



Town of Griswold

Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
February 16, 2021
7:00 PM
Via Teleconference
MINUTES



1. **Roll Call/Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM**

Board of Finance Members Present:

Scott Davis – Chairman
Alex Grzelak – Vice Chairman
Amanda Brycki
Steve Mikutel
Gail Rooke-Norman
Daniel Webster
Valerie Grills

Also Present:

Erik Christensen, Director of Finance
Sean McKenna, Superintendent of Griswold Schools
Jeannette Bell, Recording Secretary
17 Other People

2. **Public Forum**

No one wished to speak.

3. **Approval of minutes**

- a. **November 17, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes.**
- b. **January 19, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.**

MOTION: G. Rooke-Norman made a **motion** that was seconded by S. Mikutel to approve the above Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. All in favor; **motion carried.**

4. **New Business**

a. **Finance Directors monthly report.**

E. Christensen stated the Revenues recorded to date are \$26,134,741.96 or 71.33% of budgeted revenues. The only concerns at this point continue to be interest income due to reduced interest rates as well as uncertain recreation fees and insurance reimbursement which will be offset by expenditures. Even with these concerns, revenue is projected to finish the year at or above the overall budgeted figures. He stated the Expenditures recorded to date are \$21,806,708.40 or 59.52% of budgeted expenditures. There were a few additional items which are now overspent. He noted there are no major concerns at this point. He did note the snow removal overtime is most likely going to be over budget due to the Sunday snowstorms.

b. Monthly report by Superintendent of Schools regarding Special Education tuition position.

S. McKenna stated there are still currently nine students associated with this position. The total tuition received is \$215,553. The amount paid out for the teacher's salary and benefits are \$68,561 for a net tuition gain of \$146,992.

c. Discussion and possible action on setting FY21-22 budget schedule.

E. Christensen stated it would be best to wait until mid-March to begin setting dates after the Selectmen meet with the individual departments.

d. Discussion and possible action on FY21-22 budgeted revenues.

E. Christensen stated the Grand List had a significant increase this year due to additional properties and a 30% increase in personal property. He did note the solar farm taxation is still in litigation and not sure on any additional revenue in taxes which may or may not be realized. He did note the proposed revenues to be received from the State appear to be about the same as last year with the addition of two additional grants, but he also noted it is still a tough year to budget for. He did note with the Governors proposed budget we are slated to receive an ESSER II grant from the Federal Government of \$579,601 which will be a direct payment to the Board of Education as well as a onetime grant of \$1,049,919 for distressed municipalities which he needs to find out more information as to what it can be used for.

5. Old Business

a. Discussion and possible action on providing guidance to respective Boards and Committees regarding FY21-22 budget.

There was some discussion and it was noted that there should be a referendum in order for the taxpayers to be able to vote on the budget. It was also suggested to try and hold the line on taxes as they have been raised for the past six consecutive years. There was also discussion regarding the stipulations for the \$1,049,919 additional revenue for distressed municipalities.

b. Update and discussion on bonding projects.

S. Davis suggested the Senior Center project update will be discussed at the next scheduled Special Meeting on February 23, 2021. E. Christensen noted the Water and Sewer line is moving forward and hopes to start in the spring. The Gas Line project is approximately \$300,000 under budget which will reduce the note payable.

c. Update and discussion on BOE HVAC repairs.

S. McKenna stated the GHS Hydronic Filtration will be finalized at the end of the heating season as there will be the need to shut off the heat to the building for a few days to complete the project.

6. Any Other Business

There was none.

7. Public Forum

Jennifer Norman – Wanted to note that the ECS funding has never been fully funded and it is a fiscal cliff created by the Governor.

Jim Barnie – Noted he has a concern with the solar farm. He wanted to thank the Board of Education and Sean for there work with the Capital Committee. He also noted the elderly are suffering with lack of income and the increase in taxes and would like to see no increase in the budget.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: S. Mikutel made a **motion** that was seconded by D. Webster to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM. All in favor; **motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeannette Bell,
Recording Secretary