

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

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 16, 2019
7:00 PM

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

Members Present:

Jim Bulick - Chairman
Mike Makuch, Vice Chairman
Bill Rankin - Alternate
Peter Tanaka
Fred Schoen - Alternate
Randy Belair

Members Absent:

Laurie Semprebon
Barry Wallett

Also Present:

Erika Wiecewski, First Selectwoman
Donna Latinsics, Business Manager
Diane Bulick, Treasurer
Board of Selectmen Members
Willington Hill Fire Department Members
Members of the Public

Chairman Jim Bulick called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

SEATING OF ALTERNATES:

Mike Makuch moved to seat Bill Rankin in place of Barry Walleth. Peter Tanaka seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, M. Makuch, B. Rankin, R. Belair, F, Schoen) 0 No.

Peter Tanaka moved to seat Fred Schoen in place of Laurie Semprebon. Mike Makuch seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, M. Makuch, B. Rankin, R. Belair, F, Schoen) 0 No.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Peter Tanaka moved to accept the BOF Meeting Minutes of April 9 as amended (Mike Makuch did not second the motion to adjourn the meeting). Mike Makuch seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, M. Makuch, B. Rankin, R. Belair, F, Schoen) 0 No.

Peter Tanaka moved to accept the BOF Budget Hearing Minutes of April 9. Mike Makuch seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, M. Makuch, B. Rankin, R. Belair, F, Schoen) 0 No.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

No one present to speak.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget News

Bill Rankin informed the board of a review by J.P. Morgan assessing the risks associated with bonds given the conditions of certain states. One of the examples J.P. Morgan used was of Connecticut. Basically what he was saying when he assessed the risks of this bond market, they tried to relate that risk to their investments of people who are going to be buying bonds. There are some states but especially Puerto Rico that is going to be hard pressed to stay out of bankruptcy. Right now a state can go bankrupt. If territory like Puerto Rico can't get out of this financial issue and allow themselves to go bankrupt, it's a pretty scary situation. What connecticut would have to do over the next 30 years to live up to its liabilities associated with under budget pensions, which is about \$100 billion, and they were saying that the state would have to dedicate about 30% of their operating budget to satisfy this. Which isn't going to happen. The market right now is starting to get concerned about how they are going to live up to paying down their funds.

Tax Collector Update

There are two tax collectors from Mansfield working part time to help until they find someone to fill the position they have been a great help.

Mike Makuch moved to accept the suspense list dated May 15, 2019. Bill Rankin Seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, M. Makuch, B. Rankin, R. Belair, F, Schoen) 0 No.

Year End Transfers

Donna Latincsics said that there are five departments that are running to have a shortfall so they are asking the board of finance to add some transfers to correct that.

Mike Makuch moved to transfer \$31,000 from #0831 for the Town Office Building's computer expenses, IT service contract, Maintenance, EMCOR Condenser, and AC. Bill Rankin seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, M. Makuch, B. Rankin, R. Belair, F, Schoen) 0 No.

Mike Makuch moved to transfer \$1,800 from #0831 for the Old Town Hall's Maintenance, Banner Water submersible pump. Bill Rankin seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, M. Makuch, B. Rankin, R. Belair, F, Schoen) 0 No.

Mike Makuch moved to transfer \$31,000 from #0831 for the Fire Main and Hydrant rate increase monthly charge for fire protection. Bill Rankin seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, M. Makuch, B. Rankin, R. Belair, F, Schoen) 0 No.

Mike Makuch moved to transfer \$31,000 from #0831 for the Unemployment's unanticipated claim. Bill Rankin seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, M. Makuch, B. Rankin, R. Belair, F, Schoen) 0 No.

Mike Makuch moved to transfer \$31,000 from #0831 for the Insurance liability premium budget shortfall and WC audit resulted in an additional premium. Bill Rankin seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, M. Makuch, B. Rankin, R. Belair, F, Schoen) 0 No.

Mike Makuch moved to transfer \$31,000 from #0831 for the Employee Insurances savings in health Ins due to employee turnover. Bill Rankin seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, M. Makuch, B. Rankin, R. Belair, F, Schoen) 0 No.

Donna Latncsics said that this is a transfer request to move two capital expenditures from 930 to

capital projects so that the balances carry forward to the new fiscal and the project can continue as outlined in the CIP Plan.

Mike Makuch moved to transfer \$23,500 from 0930 to 0503 Security monitoring system.

Bill Rankin seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, M. Makuch, B. Rankin, R. Belair, F, Schoen) 0 No.

Mike Makuch moved to transfer \$71,904 from 0930 to 0503 CES Upper Wing Heating

Project. Bill Rankin seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, M. Makuch, B. Rankin, R. Belair, F, Schoen) 0 No.

MIL Rate

There have been no changes since the Public Hearing. The Rate is at 30.09.

Jim Bulick moved to set the MIL rate at 30.09 and then applying \$410 from the fund

balance towards the budget. Mike Makuch seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, M. Makuch, B. Rankin, R. Belair, F, Schoen) 0 No.

Auditors Request for Proposal

Peter Tanaka moves that the BOF appoints the firm of Mahoney and Sabol & Company, LLP for professional auditing services for the Town of Willington for fiscal years ending 2019, 2020, and 2021 for the total maximum fees per year of \$34,750, \$35,500, and \$36,300 respectively. Randy Belair seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, M. Makuch, B. Rankin, R. Belair, F, Schoen) 0 No.

Treasurer: Roles, Responsibilities, and Duties

Treasurer Diane Bulick addressed some issues within the treasurer position. She said that she is doing far more than what the job description asked of her. She is now working with First Selectwoman Erika Wiecewski to help correct these issues and assign the different tasks to their correct positions. She says that she is updating the job description and that they're creating a manual to make it easier for anyone who has the job in the future.

OLD BUSINESS:

Willington Hill Fire Department Land Purchase

Fire Chief Tom Snyder said that the town would not own any of the land. The \$50,000 will go back to the town if the building doesn't become a firehouse. The land is a lot bigger and would

be better for the town than the firehouse they currently have. He believes that the new firehouse would attract new volunteers because there is more space and it won't look as crowded as their current building. Bob Shabbot of Jared Sparks Rd said "if the town is going to dive into a project like this with the crumbling foundations going on, there are people who are going to need a place to live while their houses are being disturbed. Why can't the town put in some money into getting these people a place to live?" Tom Snyder said that part of their goal is to use part of the new firehouse as a shelter.

(Mike Makuch asked respectfully to be excused from the meeting)

Dick Clause of Dayleville Rd commented "Our present station serves as the center of town. If you ever drive down to the Ashford fire department you'll notice that it's a nice facility. When I was a kid, it was a pit. Now we are becoming the pit."

Tom Snyder said that they are going to check the new building for crumbling foundations. He said that the steps as he sees it is to make the purchases as they came about. Step one is to secure the property.

Randy Belair said that they need to balance the risks with opportunity.

Bob Shabbot explained his concern with the animosity between the two fire departments and that they need to address this. Erika Wicewski and Toms Snyder assured him that this has already been addressed.

Peter Tanaka moved to recommend to the Board of Selectmen to call a town meeting to allocate the \$60,000 to the Willington Hill Fire Department. Randy Belair seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (P. Tanaka, B. Rankin, R. Belair, F, Schoen) No (J. Bulick).

Peter Tanaka moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. Bill Rankin seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, B. Rankin, R. Belair, F, Schoen)

Respectfully submitted,

Guinnevere Almquist, Recording Secretary