

**Board of Finance Special Meeting**  
**Wednesday, December 13, 2023**  
**7:30 pm**  
**Via Webex Only**

A recording of this meeting can be found here: [BOF Special Webex Meeting 12/13/2023 7:30 pm.](#)

**FINAL MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairwoman Lori Charlton, Vice-Chairman John Mitola, Secretary Craig Curley, Sheila Marmion, Mary LeClerc, Amy Ruggerio, Kevin Starke, Jack Testani, James Walsh  
OTHERS PRESENT: First Selectman Bill Gerber, Selectman Christine Vitale, HVAC Indoor Air Quality Building Committee Chair David Becker, Principal Associate Colliers Project Leaders Chuck Warrington, BL Companies Senior Project Manager Jesse Vose, FPS Executive Director of Operations Angelus Papageorge, FPS Director of Construction and Energy Services Sal Morabito, CFO Jared Schmitt, Attorney Mike Andreana, HVAC IAQ Committee Member Rodney Van Deusen, Colliers Project Manager Mark Schweitzer, Sr. Project Executive Gilbane Amar Shamas, Chief Estimator Gilbane Michael Parent, BOE Chairwoman Jenn Jacobsen, FairTV, members of the public

- 1) Call to Order  
Chairwoman Lori Charlton called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance  
Chairwoman Charlton led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3) To hear, consider, and act upon a resolution as recommended by the BOS amending and restating a resolution entitled, “A resolution appropriating \$22,701,443 for the costs associated with Phase I of the Air Conditioning upgrade project at various schools, authorizing grants to reimburse \$1,116,320 of such appropriation and authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance the remaining portion of such appropriation” to increase the appropriation by \$16,402,557 to \$39,104,000 and the bond authorization from \$21,585,123 to \$37,987,680. *(20-Year); (requires RTM approval)*

John Mitola made motion to bring Item 3 before the BOF for a vote. Kevin Starke seconded the motion.

All the backup materials for this Item are posted online. HVAC IAQ Building Committee Chair David Becker gave an overview of this project and introduced committee members and support staff involved in the project. Mr. Becker also went through the timeline of this project. This is a \$16 million request above the original appropriation approved in May 2022. There was a preliminary set of estimates with the goal of getting grant hours. Six million dollars has been acquired so far. The original vision for this project was to install HVAC in the schools, but since the pandemic, this is more about indoor air quality. Many spaces in schools were not included in the original estimates, but will need to be conditioned. James Walsh expressed his concern that reading materials and the waterfall were distributed late, but also wanted to address why the numbers were so far off. Mr. Becker explained that the history of this project is prior to a building committee being formed. The building committee was formed after the funding was approved and conceptual plans were used to determine the initial funding request.

DTC, the original design company has since moved to Florida. FPS Executive Director of Operations Angelus Papageorge said that since FPS wanted to apply for the state grant, they had to go with the original concept estimate. The money for the project had to be approved by the Town before they could apply for the grant.

First Selectman Bill Gerber discussed the Capital Plan and Waterfall for the Town. Mr. Gerber said he needs to go through every project and prioritize them which will require everyone in his administration and discipline. Mr. Gerber also said he has found many errors in the Capital Plan since reviewing it, but that this is a project the Town can't afford not to do.

CFO Jared Schmitt spoke about his involvement in setting the Capital Plan and stated there is a \$22 million increase since October and contested that it is due solely to error.

A lengthy discussion continued which can be accessed using the meeting link at the top of the document.

John Mitola made a motion to call the question. Sheila Marmion seconded the motion.

Lori Charlton brought it back to the original motion which carried 5-2-2 (Ruggerio, Testani opposed; Walsh, LeClerc abstained).

4) Adjourn

John Mitola made a motion to adjourn. Kevin Starke seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien  
Recording Secretary