

Board of Finance Special Meeting
Thursday, September 8, 2022
7:30 pm
Via Webex Only (Not In-Person)

A recording of this meeting can be found here: youtube.com/watch?v=rBNG-hgun54.

FINAL MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Lori Charlton, Vice Chair John Mitola, Secretary Sheila Marmion, Craig Curley, Mary LeClerc, Kevin Starke, James Walsh

MEMBERS ABSENT: Christopher DeWitt, Jack Testani

OTHERS PRESENT: CFO Jared Schmitt, Director of Operations for Fairfield Public Schools Angelus Papageorge, BOE Chair Christine Vitale, BOE Liaison Jeff Peterson

1. Call to Order

Chairwoman Lori Charlton called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Sheila Marmion led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. To hear an update on approved capital projects

Chairwoman Charlton said this item is a status report on previously approved capital projects. She said these projects are not part of the annual budget approval process – they are approved separately. She said this update will become part of the quarterly meetings going forward. Chairwoman Charlton said many of the capital projects are multi-year projects and some might be completed. She explained that the data will be broken out into two parts with the ARPA funding being one part and the capital projects the Town finances itself through long-term bonds the other part.

Sheila Marmion made a motion to put Item 3 before the board. Craig Curley seconded the motion.

CFO Jared Schmitt presented this item. He said there was an app created through the Town's IT department specifically for the ARPA projects. They know where the money is coming from, and all projects have already been approved. He said the money for the ARPA projects needs to be spent by December 2024. He said the ARPA is different and easier than capital projects. Mr. Schmitt shared the screen that included the ARPA funds, projects, and status of each project to date. All documents are included in the backup for this meeting.

James Walsh asked about any surplus that might be left over if projects are not costing as much as the money allotted and if that money would be available to use toward remediation to take some responsibility off the taxpayers. Mr. Schmitt said the finance department will look at all projects that need to be done and the fill pile will be included. Mr. Schmitt said he cannot make a decision yet because many projects are not completed and if any require excess money, any ARPA surplus will be used toward those jobs first. Mary LeClerc requested more detail regarding how the money is being spent on the projects.

Mr. Curley started a discussion asking how the non-profits were chosen and how the amount they were given was determined. Mr. Schmitt said the non-profits will be submitting quarterly reports to the Town. The items on the list were discussed line by line.

The capital projects were discussed next. The board and Mr. Schmitt went over the status of spending on projects that have been approved. Any project that was approved prior to 2021 was not included. Chairwoman Charlton requested that all projects still in progress or open be included going forward. Director of Operations for Fairfield Public Schools, Angelus Papageorge, gave an update on the school projects and said they are expected to be on budget. The Town capital projects were reviewed line by line and Mr. Schmitt answered questions by the board members. He said any items for which he did not have progress status will be followed up and updated with the BOF. Chairwoman Charlton had questions about the bond authorization for the ECC and the Hardening Project as they were not included in the report. The full discussion can be accessed by using the link to the meeting recording at the top of this document.

4. To hear, consider and act upon any communications

Mr. Schmitt gave an update on the status of the Water Pollution Control Facility's digester that broke in March 2022. He said he has contacted the insurance adjuster and is working closely with the activity regarding this project. He said it went out to bid for the cleaning of the digester and the Town is finalizing awarding the bid now.

5. Adjourn

Mr. Curley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 pm. James Walsh seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien
Recording Secretary