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**BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 10, 2019
MINUTES**

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2019
NEW MILFORD, CT

Walter O'Connor opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with Corey Linder leading the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence. Present: Beth Falder, Barbara Wolf, Diane Klaf (not seated), Trevor Herbest, Steve Confortini Larry Tripp, Corey Linder (seated), Walter O'Connor. present: Greg Osipow, Finance Director, Mayor Pete Bass, Attorney Matt Grimes.

MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2019: Motion to approve minutes by Beth Falder, seconded by Barbara Wolf. Corrections noted, agenda item 7, third line referring to roof replacement should be roof repair and agenda item 8 – motion approved by Beth Falder, seconded by Joseph DeGregorio and passed unanimously. Vote on motion for minutes passed: Falder, Wolf, Confortini, Herbest, Tripp, O'Connor; Linder abstained.

Motion by Walter O'Connor to enter Executive Session at 7:04 p.m. for the purpose of discussing pending litigation Docket No. LLI-CV-16-6013214 of New Milford v Standard Demolition Services, Inc. and to invite Town Attorneys, Director of Public Works, Finance Director, Comptroller, Mayor Bass into Executive session. Motion seconded by Beth Falder and Passed: O'Connor, Wolf, Falder, Confortini, Herbest, Tripp, Linder.

Barbara Wolf moved to return to regular session at 7:17 p.m., seconded by Beth Falder. Motion passed: O'Connor, Wolf, Falder, Confortini, Herbest, Tripp, Linder.

No motion or vote taken during executive session.

Walter O'Connor moved to add agenda item to appropriate up to \$250,000 to legal fund for the purpose of litigation with Standard Demolition Services, Inc. The appropriation will be taken from an account to be determined by the Director of Finance. Motion seconded by Barbara Wolf and passed: O'Connor, Wolf, Falder, Confortini, Herbest, Tripp, Linder.

The next two agenda items are for Sarah Noble Roof Top Unit and Lillis Oil Tank Project. Mr. O'Connor invited Dr. Tracy and David Lawson to answer questions on these items.

Walter O'Connor moved to appropriate for the replacement of the Sarah Noble Intermediate School roof top unit the amount of \$37,020.98 through the US Community purchasing agreement and to request that amount from Capital Reserve. Beth Falder seconded the motion which passed: Linder, Tripp, Herbest, Confortini, Falder, Wolf, O'Connor.

Walter O'Connor moved to approve the use of \$135,280.29 from the Board of Education Capital Reserve account to cover the additional payment to ETT Environmental Services. This

cost is in addition to the \$97,713 already paid to ETT Environmental Services from the original appropriation and represents the Board's final obligation to ETT Environmental Services on this project. Motion seconded by Beth Falder.

Mayor Bass commented, at the last Town Council meeting, two members of the Council discussed best practices; as a result we are establishing a municipal building committee composed of local residents with expertise in building trades. The Town Council voted in favor of this request and moved it to Capital Reserve.

Walter O'Connor was at the meeting when the vendor gave an explanation of what had to be done.

David Lawson in answer to what caused the project to be over budget, noted the change orders including the ledge that was not known when starting the project. Also a clay sewer pipe was discovered. Mr. Lawson also noted the higher paid officials of the vendor did not get involved keeping wages under control.

Dr. Tracy commented on the building committee which will be helpful on future projects. He further commented on the ledge and sewer pipe found, these items would not have been detected by radar. The bid would have increased if vendors were aware of underground items. All work has been done to code and in compliance with the law.

Vote on motion unanimous: Tripp, Herbest, Linder, O'Connor, Wolf, Falder, Confortini.

Walter O'Connor moved to approve the transfer of \$210,477.26 proceeds from the School Security Competitive Grant to the Board of Education Capital Reserve fund; this grant was awarded as reimbursement for school security expenditures that have been made from previous years Board of Education's operating budgets. Motion seconded by Steve Confortini and passed: Confortini, O'Connor, Tripp, Herbest, Linder, Wolf, Falder.

