



Town of Griswold

Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
October 19, 2021
7:00 PM

Town Hall Meeting Room
MINUTES



2021 OCT 25 PM 12:23

Vanessa Pucall

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
Valerie Grills
Gail Rooke-Norman
Daniel Webster

Board of Finance Members Absent:

Steve Mikutel

Also Present:

Erik Christensen, Director of Finance
Sean McKenna, Superintendent, Griswold Public Schools
Mary-Beth Malin, Chairman of Board of Education
Karen B. LaFreniere, Recording Secretary
5 Other People

2. Public Forum

No one wished to speak.

3. Approval of minutes

a. September 21, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: G. Rooke-Norman made a **motion** to approve the September 21, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented that was seconded by A. Brycki. All in favor except for D. Webster and A. Grzelak who abstained; **motion carried.**

4. New Business

a. Finance Director Monthly Report.

The revenues recorded to date for FY2022 are \$12,949,417.09 or 34.30% of budgeted revenues. E. Christensen states he still has no word on the Distressed Municipality Grant. We are at a standstill on all major capital projects. S. Davis questioned if the town could reach out to anyone from CCM, Senator Somers or OPM for more information regarding the Distressed Municipality Grant. E. Christensen states the last time he talked to CCM they still didn't have any new information. E. Christensen will ask T. Babbitt to reach out to Senator Somers and find out if any new information is available. The expenditures recorded to date

are \$8,046,885.15 or 21.31% of budgeted expenditures. There are four line items that are overspent for this fiscal year. E. Christensen is not too concerned and feels there will be savings within the departments and the shortages will be covered by other line items.

b. Report from Superintendent of GPS regarding Special Education tuition position.

Sean McKenna states the Board of Education does a case study every year regarding the special education teacher's position. The special education teacher has sixteen students on her case study and five of them are special education students from tuition towns. They mapped out what these students would bring for tuition. The teacher's salary and benefits were subtracted out, and the net is approximately \$60,000.00. Also, S. McKenna presented the October 1st enrollment numbers which were presented at the most recent Board of Education meeting. They mapped out the tuition from the various towns including the tuition partnership towns using regular education tuition special education tuition and alternative school tuition. The projected \$2.34 million when they worked with the town to build the budget but now the early projection is coming in higher at \$2.535 million. G. Rooke-Norman questioned if the Town of Sprague and the Town of Norwich were dumping their special education students onto the Town of Griswold. If this is the case should the Town of Griswold be increasing the tuition rate for the special education students? S. Davis responded by saying he thinks these are questions that should be brought forward at a Board of Education meeting and not the Board of Finance meeting.

5. Old Business

a. Discussion and possible action on report from Senior Center Building Committee Chairman.

E. Christensen stated Rob Parrette spoke with David Fritz from the PAC group. They have a sub kick off meeting on Wednesday with all the subs. The paint is in. The tile and floor samples have been dropped off. The painter was on site to go over the logistics looks like a Thursday start. The landscaper will be out this week to replace shrubs and clean up the site. The ceiling files are in and ready to be installed once the painting is finished. The operable partition is ordered and its six weeks out. The millwork and shop drawings are in and ready to be reviewed anytime. R. Parrette will send out a change order tomorrow for E. Christensen and T. Babbitt to review and sign related to new work approved regarding the USDA grant items. From what E. Christensen understands things are kicking off again this week. They are still hopeful the project will be done before Christmas 2021. E. Christensen has an excel spreadsheet with the allotted figures for each line item for the Senior Center project. As he is billed for the work completed, he will keep track of what was allotted for the line item, how much was spent, and what money is left.

b. Update and discussion on bonding projects.

For the water and sewer, the engineering is still getting under way. Fuss & O'Neil and Boundaries are working on the engineering. There are no real updates on water and sewer.

6. Any Other Business

S. Davis revisited the topic of the upcoming budget cycle to bring D. Webster and A. Grzelak up to speed. Historically, the Board of Finance has had several workshops and then go to public hearing and listen to what the people have to say on a budget that has hardly been touched. Then the board meets and makes all sorts of cuts. S. Davis wondered if it doesn't make more sense to align the schedule so in their workshops, they would make the cuts to the

budget they feel are necessary. Then go to a public hearing. Then the public can weigh in on what the final proposed budget is. That way if there is an outcry, the Board of Finance would be able to meet and rework the budget before it goes to town meeting and referendum.

D. Webster liked the idea. He would like two versions of the budget to go to public hearing. The Selectmen's proposed budget and the Board of Finance's proposed budget. S. Davis questioned if this could be done, E. Christensen said with our current budget there are different columns which show the different budgets with detailed comments.

A. Grzelak agreed with D. Webster on making changes to the upcoming budget cycle.

7. Public Forum

No one wished to speak.

8. Adjournment

D. Webster made a **motion** that was seconded by A. Grzelak to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 PM. All in favor; **motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen B. LaFreniere,
Recording Secretary