

**MINUTES
BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
June 19, 2018
City Hall Auditorium**

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A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Finance was held in the City Hall Auditorium on Tuesday, June 19, 2018.

Present were Mayor Elinor Carbone and Board of Finance Members Lance Boynton, Laurene Pesce, Christopher Anderson, Mark Bushka, and Joshua Ferreira. Jenna Reichen was absent.

City Comptroller Alice Proulx, City Treasurer Dan Farley, Marcia Marien of PFK O'Connor Davies, Interim Superintendent of Schools Susan Lubomski, and Board of Education members Fiona Cappabianca, John Kissko, Ellen Hoehne, and Armand Maniccia were also present.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. starting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Boynton, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 17, 2018. Mr. Bushka abstained.

On a motion by Mrs. Pesce, seconded by Mr. Bushka, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Special Joint Meeting with the Board of Education held on April 30, 2018.

On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Boynton, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Public Hearing held on April 30, 2018.

On a motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Special Joint Meeting with the Board of Education held on May 30, 2018.

On a motion by Mrs. Pesce, seconded by Mr. Ferreira, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting held on June 4, 2018. Mr. Anderson abstained.

PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT

Ms. Marien from PFK O'Connor Davies presented the annual audit for the City of Torrington for FY 2016-2017.

Ms. Marien stated that the City's total Fund Balance at the end of FY 2016-2017 was 21.5 million dollars and the Unassigned Fund Balance Percentage grew from three percent in 2011 to nine percent in 2017. She stated that at twenty percent of the total budget, the City's long-term debt was relatively low. Mrs. Pesce asked how much more debt the City could take on. Ms. Marien stated that the state would allow Torrington to take on 615 million dollars more in debt but warned that it would not be good for the City.

Ms. Marien stated that the Municipal Employee pension plan was eighty percent funded and the Police and Fire pension plan was sixty percent funded. She noted that the pension figures were good or average compared to neighboring towns, but stated that the liability from Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) increased by 45 million dollars.

Ms. Marien discussed the Teachers' Retirement plan and stated that the state is considering making municipalities pay a third of the teachers' retirement, which could have a large effect on the City's long-term liabilities. She discussed the City's long-term fiscal health and stated that there is an equity deficit of 51 million dollars.

Mr. Boynton and Mr. Ferreira expressed their concerns regarding the possibility of further OPEB cost increases in the future. Ms. Marien stated that future increases would be dependent on health insurance costs.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Bushka, the Board voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public.

There was no one from the public who wished to speak.

BUDGET TRANSFERS: APPROVED

On a motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Boynton, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the City Comptroller to complete the budget transfers indicated in her letter dated May 31, 2018 for a total of \$29,925.00.

On a motion by Mr. Bushka, seconded by Mrs. Pesce, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the City Comptroller to complete the budget transfer indicated in her letter dated June 13, 2018 for a total of \$10,030.00.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS MICROPHONE UPGRADE: APPROVED

On a motion by Mrs. Pesce, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the City Comptroller to expend \$4,518.00 from Contingency for the purchase and installation of new microphones in the City Hall council chambers.

BOARD OF EDUCATION FINANCIAL REPORT: APPROVED

On a motion by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Board of Education financial reports for April and May, 2018.

BUSINESS: MAYOR & MEMBERS

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

Mrs. Pesce asked how many contracts the City is currently negotiating and stated that she hopes the unions will take into consideration the mill rate increase and fiscal constraints of the City. Mayor Carbone responded that there are four contracts being negotiated.

Mayor Carbone informed the Board that the state has offered municipalities an opportunity to change the timeline for adopting a budget and setting the mill rate, without having to assemble a Charter Revision Commission. The Board discussed their concerns and Mayor Carbone stated that a public acknowledgment of being out of compliance with the deadline in the City Charter might be sufficient.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Bushka, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan R. Draper, Asst. Clerk

ATTEST:



CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK