

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Finance was held on Tuesday, October 20, 2020. In response to the Governor's Executive Orders regarding COVID-19, members of the public were able to attend the meeting remotely using the ZOOM online meeting platform. Board members and City staff also had the option to join the meeting remotely. Participants included Mayor Elinor Carbone and Board of Finance Members James Wright, Christopher Anderson, Laurene Pesce and Christopher Beyus. The meeting was also attended by City Comptroller Alice Proulx and IT Director Gerry Crowley. Board of Finance members Mark Bushka and Lance Boynton were absent.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES APPROVED

On a motion by Mr. Beyus, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held August 18, 2020. Mr. Anderson and Mrs. Pesce abstained.

CYBERSECURITY CONTRACT APPROVED

On a motion by Mr. Beyus, seconded by Mrs. Pesce, the Board voted unanimously to approve the IT Director's request to waive the City's bid process and enter into a multi-year contract with the managed detection and response provider, Red Canary of Denver, CO from October 30, 2020 through June 29, 2024 for the total amount of \$104,632 to improve the cyber security posture of the City of Torrington against existing and emerging malicious cyber actors.

IT Director Gerry Crowley expressed the need to enhance the City's cyber security infrastructure and he briefly explained the security features that Red Canary could provide. Mr. Wright and Mrs. Pesce requested additional details regarding the scope of the contract. Mr. Crowley explained that the contract would provide protection for the computer devices used by all of the City's departments except the Board of Education. He clarified that Red Canary utilizes the Carbon Black software to monitor and detect cyber threats and noted that the Board of Education already utilizes Carbon Black but does not hire a company to provide managed detection and response services. Mrs. Pesce also asked for clarification regarding the length of the contract and the reason for waiving the City's bid process. Mr. Crowley and Mayor Carbone explained that the City was already working with Red Canary due to the ransomware attack that occurred in August, 2020 and Mayor Carbone emphasized the importance of enhancing the City's cyber security infrastructure before the November 3rd Presidential Election. Mr. Crowley explained that a long-term contract would save the City money over time and he stated that other security solutions offered through Microsoft were more expensive. Mr. Beyus asked how the contract would be funded and Mr. Anderson noted that the Red Canary contract could bring another opportunity for shared services with the Board of Education. Mayor Carbone clarified that the contract would be paid through annual installments, with the first payment coming out of the COVID-19 Fund. She also noted that Red Canary was a more cost-effective solution than hiring a new employee to provide the same service locally.

FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020 TRANSFERS AND BUDGET AMENDMENTS APPROVED

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 transfers and budget amendments described in the City Comptroller's memo dated October 6, 2020. Mr. Beyus requested clarification regarding the transfer requests pertaining to the Disaster Recovery Fund and City Comptroller Alice Proulx confirmed that the transfers were in part due to recent events but also to provide additional funding in case the City needs to purchase new equipment or software. Mrs. Pesce requested clarification regarding the City Hall Renovation Fund and Ms. Proulx informed the Board that there was still a deficit of \$165,000. She stated that she was comfortable transferring additional funds to cover the remaining deficit and the Board requested that Ms. Proulx bring forward the recommendation for approval at their next meeting.

2019 AND 2020 BONDED PROJECTS

On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to accept the financial reports relating to the 2019 and 2020 Bonded Projects. Mayor Carbone commended the City Engineer and Public Works Department for their completion of several pavement management projects and she remarked on the success of the Cold In-place Recycling technique which the City began utilizing. The Mayor also noted that decisions would have to be made regarding the future of the animal control facility.

BOARD OF EDUCATION FINANCIAL REPORTS

On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Board of Education's financial reports.

BUSINESS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS

On a motion by Mrs. Pesce, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads. Assistant City Clerk Jonathan Draper provided an update on absentee ballots for the November 3rd Presidential Election.

BUSINESS BY MAYOR & MEMBERS

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and members of the Board of Finance.

Mrs. Pesce expressed her excitement to be back in person.

Mr. Anderson urged people to support local non-profits, including the Cub Scouts Pack 3 which has its annual Penny Auction scheduled to be held on Sunday, October 25, 2020

Mr. Beyus commended the City Clerk, Mayor and other City staff for their work throughout the pandemic.

Mayor Carbone provided updates on grant opportunities and projects that could help to increase the Grand List, including the Pennrose development on Franklin Street and the old Hendy manufacturing building. The Mayor also provided an update on plans for holiday celebrations, in light of COVID-19, including Christmas Village and “Light Up Main.” Mrs. Pesce expressed her support in favor of the City Council’s decision on October 19, 2020 to approve amending §75-3 of the Code of Ordinances to allow alcoholic beverages on a limited basis at Franklin Plaza and Mayor Carbone discussed some of the opportunities for events at Franklin Plaza. She also provided an update on building permits as a result of refinancing and the booming real estate market.

Mrs. Pesce asked whether the annual audit would be conducted in person and Ms. Proulx reported that it was primarily being done remotely.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Draper, Asst. City Clerk

ATTEST:


CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK