

**MINUTES**

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**BOARD OF FINANCE**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**CITY HALL AUDITORIUM/ZOOM**

**MAY 31, 2022**

A **SPECIAL MEETING** of the Board of Finance was held on Tuesday, May 31, 2022. Present at City Hall were Mayor Carbone and Board of Finance Members Laurene Pesce, Mark Bushka, Christopher Anderson, and James Wright. Board of Finance Members Lance Boynton and Chris Beyus participated by Zoom. Also present at City Hall were City Comptroller Robin Stanziale, Treasurer Dan Farley, Deputy Comptroller Kim Alves, Torrington Public Schools (TPS) Assistant Superintendent Susan Ferguson, Police Chief William Baldwin, Captain Barown, Deputy Fire Chief David Tripp, Purchasing Agent Pennie Zucco, TPS Business Manager Ed Arum and Board of Education members Fiona Cappabianca, Edward Corey, Sue Depretis and Gary Eucalitto. City Councilors Keri Hoehne and Paul Cavagnero joined via Zoom.

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

**PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION REGARDING FY 2022-2023 BUDGETS**

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Bushka, the Board voted unanimously to discuss the budgets. Mayor Carbone provided a review of the FY 21-22 budget that was adopted to show the one-time use of revenue funds has been decreasing over the years. Mayor Carbone provided updated figures on the City's grand list growth. Mayor Carbone went on to review the impact of the Motor Vehicle Mill Rate Cap of 32.46, on the City's revenues for FY 22-23. She provided updated figures on the ECS/Alliance District funding and presented her recommendations for the FY 2022-2023 Board of Education (BOE) and City budgets. She described the various changes that would need to be made to the budgets to accomplish a .97 mill rate increase, including:

- BOE: Reduce operating (\$3,038,666)
  - Insurance reductions presented to BOE, not yet incorporated in budget adjustment (\$1,100,000)
  - BOE to move Budget Items from Operating into CGS 10-262k Fund (\$478,666)
  - Reduce Miscellaneous Line-Item Request (\$1,450,000)
- Reduce BOE Capital Request (\$1,331,167)
  - Recommend BOE send a letter to the Board of Finance requesting all surplus funds from FY 22 be rolled into a non-lapsing capital reserve account to offset capital projects itemized in Capital Budget.
  - City to work with BOE to identify capital improvement projects that qualify for funding through Community Investment Fund 2030 & Federal Infrastructure Improvement Jobs Act Funding.
- City
  - Total Reductions Department Head requests (\$3,257,185)

Mr. Boynton questioned the \$75,000 deduction in the Animal Control budget, Mayor Carbone explained that it was from Goshen and Litchfield backing out of the partnership that they had with the City of Torrington for Animal Control Services.

Mr. Beyus shared that he is not normally in favor of an increase in the mill rate, however this year with the loss of revenue due to the motor vehicle cap, a modest increase is necessary and needed.

Mr. Bushka asked the BOE what the decrease in \$1.4 million will do for the budget, Mrs. Cappabianca stated that it would affect the hiring of extra paraprofessionals that the school needs as these positions aren't in the Alliance Grant.

Mrs. Pesce wanted to know what effect the pandemic has had on the district moving out of the Alliance district, Mrs. Cappabianca replied that the pandemic will extend the time in the Alliance District.

Mr. Anderson stated that he would like to see the BOE and the City increase their effort toward working together.

Mr. Bushka stated that he thought that they should take more funds from the Fund balance to be able to fund the BOE positions, Mr. Beyus replied that he would not be in favor of that.

Mr. Boynton said that due to the motor vehicle mill rate cap, the City and BOE had to be more creative with the budgets. He does see the need for more paraprofessionals in the schools, however, he is worried about decreasing the Fund balance.

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Mayor Carbone asked the BOE which positions in the miscellaneous budget line were new, Mr. Arum and Mrs. Cappabianca pointed them out. Mayor Carbone noted that the 1.4 million doesn't have to come from the miscellaneous line.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: ADOPTION OF 2022 – 2023 BOARD OF EDUCATION OPERATING BUDGET**

On a motion by Mr. Beyus, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the Board voted 5/1 by roll call vote with Mr. Bushka opposed, to adopt the 2022-2023 Board of Education Operating Budgets in the sum of \$78,131,123. Mr. Boynton shared his concerns about looking towards the future with setting the mill rates and the budgets because there are a lot of bonded projects coming up.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: ADOPTION OF 2022 – 2023 BOARD OF EDUCATION CAPITAL BUDGET**

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote, to adopt the 2022-2023 Board of Education Capital Budget in the sum of \$0, and authorize the BOE to submit a request to transfer all budget surpluses to a non-lapsing capital reserve for capital expenses, and instruct the Mayor and the BOE to develop a Capital Improvement Fund 2030 application for Capital Improvements.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: ADOPTION OF 2022-2023 CITY BUDGET**

On a motion by Mr. Bushka, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to adopt the 2022-2023 City Budget in the sum of \$61,815,350.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: MILL RATE (REAL ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY)**

On a motion by Mrs. Pesce, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the Board voted unanimously, by roll call vote, to set the mill rate for 2022-2023 at 47.14 mills and authorize the Mayor to execute the tax warrant.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: MILL RATE (MOTOR VEHICLES)**

On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Pesce, the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote, to set the motor vehicle mill rate for 2022-2023 at 32.46 mills and authorize the Mayor to execute the tax warrant.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:35 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by*  
Heather Abraham, Asst. City Clerk

ATTEST:

  
CAROL L. ANDERSON, CITY CLERK