

**BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 27, 2021**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. via GoToMeeting by Chairman Thomas Harrison. Members present: Chairman Thomas Harrison, Vice Chairman/Secretary Catherine Durdan, Ellen Retelle, Katrina Marin, Margaret Bratton, and Ken Birk (arrived at 7:07 p.m.). Cathy Salchert was absent. A quorum was present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Thomas Harrison.

III. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE - None

IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING:

August 23, 2021 Meeting

On a motion made by Ellen Retelle, seconded by Katrina Marin, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance approves the minutes of the August 23, 2021 Meeting as drafted. Mr. Harrison and Mmes: Bratton, Retelle, Durdan, and Marin voted in favor.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Marin reported that twice she has requested items to be on the agenda and they have not yet appeared: 1) hybrid meeting option and 2) publicly publishing employee compensation with reference to the Avon Taxpayers Association booklet.

On a motion made by Katrina Marin, seconded by Ellen Retelle, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance add to the agenda a discussion regarding the online hybrid meeting option for Board members to attend meetings.

Mrs. Marin noted that if and when we return to in-person meetings, it is more convenient for a variety of reasons for Board members to attend a meeting remotely, that we allow the option to hold hybrid meetings. Ms. Retelle suggested checking the Town Charter for any rules requiring the Board to meet in-person except for specific exceptions. Mrs. Bratton recalled a few years ago when she was unable to participate in a meeting in-person but was told that calling in was not allowed. Ms. Retelle noted that the Governor has an Executive Order in place regarding in-person or hybrid meetings for school boards from which she is a director of a school. Ms. Retelle amended Mrs. Marin's original motion.

On a motion made by Ellen Retelle, seconded by Tom Harrison, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance table discussion regarding the online hybrid meeting option to the October 25, 2021 meeting to allow Town staff to investigate the Town Charter for parameters regarding in-person versus hybrid meetings.

Messrs: Harrison, Birk, and Mmes: Marin, Retelle, Durdan, and Bratton voted in favor.

With regards to an employee compensation booklet, Ms. Durdan commented that the Board of Finance does not have a budget to make such document. Mrs. Marin responded that it can be published online and doesn't cost anything. Ms. Retelle does not support this request; salary information can be found online. Mrs. Bratton expressed concern over the amount of time involved for Town and Board of Education staff to complete such booklet; the Taxpayers Association previously did the work. Mrs. Marin commented that the booklet did contain Town and Board of Education employees and its purpose is for transparency so

taxpayers know where their dollars are being spent; and they got the information from Town and Board of Education staff. Ms. Retelle noted that anyone can submit an FOIA request for such information to the Town Manager or Superintendent of Schools. Ms. Retelle noted that she is a public employee therefore everyone knows how much she makes. Mrs. Marin stated that she is happy to FOIA the information and publish it herself on Facebook. Mr. Harrison noted that it is public information. Ms. Retelle added that salary information can even be located through an online search at govsalaries.com. Mrs. Marin noted that her point is to make the information easily accessible, perhaps on the Town's web site. In response to a question from Mrs. Marin, the Clerk deferred to Mr. Robertson regarding the amount of time it would take to publish this information on our Town web site and he responded that he did not know the effort that would be involved as that document has not been created in at least five years; he suggested that the Board look at the Town's budget book as most of this information is already there and also clarified that the Board of Finance now receives the same detailed budget book as the Town Council.

On a motion made by Katrina Marin, seconded by Ellen Retelle, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance approves the Town to publicly publish employee compensation booklet, either in book format or online.

Mr. Harrison and Mrs. Marin voted in favor. Ms. Durdan and Ms. Retelle voted against. Mrs. Bratton and Mr. Birk abstained. Motion failed 2-2-2.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

21/22-07 Transfer of Appropriation: Fisher Meadows Field Expansion Project, \$217,836

On a motion made by Margaret Bratton, seconded by Ellen Retelle, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance hereby amends the FY 21/22 budget by transferring, from Capital Projects Fund (Facil & Equip), Town CIP-Facilities, Fisher Meadows Field Expansion, Account #02-4829-53407, to Capital Projects Fund (Facil & Equip), Other Financing Uses, Interfund Transfer-Out, Account #02-8700-58000, the amount of \$217,836 for the purpose of reimbursing the Open Space Fees Fund for funding used towards the Fisher Meadows Field Expansion Project in Fiscal Year 16/17.

Messrs: Harrison, Birk, and Mmes: Marin, Retelle, Durdan, and Bratton voted in favor.

21/22-08 Approve Board of Finance 2022 Meeting Schedule

Mrs. Bratton sought confirmation regarding the potential extra budget workshop date. Ms. Retelle confirmed that it was listed correctly on the schedule. In response to an inquiry from Mrs. Bratton, the Clerk responded that the end of the calendar year meeting dates were adjusted due to holidays and to avoid meeting dates being stacked.

On a motion made by Ellen Retelle, seconded by Margaret Bratton, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance hereby approves the Board of Finance 2022 Meeting Schedule as presented.

Messrs: Harrison, Birk, and Mmes: Marin, Retelle, Durdan, and Bratton voted in favor.

VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Monthly Financial Report Summary

Details were included in the packet report dated period ended 08/31/21 prepared and reported by Tom DiStasio. Mr. Harrison acknowledged the terrific work that Mr. DiStasio is doing. Ms. Retelle echoed those sentiments. Ms. Retelle thanked Mr. DiStasio for speaking to one of her relatives who is interested in going into finance. Mrs. Bratton noted that Mr. DiStasio explains things very clearly.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

In response to a question from Ms. Durdan, Mr. DiStasio responded that the next revaluation year is 2023.

IX. ADJOURN

On a motion made by Ellen Retelle, seconded by Katrina Marin, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Messrs: Harrison, Birk, and Mmes: Bratton, Marin, Retelle, and Durdan voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Durdan, Vice Chair/Secretary

Attest: Jennifer Worsman, Clerk

All referenced material is available to the public in the Town Manager's Office.