

**BOARD OF FINANCE
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING
40 OLD FARMS ROAD
WILLINGTON, CT 06279**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 21, 2018

7:00 PM

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

Members Present:

Jim Bulick, Chairman
Peter Tanaka
Barry Wallett
Laurie Semprebon
Randy Belair
Fred Schoen – Alternate
Mike Makuch, Vice Chairman (Arrived at 7:16)

Members Absent:

Bill Rankin – Alternate

Also Present:

Donna Latincsics, Business Manager
Tish Ignatowicz, Treasurer,

Chairman Jim Bulick called the special meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

SEATING OF ALTERNATES:

Peter Tanaka moved to seat Fred Schoen as a regular member in place of Vice Chairman Makuch. Randy Belair seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, B. Wallett, L. Semprebon, R. Belair) 0 No.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Peter Tanaka moved to accept the Board of Finance Special Meeting minutes of May 31, 2018. Laurie Semprebon seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, B. Wallett, L. Semprebon, R. Belair, F. Schoen) 0 No.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

No one present to speak

NEW BUSINESS:

Year End Transfers

Principal Stevens shared a memo from Kathy Demsey regarding the \$613,739 collected for the Teacher Retirement Benefit (TRB). The letter exempts these funds from being counted in Willington's 2018-2019 Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) calculation. The board expressed their thanks to Dr Jacoby for following up on this issue.

Donna Latinsics, Business Manager requested more funds for the oil tank removal at Hall Memorial School. The anticipated reimbursement rate was 64.64%. Upon recent discovery it was found that the reimbursement rate for a school building project is 62.86%; leaving a budget shortfall of \$7,000. Principal Stevens suggested that they should postpone repairing the exterior trim and pillars and put that funding toward the oil tank removal.

Peter Tanaka motioned to transfer \$10,000 from account #0930 Capital Expenditures- HMS Exterior Trim and Pillars to #0504 Capital Reserve- HMS Oil Tank Replacement. Laurie Semprebon seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, B. Wallett, L. Semprebon, R. Belair, F. Schoen) 0 No.

Donna Latinsics reported no other transfers are needed.

Annual Report for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2018 is due September 30, 2018

Chairman Bulick will send a letter out to all departments requesting them to submit their July 2017-June 2018 annual report to the Board of Finance, by the end of September.

OLD BUSINESS:

Guinn Almquist was introduced as the new Recording Secretary for the Board of Finance.

Randy Belair moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:18p.m. Peter Tanaka seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, B. Wallett, L. Semprebon, R. Belair, F. Schoen, M. Makuch) 0 No.

Respectfully submitted,

Guinnevere Almquist, Recording Secretary



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



June 14, 2018

Jacqueline Jacoby
Interim Superintendent
Willington Public Schools
40A Old Farms Road
Willington, CT 06279

Dear Dr. Jacoby:

I am writing in follow up to your inquiry regarding Willington's Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) for the 2018-19 school year.

You previously explained that the Willington Board of Finance adopted a school budget for the current school year (2017-18) during a period of significant fiscal uncertainty at the state level, during which time it was contemplated that Connecticut municipalities would be responsible for paying some portion of Teacher Retirement Board (TRB) obligations for teacher pensions. As a result, you explained that the K-8 budget for the Willington Board of Education for the current year is \$8,740,249, which includes an unprecedented, and ultimately unnecessary, separate line item providing for an anticipated TRB contribution of \$613,739. You are concerned that the additional appropriation the Town made to cover anticipated TRB costs would increase the amount of Willington's 2018-19 MBR.

It is the position of the State Department of Education that this separate appropriation – which was intended as a proactive measure to respond to an anticipated change in state law that would have required towns to cover a portion of teacher pension costs previously funded entirely by the State – would not be included in a town's budgeted appropriation for education within the meaning of the MBR statute (Connecticut General Statutes 10-262j), and thus would not count toward a town's 2018-19 MBR. In the end, the legislature did not enact a provision requiring towns to contribute to teacher pension costs, rendering Willington's one-time appropriation for this purpose unnecessary. In addition, it is not clear that, even if such a change in the law had been enacted, the costs would be properly assignable to the Board of Education as part of its required education expenditures.

Accordingly, Willington's base for its K-8 MBR for the 2018-19 school year would be estimated at \$8,126,510, the difference between the K-8 appropriation for education for the current school year (\$8,740,249) and \$613,739, which was intended to cover TRB obligations. Please note that the final 2018-19 MBR calculation will be subject to additional factors, including, but not limited to, the final calculation of the Education Cost Sharing grant, any resident student deductions, and other statutory provisions.

We hope this information is helpful to you and the Willington school district. Please contact me at 860-713-6464 if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Kathy Demsey
Chief Financial Officer

KD:mvk

cc: Peter Haberlandt, Legal Director