Cares", she states that HR has hired that company to help with a project they are doing with the Seniors to be a resource for connecting seniors with more resources for various aid. So the money is going to be used to hire that company to benefit Willington residents. Mike wants to ensure that ARPA is reviewing the projects and how the money is being used due to potential future audits. Geoff would like to know what the protocol is if any of the awarded projects run in to going overbudget. Christina states that hasn't happened yet, but they can't go over what they are approved for.

Review of Previous Budget Seasons/ Request Form/ Annual Report

Mike hasn't had time to send the form out

DPW request for CIP funds to conduct storm water management and mapping services and potential motion to purchase

This was tabled last month because \$40,000 was approved but the project came in as \$45,000. Erika states that there are two \$20,000 amounts that have been set aside from previous CIP years 18-19 and 19-20 they are asking for that to be utilized. She states that her and Troy have gone through his budget and are confident they can come up with the other \$5,000 out of the Public Works budget.

Mike makes a motion that the BOF recommends that the BOS call a town meeting to appropriate \$40,000 from the losip to contract with Beta Group Inc. to provide stormwater management and GIS mapping services which are needed as part of the MS4 permitting process.

Pete seconds

Pete says they have been putting this off for 8 years so they might as well do it.

Vote: Geoff, no, Pete, yes, Christina, yes, Jim- unable to answer online, Mike, yes

Motion passes

Peter makes a motion to seat Lisa for Joe

Mike Seconds

All in favor, Jim- unable to answer online

Motion passes

NEW BUSINESS:

CIP Kick-off

Christina mentions that last year they had mentioned doing some site visits the two potential nights so far are Wednesday September 28 and Wednesday October 12. The sites to be visited include the town Office Building, the Public Works Garage, the Fire Department, etc. The purpose of the site visits is to help people see the buildings and the vehicles, so everyone is on the same page with various issues.

CIP DPW Dumptruck cost increase and potential motion to approve purchase

This is a truck we are looking in getting in 2024. Mike asks Troy if they could switch to a lesser robust version of this truck to drop the price, Troy says he doesn't recommend doing that because the options are switching from a stainless to a steel body and they are running almost 100% salt now and it would rot the body, also there are a lot of hills in town and they will be working the truck hard so they wouldn't want to go with a smaller transmission and motor. If

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the town was on a rotational program where they would only be keeping the truck for 8 years or so it wouldn't be a big deal to do that but they aren't so he would like to invest in something that is more likely to last. The quote was from a state approved vendor and if we were to buy it from an out of state vendor, we may have issues when it comes time to service it.

Peter makes a motion to table this request til next month giving the business manager time to figure this out, send it to bid, work with Troy and look at potentially using ARPA

Mike seconds

All in favor, Christina did not respond via zoom

Motion passes

GOOD AND WELFARE:

Mike apologizes for all of the participants who had to wait to get started.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

Nick Tella, 49 Myrtle, "I am kinda frustrated because when we went to vote for the excavator I had mentioned this truck and it was said nobody take that into consideration, it was not on the agenda, nowhere near the future and \$75,000 for the excavator which in my opinion should have been awaited and looked at at the end of the fiscal year has now been dedicated and we could have used that money for this situation, so I am frustrated with that. Fire Department just got a used ambulance I don't know why we aren't pushing that issue I think that was a smart for the fire department to do that. As far as the school, Phil has already been talking about the school looks as though the school is going to be overbudget because of materials and such, there was some conversation earlier about how the pipes should have been \$600 and they were \$3000 the numbers that were presented in the seven different options for the school, I think, should be recalculated to todays numbers because inflation has hit this country like crazy. Those numbers that have been put out to the town are not the real numbers and I think there should be some consideration for what the numbers really are in todays market."

Peter Latincsics, 97 Trask Road, wants to know if Troy and the team finds the truck they are looking for within budget in a different state, can they just act or do they need the approval of the BOF or do they need an emergency meeting. Erika states that they can have an emergency meeting but they still need to follow procurement protocols which would be getting 3 quotes if it is not a state approved vendor

Peter makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 pm.

Mike Seconds this motion

All in favor

Motion passes

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Sperry
Recording Secretary

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WILLINGTON, CT.

2022 OCT 18 P 12:16


TOWN CLERK