

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Joint Town Finance/BOE Fiscal Committee Meeting

Approved Minutes of Monday, September 18, 2023

Administration Building Conference Room

BOE Fiscal Committee Members Present:

Mary Kortmann, Chair

Emma Eaton

BOE Fiscal Committee Members Absent:

Peter DePaola

Town Council Finance Committee Members Present:

Robyn Gallagher, Chair

Marty Milkovic

Town Council Finance Committee Members Absent:

Julie Blanchard

Also Present:

Jennifer Beausoleil, Board Chair and Ex-Officio

Lisa Thomas, Town Council Chair and Ex-Officio

Administrators Present:

Dr. David J. Petrone, Superintendent of Schools

Robert Carroll, Director of Finance and Operations

James Drumm, Town Manager

Julie Chapman, Town Finance Manager

I. Call to Order

M. Kortmann called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Discussion: FY23 Year End Summary

Mr. Carroll noted that FY23 ended with just over \$41,000, of which \$41,000 was transferred to the 2% non-lapsing account. He said the rest was transferred back to the Town general fund. Ms. Chapman reviewed her reports.

III. Discussion: Letter from Auditors

The Committees reviewed the letter, which indicates the audit is coming and the responsibilities of both the Town and Board.

IV. Discussion: EAC Negotiations

J. Beausoleil said the negotiations are ongoing. The Committees discussed timelines and if there was information on how other towns have settled. The Committee also discussed how the negotiations affect the Town's financial position.

V. Discussion: 2033 Vision - Long-term Planning

Dr. Petrone talked about the initiative to begin looking at a long-term plan for the school facilities. He talked about the age of the buildings and looking for efficiencies. The Committees discussed the various concerns related to the buildings, including air conditioning, technology, electricity needs, financial commitments, and who would serve on the Visioning Committee.

VI. Discussion: EV Charging Stations

Mr. Carroll reviewed the revenue flow that was included in the EV Charging Station MOU. The Committees discussed the variables related to the chargers, including flexibility with amounts to charge charging station users.

VII. Discussion: Microgrid Project Status

The Committees discussed the now defunct Microgrid project. J. Beausoleil asked that we check to be sure the district or town are not liable for any expenses related to the project. M. Kortmann mentioned the high school generator and how it was not replaced because, with the Microgrid, it would not be needed. Dr. Petrone said it is very old and it is difficult to get parts for it.

The Committee discussed Food Service funds and if they could be used to fund a generator. Dr. Petrone said that account will not have the extra funds as it has in the past couple of years.

VIII. Discussion: Capital Improvement Plan

M. Kortmann noted the Board's working copy of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The Committees discussed how the Board plans for CIP funds. The Committees discussed the current HVAC grant and the rules related to the grant. R. Gallagher said how impressed she is with the responsiveness of the staff as they take advantage of prosperous situations, such as obtaining playground equipment from the Channel 3 Kids Camp.

IX. Discussion: Special Education Projected Expenses

Dr. Petrone reviewed the change in the law to educate certain students to 22 years and the related new higher projected expenses. He added that there was another new tuition placement as well, and with that the total deficit in this area is **-\$174,000**.

X. Discussion: Transportation Unanticipated Expenses

Dr. Petrone said the approximate cost to the district related to the bus drivers' strike, at this moment, is \$5,000, which along with some of the Town's expenses, will be taken off of M&J's bill.

XI. Adjournment

MOTION: To Adjourn the Fiscal Meeting at 7:28 p.m.

By: E. Eaton

Seconded: M. Kortmann

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberlee Arey Delorme
Board Clerk

Approved: October 12, 2023