

**Town of Barkhamsted
Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
Tuesday February 16, 2021, 7:00PM
Virtual Meeting**

Chairman Richard Winn called the meeting to order at 7:02pm Present were:

John Doyle	(*)
Matthew Kelly	Absent
David Moulton	(*)
Julia Pattison	(*)
Salvatore Tartaglione	(*)
Richard Winn	(*)
Frank Miceli	(alt) (*)
George Walsh	(alt) (*)

Also Present	
First Selectman Don Stein	(*)
Selectman Nick Lukiwsky	(*)

Motion to seat George Walsh for Matt Kelly and Frank Miceli for Sal Tartaglione (Note: Sal Tartaglione joined the meeting, but his connection appeared to be intermittent).

By Dave Moulton, seconded by John Doyle

Vote: Unanimous Yea

Transfers: None

Review of General Government budget and Capital budget expenditures to-date, through 1/31/21

Review led by Selectman Stein

Tax collections holding steady; expect to meet budget goals for collections; General Government expenditures are in line with the budget and are expected to end the year with a modest surplus after the application of Town Aid Road and LOCIP. Legal expenses are still above budget due to on-going lawsuits.

Town Aid Road and other grants have been coming in as planned.

Discussion of Capital Project expenditures and fund balances: after the committee meeting, the outlook for the capital fund looked more positive for the Town with

an increase in the estimated \$155,000 surplus from closed out or soon to be closed out projects and State reimbursement. This is higher than originally anticipated based on a review of the fund by the Town auditor.

Discussion of FY 21/22 budgets, including General Government, Education, Capital and Road Plan

Discussion led by Selectman Stein, blended in with the above discussion. The initial General Government budget shows a modest increase of 0.85%, based on the budgeted employee raises, a cap on health insurance premium increases of 7.95% and inputs from agencies and the town departments. There is a modest stipend (\$2500) in the budget for the Emergency Management Director based on the demands on this volunteer position based on the COVID requirements and the Town's response. The Capital Plan and Road Plan are unchanged since the last review with the exception of the increased surplus available to offset capital costs.

Discussion of State budget and Municipal Aid, including COVID Relief Funds

Discussion led by Selectman Stein of Road and Projects Plan and expectations of State Aid including COVID Relief Funds. Much blended in with the above two items. State view is that this year's deficit is down, but still projected for the next two years. The Governor's budget reflects using the Federal COVID relief funds to close the deficit and show all current municipal aid staying flat. However, it wasn't clear when those funds would be made available and what restrictions might be placed on their use. Don Stein told the Board that he would provide a summary of all COVID relief funds received to-date and anticipated by the Town and how they have been used or can be used.

Preliminary Revenue Sheet Rich Winn presented a preliminary Revenue Sheet that included the General Government budget (0.85% increase), the projected increase in the Regional 7 budget (5.94% or ~\$350,000), and a 0.9% increase in the value of the Grand List. If the collection rate projection were to be increased and funds from the undesignated surplus were to be used to reduce the capital expenditures, the tax increase would be less than 5%.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of January 19, 2020

By John Doyle; Seconded by Julia Pattison

Vote: Unanimous Yea

Correspondence None

Any other business legal and proper to come before said meeting

Quick note of Sewer project making progress and the new store renovations proceeding at Mallory Brook Plaza; John Doyle requested that the Town provide a balance sheet for the General Government and Board of Education budgets, including town debt; there was also consensus that this year's annual report honor Jim Shanley, the Emergency Management Director for his extraordinary efforts to support the town during the COVID pandemic crisis.

Motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. by George Walsh, Seconded by Julia Pattison

/ Unanimous

Respectfully submitted

Date: *February 17, 2021*

Don Stein, acting for the Secretary - BOF
