

**Town of Colebrook  
Board of Finance**

**Minutes to Meeting of February 5, 2020**

**Members Present**

J. