

**MINUTES
BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM / ZOOM
August 17, 2021**

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A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Finance was held on Tuesday, August 17, 2021. Attendance was by ZOOM and in person. Present at City Hall were Mayor Elinor Carbone, City Comptroller Alice Proulx, City Treasurer Dan Farley, Fleet Manager Emil Castro, and Board of Finance Members Christopher Beyus and James Wright. Board members Christopher Anderson, Mark Bushka, and Lance Boynton joined by Zoom. Board member Laurene Pesce was absent.

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

On a motion by Mr. Beyus, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Board voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public. There was no one from the public who wished to speak.

MINUTES APPROVED

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held July 20, 2021. Mr. Bushka abstained.

RESOLUTION #143-220: TPS ROOF IMPROVEMENTS

On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Resolution #143-220 repurposing the \$700,000 appropriation and bond authorization previously approved by the voters on November 6, 2018 from the window replacement project at the middle school to roof improvements at Torrington Public Schools.

Mr. Beyus requested clarification regarding the location of the proposed roof improvements and asked whether the City intended to seek authorization from the voters at referendum to bond additional funds. Mayor Carbone explained that the remaining balance of approximately \$500,000 in the bonded projects fund would go toward the completion of roof work at the middle school and the \$700,000 appropriation and bond authorization previously approved for the window replacement project would allow the City to move forward with roof improvements at the Vogel-Wetmore School. She noted that the City anticipated a 75% reimbursement rate and planned to hold off on bonding additional funds until the final costs were known.

Mr. Bushka questioned what the plan was for with the window replacement project at the middle school and questioned when the City would receive its ARPA funds. Mayor Carbone explained that the window replacement project would be covered by ARPA funds and she noted that the Board of Education and the City already received their ARPA disbursements.

MUNICIPAL TRACTOR

On a motion by Mr. Bushka, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the purchase of a municipal tractor plus 5 attachments for the Parks Dept. for \$202,864 from C N Wood Enviro, LLC of North Haven, CT, paid from the vehicle replacement account.

Mr. Bushka questioned the reason for waiving the bid process and Fleet Manager Emil Castro explained that waiving the bid process would allow the unit to be available for the upcoming winter season.

Mr. Wright questioned what would happen to the old unit and asked how the new unit compared to the one being replaced. Mr. Castro explained that the old unit would be sold to budget surplus and described the new state-of-the-art equipment.

Mr. Beyus requested clarification regarding the vehicle replacement schedule and Mr. Castro explained that the cost of regular maintenance and repairs on the existing unit would cost the City more in the long run, than getting a new unit. Mr. Beyus also expressed concern about the vehicle replacement account balance and the high cost of a fire apparatus that also needed to be replaced. Mr. Castro and Mayor Carbone explained that the fire apparatus replacement was pushed off to allow time for funding to be restored to the vehicle replacement account.

Mr. Bushka requested clarification regarding the use of a State contract from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Mr. Castro explained that the State of Connecticut does not have a contract for the unit, but there are authorized dealers in CT.

FELLING TRAILER

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the purchase of a felling Trailer for \$32,344.55 from Tyler Equipment of Berlin, CT, to be paid from the vehicle replacement account.

Mr. Wright requested additional information about the trailer. Mr. Castro explained that the trailer would be used to transport the City's excavator. He noted that the existing trailer was slated to be refurbished. However, the unit was condemned due extensive damage that was beyond refurbishing.

ITEM ADDED TO THE AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. Beyus, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Board voted unanimously to add an item to the agenda for the purpose of establishing a budget line item to track Board of Education expenses to be charged against a \$569,281.00 ARPA funding appropriation for educational expenses that qualify for municipal ARPA funding objectives, as outlined in U. S. Treasury American Rescue Plan legislation.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ARPA LINE ITEM

On a motion by Mr. Beyus, seconded by Mr. Bushka, the Board voted unanimously to approve establishing a budget line item to track Board of Education expenses to be charged against a \$569,281.00 ARPA funding appropriation for educational expenses that qualify for municipal ARPA funding objectives, as outlined in U. S. Treasury American Rescue Plan legislation.

Mr. Beyus requested clarification regarding the purpose of the new budget line item and expressed concern about the funds being used for non-qualifying expenses. Mayor Carbone discussed the purpose of establishing the line item and Comptroller Proulx explained that it would be managed by the Board of Education.

BUSINESS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS

On a motion by Mr. Bushka, 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 and requested that the Board members spread the word that applications for absentee ballots can be obtained online or from the City Clerk’s Office.

BUSINESS BY MAYOR & MEMBERS

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

Mr. Anderson congratulated Assistant Town Clerks Jonathan Draper and Ingrid Smith on earning their certifications as Certified Connecticut Town Clerks.

Mr. Boynton encouraged everyone to visit the Bad Dog Brewery on Water Street.

Mr. Beyus expressed his excitement about upcoming events in Torrington.

Mayor Carbone provided an update on efforts to grow the City’s grand list, including the proposal by Water’s Way to redevelop the former Hotchkiss Mill at the corner of Water Street and Church Street.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Beyus, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Draper, Asst. City Clerk

ATTEST:

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