

Town of Colebrook Board of Finance

Minutes to Meeting of December 16, 2019

Members Present

J. Millar
R. Carfiro
T. Corvo
D. Johnstone
K. Kennedy
M. Neal

Absent

None

Others Present

None

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman, J. Millar.

1. The 2020 meeting calendar and an updated contact list were distributed. M. Neal moved to accept the meeting calendar as proposed. Second, K. Kennedy. Passed unanimously.
2. Discussed several issues that may affect the the current, 2019-20 budget. They are: Town Aid Road, budgeted at \$201,335, is currently stalled in Hartford, though receipt by yearend is likely; line items for Assessor's expense, Planning & Zoning, and the Recreation Board are over budget and may need supplemental appropriations at some point; and there is a risk that the Wind Colebrook South litigation, which should be resolved in 2-3 months, will result in lower tax receipts. No action is needed at present.
3. Several issues that may affect 2020-21 were also discussed. They include a likely increase in Colebrook's share of the Region 7 budget, the Board of Education's expectation that special education will increase by \$110,000, and a preliminary estimate that healthcare will increase 9.8%. In addition, the capital budget may need to address drainage issues and the location of the boilers at the school. Further detail should be available at the next meeting on February 6, 2020.
4. During their audit of the 2018-19 financials, King, King commented that the use of road maintenance funds to cover over-budget legal expenses (see minutes to September 18, 2019) may have been a violation of CGS 7-348. Inasmuch as the statute is unclear as to what is meant by a "department" and how towns should resolve an over-budget situation after the books close at yearend, the Board agreed that Colebrook should adopt policies to address these issues. J. Millar will draft recommendations in concert with the Selectmen and Treasurer and present them for discussion at a future meeting.
5. The Planning & Zoning Commission has engaged outside counsel to assist with an application for special exception from Norbrook Farm Brewery. This and the Wind Colebrook South lawsuit will cause legal expenses to significantly exceed

budget. Accordingly, D. Johnstone moved to approve a supplemental appropriation of \$20,000 for legal expenses in the Selectmen's 2019-20 budget. Second, T. Corvo. Passed with the exceptions of J. Millar and M. Neal who are members of Planning & Zoning and recused themselves.

6. D. Johnstone moved to accept the minutes of September 18, 2019. Second, K. Kennedy. Passed unanimously.

7. M. Neal moved to adjourn. Second, R. Corvo. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha F. Neal
Secretary