

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886



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Board of Finance
Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 10, 2024
Town Hall Auditorium – 7:00 p.m.

Present: Glenn Patterson, Bill Sheehan, Ronald Fedor, Robert Tuneski, David Peabody, Michael Rocchetti, Joseph Filippetti

Elected: Rob Brule, First Selectman; Paul Goldstein, RTM Moderator; Abbas Danesh, Treasurer

Staff: Kimberly Allen, Director of Finance; Joseph Mancini, BOE Director of Finance and Operations (by phone); Rebecca Hall, Admin Assistant Finance Office/BOF Recording Secretary

1. **Establishment of a quorum and call to order**

A quorum was established and the Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance was called to order by Chairman Glenn Patterson at 7:02 p.m. April 10, 2024.

2. **Public Comment: none**

3. **Approval and acceptance of minutes:**

a. Budget Hearing Minutes on the dates of February 28, March 4, March 6, March 11, March 13, March 18, March 20, and March 25, 2024.

Motion by Bill Sheehan and **seconded** by Joseph Filippetti to approve the minutes of the Budget Hearings mentioned as presented.

Vote: 4-0-3*

Motion Passed

*Bill Sheehan abstained from March 4, March 6, March 11 hearings; Michael Rocchetti abstained from March 6, March 11 hearings; David Peabody abstained from March 20 hearing

b. Regular Meeting on March 13, 2024

Motion by Joseph Filippetti and **seconded** by Robert Tuneski to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2024 Regular Meeting.

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion Passed

4. Discussion to consider and act on a request by Joseph Mancini, BOE Director of Finance and Operations, for a supplemental appropriation of \$149,340 for the Clark Lane Middle School Chiller Replacement that was approved by the RTM on February 6, 2023 in the amount of \$802,000.

Motion by Bill Sheehan and **seconded** by Robert Tuneski to postpone action on the request to appropriate \$149,340 for the Clark Lane Middle School Chiller Replacement until the next Board of Finance Regular Meeting scheduled for May 22, 2024 due to the absence of Joseph Mancini from the meeting.

Joseph Mancini joined the meeting by phone.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2024 APR 16 P 2:21
ATTEST: [Signature]
TOWN CLERK

Motion by Bill Sheehan and **seconded** by Robert Tuneski to revoke previous motion.

Motion by Bill Sheehan and **seconded** by Michael Rocchetti to approve the request to appropriate \$149,340 for the Clark Lane Middle School Chiller Replacement from the Unassigned Fund Balance of the General Fund, and forward to the RTM as required.

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion Passed

5. Discussion to consider and act on a request by Michael Howley, Director of Fire Services, to appropriate \$50,000 from monies designated on line item 20523-57838 to fund Pre-Emption traffic light repairs.

Motion by Bill Sheehan and **seconded** by Robert Tuneski to postpone action on the request to appropriate \$50,000 from monies designated on line item 20523-57838 to fund Pre-Emption traffic light repairs until the next Board of Finance Regular Meeting scheduled for May 22, 2024.

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion Passed

6. Old Business: General fund Balance Discussion

Motion by Bill Sheehan and **seconded** by Ronald Fedor to keep the policy as is but increase the Fund Balance percentage from 10-13% (current) to 15-18%.

Discussion of pros and cons of increasing the Fund Balance percentage ensued. Treasurer Abbas Danesh agreed that the 15-18% proposed could work in FY25 but FY26 is uncertain as the Federal Government will be making financial changes that will significantly affect interest rates. The Treasurer added that in bonding, there is a loss of money to the interest rates applied. Director, Kimberly Allen, added that the town's Bond Agent stated there is little to no impact to the town's bond rating based on the percentage rate for the Fund Balance. Mrs. Allen continued to relay that the actual Fund Balance policy and adherence to the policy weighs more heavily on the bond rating. Michael Rocchetti would like to see the percentage rate remain the same as the town has been extremely frugal in spending in the past. Mr. Rocchetti added that the town has been unable to "spend down" the tax payers' Fund Balance even with multiple Capital Improvements and Projects. Mr. Rocchetti also stated that if there are concerns with not having enough money on account, then it is possible that the approval of the departmental budgets needs to be revisited – everything gets approved and more should be denied.

Bill Sheehan noted that some large ticket projects will need bonding and there are long-term expenses that must be accounted for such as the school payments.

Mr. Rocchetti would like to see more direct payments from the town and keep the percentage rate of the Fund Balance the same (10-13% current).

RTM Moderator, Paul Goldstein, remarked that if the Bond Agent is telling the town that the percentage rate is not an impacting factor of bond rating, the town should trust the agent's advice. Mr. Goldstein added that the Waterford tax payers must be highly considered when spending the Fund Balance and adjusting the percentage rate.

Ronald Fedor stated that changing the percentage rate of the Fund Balance will not have any effect on taxes. Mr. Fedor believes that the town could do a better job controlling how the Fund Balance is allocated.

David Peabody expressed concern on raising the percentage rate so significantly and felt that a smaller increase could be acceptable. Mr. Peabody suggested a percentage rate increase from 10-13% (current) to 13-16%. Joseph Filippetti added that this smaller adjustment was more acceptable. Robert Tuneski believed a smaller adjustment was more palatable but would be more comfortable with 13-15%.

Robert Tuneski made a friendly amendment to the Motion and seconded by Ronald Fedor to increase the Fund Balance percentage from 10-13% (current) to 13-15% but keep the policy as written.

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion Passed

7. New Business:

8. Liaison Reports:

a. Robert Tuneski – Waterford Utility Commission(WUC) – Tank project in process has revealed that the tank has severe internal corrosion. Mr. Tuneski thinks there may be a substantial cost for repair. The Commission is gathering estimates for the repair and also investigating costs for potential tank replacement.

9. Correspondence:

- a. Virginia Bielucki, Town Accountant, Periodic Financial Statements FY24 dated March 11, 2024.
- b. Virginia Bielucki, Town Accountant, Status of General Fund Unassigned Balance dated March 12, 2024.
- c. Virginia Bielucki, Town Accountant, Status of Contingency FY24 dated March 20, 2024.
- d. February 2024 Special Revenue Reports
- e. FY24 3rd Quarter US Treasury Report (ARPA)
- f. Playground Field Drainage Resident Letters, Great Neck Elementary School

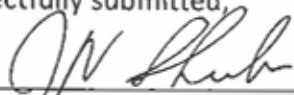
10. Adjournment

Motion by Robert Tuneski and **seconded** by Bill Sheehan to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance at 8:05pm.

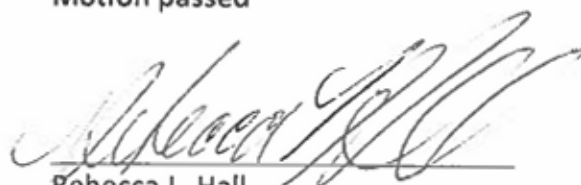
Vote: 7-0-0

Motion passed

Respectfully submitted,



John W. "Bill" Sheehan,
Clerk of the Board of Finance



Rebecca L. Hall,
Board of Finance Recording Secretary