Board of Finance to approve \$70,000 for design work on the state grant application #95-256 is a carry-over from the Board of Finance meeting in March requesting more information, which is not available. A motion will come before the Board as information is available to proceed.

Walter O'Connor moved approval of a budget for the Town of New Milford for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 consisting of Board of Education \$63,640,692, General Government of \$35,339,069 and Capital Outlay of \$3,622,816 for a total of \$102,602,577. Beth Falder seconded the motion.

Beth Falder offered an amendment: increase revenue received by the Town to \$173,546.00; add to the personnel \$129,041.00; reduce contractual line \$52,500.00; increase Board of Education \$400,000.00. Larry Tripp seconded the amendment.

Ms. Falder explained the increase in revenue is from the State; personnel line to leave Town Attorney, the reduction in contractual would remove legal and the \$400,000 for the Board of Education. This represents an increase of \$400,000 to the amount budgeted by the Town Council for the BOE.

Walter O'Connor stated the personnel \$129,041.00 includes payroll, taxes and benefits for that job. The \$52,500.00 was added by Town Council when they eliminated the Town attorney position.

Barbara Wolf offered an amendment to add to the Board of Education \$601,897 for a total of \$1,001,897 to return the Board of Education to the original request. Motion seconded by Korey Linder.

That would change mil rate to 28.91.

Korey Linder wanted to add to the Library personnel \$30,000. The library is having difficulty keeping personnel as their wage level is not competitive with other towns.

Barbara Wolf commented the Town savings on health care is almost \$800,000 and a 1.35 million dollar bond is maturing. Walter O'Connor noted the \$800,000 is not direct monetary savings. Greg Osipow added the Town does not have the final numbers. This is a cost avoidance not actual savings. 6.5 million will be rolled BANS into bonds.

Vote on Wolf amendment; in favor, Linder, Wolf; opposed Falder, Confortini, Herbest, Tripp, O'Connor.

Korey Linder offered an amendment to add back \$30,000 to library personnel. Beth Falder seconded the motion.

Walter O'Connor reminded Board members the Board can make recommendations but we don't have authority to be specific. We cannot adjust the line item.

Mayor Bass noted the materials and supplies was reduced; the library will be partially closed for 18 months.

Walter O'Connor commented the library can request financial assistance when they are trying to hire but find their salary is not competitive. Anyone can come to Town Council with appropriation request.

Vote on Linder amendment: in favor Linder, Wolf; against O'Connor, Falder Confortini, Herbest, Tripp.

Steve Confortini offered the following amendment: reduce revenue \$22,500.00, reduce personnel \$75,000.00; reduce personnel \$35,653.00 and reduce \$145,000.00 from capital. Motion seconded by Beth Falder.

Mr. Confortini explained his motion: \$22,500 donation for high risk navigator is not assured; \$75,000 high risk navigator personnel, eliminate position and reduce debt for position; \$53,653 additional staff, police department and \$145,000 for bucket truck – not representing savings vs. hiring out. Larry Tripp asked if someone on staff could operate the truck, the answer was yes and there is a licensed arborist in town.

Vote on Confortini motion: Confortini in favor, opposed Falder, Wolf, Herbest, O'Connor, Tripp, Linder.

Falder amendment vote: in favor Falder, Tripp, Herbest, O'Connor; against: Wolf, Confortini, Linder. Motion passed.

Walter O'Connor moved the budget as amended for 2019-2020: Town \$39,038,426.00; Board of Education \$64,040,692.00; no change in capital outlay \$3,622,816.00. Total \$103,079,118.00 Mil rate 28.70 increase of 1.87% Beth Falder seconded the motion. In favor Falder, Herbest, Tripp, O'Connor; opposed: Linder, Wolf, Confortini

The Town Meeting is set for May 7 with a possible date for referendum May 21. The Board of Finance will have a special meeting the next day after the referendum; the meeting, depending on outcome of referendum, could make adjustments to a failed budget, or set the mil rate.

Barbara Wolf moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m., seconded by Steve Confortini. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by:



Elaine V. Barksdale