

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Finance was held in the City Hall Auditorium on Tuesday, January 21, 2020. Present were Mayor Elinor Carbone and Board of Finance Members James Wright, Laurene Pesce, Lance Boynton, Mark Bushka and Christopher Beyus. Also present were City Comptroller Alice Proulx, Superintendent of Streets Bill Mayers, Fleet Manager Emil Castro, Public Works Director Ray Drew, City Engineer Paul Kundzins and Assistant Superintendent of Schools Susan Fergusson. Board of Finance Member Christopher Anderson was absent.

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

MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Beyus, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held September 17, 2019. Mr. Bushka abstained.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

On a motion by Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public. No one from the public wished to speak.

J-HOOK TRUCK VEHICLE REPLACEMENT

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mrs. Pesce, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Streets, Fleet Manager, Vehicle Replacement Advisory Board and Purchasing Agent and authorize the Mayor to award the purchase of one (1) J-Hook truck with attachments to Freightliner of Hartford, Inc., East Hartford, CT for \$201,749.67 with funding from the Vehicle Replacement account pending City Council approval.

Mr. Bushka asked why the lowest bid was not accepted and Mr. Castro explained that it did not meet the City's required specifications. He further explained that the proposed J-Hook truck exceeded the requested specifications and would replace two vehicles from the vehicle replacement schedule.

BOE FIRE ALARM PANELS

On an amended motion by Mr. Bushka, seconded by Mr. Boynton, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the reallocation of funds in the amount of \$48,253 from the Board of Education's Capital Reserve balance for the replacement of fire alarm panels at Vogel-Wetmore and Torrington Schools, contingent upon surplus funds being available after all projects included in the Board of Education's Capital Reserve budget have been completed.

Mr. Beyus and Mr. Boynton requested clarification regarding the maintenance schedule and how problems were identified with the existing panels. Asst. Supt. Fergusson explained that the panels exceeded their life expectancy and replacement parts are no longer available to repair them. She also noted that the aged panels were brought to the facilities manager's attention as a result of incidents at THS and Vogel-Wetmore School. Mr. Bushka expressed his concerns regarding the availability of funds in the Capital Reserve balance and the impact that replacing the fire alarm panels would have on the other budgeted projects. Mayor Carbone explained that the budget sheet provided to the Board reflects a \$61,876.40 surplus from the other projects.

BOE FINANCIAL REPORTS

On a motion by Mrs. Pesce, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Board of Education's financial reports for September, October, November and December, 2019.

BUSINESS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS

Mr. Drew presented a synopsis of the Town Aid Program and discussed disposal costs for municipal waste. In regard to the Town Aid Program, Mr. Drew discussed the importance of State funding, which has been on hold since the fall, and stated that the planned bridge scour protection for East Albert and Wall Streets and culvert replacements throughout the City would be on hold until the City receives the State funds. Mrs. Pesce and Mr. Beyus expressed their concerns. Mr. Drew also informed the Board that the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) energy plant in Hartford, where the City sends its waste, is in need of major renovations which could lead to increased disposal costs in order to partially fund the renovation or ship municipal solid waste to mega landfills in Ohio or Virginia. Mr. Drew encouraged recycling to reduce disposal costs and Mrs. Pesce expressed her concerns that citizens are not aware of how to recycle properly. Mr. Boynton presented his concerns regarding the additional impact that tolls could have on disposal costs. He and Mr. Beyus also expressed their concerns about the quantity of mattresses disposed of in Torrington annually and the cost to the City.

Mr. Kundzins presented an informational summary on recently completed, ongoing, and near future paving and road reconstruction projects. Mr. Beyus requested an update on East Main Street and Mr. Kundzins stated that the State deferred the project to a later date. Mr. Bushka asked whether the projects were under budget and Mr. Kundzins stated that they were. Mr. Wright asked whether the recently installed culverts have reduced ice buildup on City streets and Mr. Mayers reported that Street Department is finding positive results.

BUSINESS BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF FINANCE

On a motion by Mr. Beyus, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and members of the Board of Finance. Mrs. Pesce thanked the Department Heads for their reports and requested clarification regarding Torrington's population size as it pertains to new legislation concerning abandoned and blighted property stewardship (sSB-1070). Mayor Carbone stated that Torrington's population size, as listed on grant proposals, is approximately 36,000 and she provided additional information regarding the legislation.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Beyus, seconded by Mr. Boynton, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan R. Draper, Asst. Clerk

ATTEST:



CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK