

**MINUTES
BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
ZOOM / CITY HALL AUDITORIUM
January 19, 2021**

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Finance was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. 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. In attendance at the meeting were Mayor Elinor Carbone, City Comptroller Alice Proulx and Board of Finance Members Christopher Beyus and Lance Boynton. Fire Chief Peter Towey and Board of Finance members Laurene Pesce and James Wright participated via ZOOM. Board of Finance members Christopher Anderson and Mark Bushka were absent.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED

On a motion by Mr. Beyus, seconded by Mr. Boynton, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held December 15, 2020.

FIRE TANKER TIRE REPLACEMENT

On a motion by Mr. Beyus, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Board of Public Safety and authorize the reallocation of funds in the amount of \$4,174.26 from Contingency for the replacement of eight tires on the City's tanker fire apparatus that is maintained and operated by the Drakeville Volunteer Fire Department, in accordance with National Fire Protection Association safety standards for emergency response vehicles; contingent on approval by the City Council.

Chief Towey described the role that the tanker serves and explained the need to bring the apparatus into compliance with the National Fire Protection Association safety standards. Mrs. Pesce asked whether sufficient funding was available and City Comptroller Alice Proulx reported that only \$16,000 out of \$150,000 had been expended from the Contingency Fund. Mayor Carbone requested an update on the possibility of repurposing the existing tires for use by another City Department and Chief Towey reported that the tires were not compatible with the other City-owned vehicles. Mr. Beyus requested that equipment maintenance costs for the volunteer fire departments be moved to the City's Fire Department budget.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: CITY

On a motion by Mrs. Pesce, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to accept the City's financial reports. Mr. Beyus asked if the Board would receive a presentation of the annual audit by BlumShapiro and Ms. Proulx reported that she was in the process of scheduling the audit presentation.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: BOE

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Board of Education's financial reports. Mr. Boynton expressed concerns about reimbursement of the COVID-related expenses listed on the Board of Education's reports. Mayor Carbone explained that the Board of Education had not yet moved its COVID-related expenses into the COVID line item, which was created for that purpose. The Mayor also suggested that the budgetary impact of COVID-19 be discussed at a joint meeting with the Board of Education and the City's legislative representatives.

BUSINESS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS

On a motion by Mr. Beyus, seconded by Mr. Boynton, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads. Chief Towey thanked the Board for authorizing the funding for the Fire Department's tanker tire replacements.

BUSINESS BY MAYOR & MEMBERS

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

Mr. Wright requested an update on new businesses in Torrington and Mayor Carbone reported that the former Hendey Machine Company building was undergoing major reconstruction.

Mrs. Pesce requested a briefing on the City's intention to pursue legislative action regarding the Yankee Pedlar and requested an update on the plan to provide COVID-19 vaccinations at the Armory. Mayor Carbone provided a brief background about the Yankee Pedlar, negligence by the current property owner, and summarized the new legislation which gives the City the opportunity to petition to appoint the Torrington Development Corporation as receiver of the property. She also noted that Hartford Healthcare would begin administering vaccinations at the Armory on January 25, 2021 and stated that the Torrington Area Health District intends to set up vaccination clinics as well.

Mr. Beyus requested an update on the budget subcommittee meeting schedule and the Mayor indicated that the proposed budgets for the 2021/2022 fiscal year would primarily be deliberated at the Board level.

Mr. Boynton stated his interest in receiving a presentation of the annual audit and expressed concerns regarding the Board of Education's encumbrances. Ms. Proulx suggested that a turnover in staff may have contributed to the Board of Education's incorrect posting of encumbrances, but stated that she believes the issues have been resolved.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Beyus, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Draper, Asst. City Clerk

ATTEST:

Carol L. Anderson
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK