

**MINUTES
BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM / ZOOM
July 20, 2021**

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Finance was held on Tuesday, July 20, 2021. Attendance was by ZOOM and in person. Present at City Hall were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Torrington Public Schools Superintendent Susan Lubomski, Interim Business Manager Ed Arum, and Board of Finance Members Laurene Pesce, Christopher Anderson, Christopher Beyus, and James Wright. Comptroller Alice Proulx and Board of Finance member Lance Boynton joined by Zoom. Board of Finance member Mark Bushka 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. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public, but no one from the public wished to speak.

MINUTES APPROVED

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held June 15, 2021.

BOE BUDGET TRANSFER

On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the transfer of surplus funds from the 2020-2021 Board to Education operating budget to the Board of Education capital reserve budget in the total amount of \$544,000 for the projects described in Mr. Arum's memo dated June 17, 2021. Mayor Carbone clarified that the budget transfer was in accordance with C.G.S §10-248a and Board members Anderson and Beyus amended their motion to include the statutory reference. Mr. Boynton questioned why the budget transfer request was not presented to the Board earlier and Mayor Carbone clarified that the transfer of BOE surplus funds was discussed at the regular meeting of the Board of Finance held on June 15, 2021. She noted that at that time the estimated amount to be transferred was \$444,000.

BUSINESS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Beyus, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads. Supt. Lubomski thanked the Board for approving the transfer of BOE surplus funds.

BUSINESS BY MAYOR & MEMBERS

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

Mrs. Pesce requested help to better understand ARPA funding and questioned whether the funds could be applied toward pension costs. Mayor Carbone clarified that the ARPA funds could be used to cover any portion of the pensions which are part of the normal payroll, but not for any of the unfunded liability. The Mayor also reported that the City received its first sum of approximately \$5,037,000 from the State and will receive its second payout in 2022.

Mr. Wright requested an update on progress being made toward the construction of a new animal shelter. Mayor Carbone discussed the funding gaps for the project which have been brought on, in large part, due to rising construction costs. She also updated the Board on the progress of a \$1.1 million grant that was applied for through the Office of Congresswoman Jahana Hayes.

Mr. Boynton stated his excitement that the Warner Theatre was reopening its doors.

Mrs. Pesce requested additional clarification regarding the deadline to expend ARPA funds and Mayor Carbone informed the Board that the City has until December 31, 2024 to expend the funds.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:19 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

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