



Town of Griswold

Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
November 17, 2020
7:00 PM
Via Teleconference
MINUTES



1. Roll Call/Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM

Board of Finance Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Erik Christensen, Director of Finance
Sean McKenna, Superintendent of Griswold Schools
Alisha Stripling, Business Manager of Griswold Schools
Kenneth Bomba
4 Other People

2. Public Forum

No one wished to speak.

3. Approval of minutes

a. October 20, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: G. Rooke-Norman made a **motion** that was seconded by S. Mikutel to approve the above 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 \$15,092,353.11 or 41.19% of budgeted revenues. He noted there are no concerns at this point. Expenditures recorded to date are \$7,838,997.44 or 21.40% of budgeted expenditures with no new line items overspent. A donation fund report was presented, there were no new donations and just some small expenditures for Spooktopia.

b. Monthly report regarding Special Education tuition position/Contingency BOE account.

S. McKenna stated there are currently 8 students associated with this position at a tuition of \$25,181 per student, with an additional 7 spots available. There are 102 Special Ed students at the high school, of which 35% are from tuition towns.

c. Discussion with Superintendent of Schools regarding quarterly financial report.

S. McKenna stated that pursuant to CT Public act 19-117 sec 290 BOE are required to post quarterly financial reports to their website and present copies to the First Selectman and the BOF.

5. Old Business

a. Update and discussion on bonding projects.

E. Christensen noted there was nothing new to report on the Senior Center is still about 12 weeks behind schedule and hopefully will be completed the end of February. The additional cost to the town due to the delay is projected to be around \$52,000, we are hoping to recoup some of that through the Cares Act. The water and sewer project on 201 and 138 is still in the process and construction should begin around April 1st with a USDA loan/grant to hopefully cover 100% of the cost.

b. Update and discussion on BOE HVAC repairs.

S. McKenna stated all priority 1 and 2 repairs are now completed. Priority 3 repairs are still waiting on parts in order to be completed. Preventative maintenance measures are underway.

6. Any Other Business

S. Davis wanted to discuss a matter with the Board of Finance members which just came about this afternoon. He stated he was approached a number of times regarding the inability of the Board of Finance to fill the vacancy which is currently on the board. There was concern and unhappiness that the Board of Finance members were not able to come to an agreement to fill the position. S. Davis reached out Monday to the First Selectman and reread statute 7-343 and also requested the First Selectman contact the Town Attorney to see if there was a COVID statute or whether the wording of the Special Act that follows under that was broad enough to encompass if we had passed a town ordinance. The opinion was in fact there was no COVID related statute. However, there was General Statute 7-107 which does grant the Board of Selectman the ability to fill the position after 30 days if the Board of Finance is unable to fill the position. S. Davis had a conversation with the First Selectman and it was noted the Board of Finance could once again possibly attempt to fill the position however if unable to then the Board of Selectmen would fill the position. S. Davis then suggested calling a Special Meeting to try to come to terms to vote for a candidate to fill the vacancy. After polling the members of the Board of Finance it was determined none of them would change their vote from the original vote. Therefore, the outcome would still be the same. There was much discussion between the board members. Some expressed their concern regarding the filling of this vacant position and noted the last vacant position was not filled for 1 ½ years so why the urgency to fill this position. S. Davis noted he would share all comments with the First Selectman.

7. Public Forum

Dana Bennett of 36 Dina Lane Griswold expressed concern over the lack of consistency on filling board vacancies in the town.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: D. Webster made a **motion** that was seconded by S. Mikutel to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 PM. All in favor; **motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeannette Bell

Recording Secretary