

A **SPECIAL MEETING** of the Board of Finance was held on Tuesday, May 26, 2020. In response to the Governor's Executive Orders regarding COVID-19, this meeting was held remotely using the ZOOM online meeting platform. Participants included Mayor Elinor Carbone and Board of Finance Members James Wright, Laurene Pesce, Lance Boynton, Mark Bushka and Christopher Anderson. City Comptroller Alice Proulx, City Treasurer Daniel Farley and Deputy Fire Chief David Tripp also joined the meeting. Board of Finance member Christopher Beyus was absent.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING FY 2020/2021 BUDGETS**

The Board discussed funding for the Health Insurance Fund. Mr. Bushka requested clarification regarding the amount of money budgeted for the 2020/2021 fiscal year and City Comptroller Alice Proulx explained that the budget reflected a 100% funding level for the Health Insurance Fund, including administrative fees. Mr. Boynton expressed support for borrowing from the Health Insurance Fund, based on the assumption that the number of elective surgeries would not rise back to normal or above average levels until at least the 2021/2022 fiscal year when the coronavirus passes. Mayor Carbone emphasized the importance of reconvening the Self-Insurance Review Committee meetings.

The Board discussed the Fund Balance impact for the 2020/2021 fiscal year. Mayor Carbone reported that as of June 30, 2019 the Fund Balance totaled \$15,906,863. She stated that the City would likely not have to use any of the money that was appropriated from the Fund Balance for the 2019/2020 fiscal year and recommended appropriating 2.5 million dollars from the Fund Balance to offset budgeted expenses for the 2020/2021 fiscal year.

Mayor Carbone discussed the impact of COVID-19 on the Board of Education's budget and cautioned that the need may arise to borrow additional funds when the guidelines for returning to school are released. She also reported on the City's plan to move all COVID-related expenses to the new Fund #0283 to better account for all reimbursable expenses and identify year-end surpluses.

Mayor Carbone explained that even with the previously discussed appropriations from Fund Balance and the Internal Service Fund and with all budgets for the 2020/2021 fiscal year at a 2.5% increase over the current fiscal year, additional cuts would still be necessary to get to a zero mill rate impact. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Bushka expressed their support in favor of using funds from the Fund Balance. Mr. Bushka noted that over 4.2 million dollars were appropriated from the Fund Balance in the last three years but the City did not have to use any of it. He was optimistic that the City would not have to use much, if any, of the funds to be allocated for the 2020/2021 fiscal year. Mr. Anderson questioned whether the City's approach to budgeting should change to avoid the pattern of borrowing and not using funds from the Fund Balance.

Mrs. Pesce expressed her concerns regarding revenues from the State and Mayor Carbone stated that she did not believe the City's education money would be cut due to the Alliance District designation.


Mr. Boynton requested an update on negotiations with the unions for the deferral of wage increases and Mayor Carbone reported that the outlook was not very positive. She discussed the elevated risk that the City's public safety personnel and frontline employees faced throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and Mrs. Pesce emphasized the importance of keeping the personnel in place. Mr. Wright commended the Mayor on her work throughout the budget process.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jonathan Draper, Asst. City Clerk*

ATTEST:

  
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC  
CITY CLERK