



JOHN P. RACHEK
Chairman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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DOUGLAS B. HARDING
Vice Chairman

PEGGY BUSSE
DAVID J. OLENDER
BARRY C. PINTO
JOSEPH E. WEHR

BOARD OF FINANCE

REGULAR MEETING JUNE 2, 2020 MINUTES

Members Present: John Rachek-Chair, Barry Pinto, Present via Zoom-Peg Busse, Douglas Harding, David Olender, Joseph Wehr

Others Present: Lori Spielman-First Selectman, Lori Smith-Recording Secretary; Jack Rich II-EVFD Chief, Present via Zoom-Tiffany Pignataro-Finance Officer/Treasurer, Felicia LaPlante-Asst. Finance Officer, E. Feldman and R. Smith-EVFD

1. Call to Order

Chairman John Rachek called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Citizen's Forum – None

4. Approval of Minutes

MOVED (PINTO) SECONDED (HARDING) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2020 AS WRITTEN.

MOVED (HARDING) SECONDED (BUSSE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET HEARING OF MARCH 10, 2020 AS WRITTEN.

MOVED (PINTO) SECONDED (HARDING) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 10, 2020 AS WRITTEN.

MOVED (PINTO) SECONDED (OLENDER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF APRIL 14, 2020 AS WRITTEN.

MOVED (HARDING) SECONDED (OLENDER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET HEARING OF APRIL 28, 2020 AS WRITTEN.

MOVED (HARDING) SECONDED (OLENDER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF MAY 12, 2020 AS WRITTEN.

MOVED (HARDING) SECONDED (OLENDER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MAY 14, 2020 AS WRITTEN.

MOVED (HARDING) SECONDED (OLENDER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET DELIBERATIONS OF MAY 14, 2020 AS WRITTEN.

5. Financial Statements

The Finance Officer had previously emailed to the members of the Board the Financial Highlights as of March 31, 2020. They thanked her for it and Peg Busse asked when they would receive the detail. Tiffany Pignataro stated that she would send them out to the members. Peg Busse also asked if Kevin was still on board. Tiffany Pignataro stated that he is basically done and Peg asked for a full accounting of the contract payments.

6. Additional Appropriations – None

7. New Business

Approval of Suspense List

MOVED (HARDING) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE TRANSFERS TO SUSPENSE OF 178 ACCOUNTS TOTALING \$30,978.17 AS REQUESTED BY THE TAX AND REVENUE COLLECTOR, ANN MARIE CONTI, SUBMITTED IN MEMO DATED MAY 12, 2020.

Center Fire Truck Funding

John Rachek expressed the Board's concern with the cost of the fire equipment units. Chief Jack Rich told the Board that they originally asked for \$750,000 for the replacement truck. After some investigating and to try to save the Town money, he had found that Sutphen had a Fire Truck demo that is almost identical to the one they are looking for. Purchasing this demo will save the Town about \$125,000. This demo truck is \$500,000 and with additional equipment would be roughly \$625,000 to 650,000. It is available in November.

The Fire Dept. presently has a 30 year old truck that was replaced last year and it was decided to keep it as a reserve piece. It is not on the schedule to be replaced again. Purchasing this truck would push off next year's truck a few years. Mr. Rich needs a commitment soon so he doesn't lose it. He stated that this truck does not give up any functionality and that the timing is everything because they have it now. There was discussion relating to whether to approve \$750,000 for the lease purchase or reduce it to \$625,000 or \$650,000. Mr. Rich cautioned that if the demo is not available at the time that the approvals go through the Board of Selectmen next week, they may end up paying \$750,000 for a new truck and have to start back at the beginning of the approval process. Mr. Rich told them that this truck became available about 3 weeks ago and that time is of the essence to make sure he can procure it. A letter of intent is what is needed. It was confirmed by the Finance Officer and First Selectman that the letter would come from the First Selectman after Board of Selectmen approval. A town meeting is also required.

Tiffany Pignataro also confirmed that the lease payment can be added to the budget. If tonight's approval is less than the \$750,000 and the truck becomes unavailable, the town would have to restart process. Chief Rich invited any member to come to the stations and go over the equipment.

MOVED (BUSSE) SECONDED (HARDING) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ENTER INTO A 5 YEAR LEASE AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE EVFD-REPLACEMENT PUMPER ET-143 NOT TO EXCEED \$650,000.

Dedicated Funds Discussion

John Rachek wanted this on the agenda because the discussion began at deliberations of whether to set up one fund or several funds. At that time, Kevin Kenzenkovic recommended one fund and John Rachek was of the opinion that they should be considering several funds. Peg Busse was concerned about the fund being raided. Tiffany Pignataro stated that one fund is easier to track for their department with internal designations. One fund would be less cumbersome and there is more freedom within the fund to shift funds if a crisis or emergency should occur. There is less administrative work for Finance and would be more cost effective for auditing as it is only one fund to be audited. Felicia LaPlante agreed. After some discussion, the Board's consensus was that one fund would be established with several internal designations.

The question of how to fund the dedicated fund was discussed. John Rachek suggested that left over funds from the previous year be used. Peg Busse suggested that the designations need to be identified first. Doug Harding stated that Revaluation and Fire Truck replacement has been discussed and could be a start. Barry Pinto suggested that maybe it could be funded yearly through the budget. Tiffany Pignataro stated that there could be a fund balance policy with allocations approved. Each time it is funded, a percentage goes to each line item. The department is looking at a fund policy and how to access the funds.

Peg Bussed asked about the funds found that were used in deliberations. Tiffany Pignataro stated that those accounts were designed unrestricted funds but had not been categorized. They were designated for use in subsequent budgets. After researching, they found no internal or external restriction on the funds so they could use the funds to balance the budget. They had been tagged as available for use. This is found in the footnotes of the financial statement of the audit.

Adjournment

MOVED (PINTO) SECONDED (HARDING) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted:


Lori Smith, Recording Secretary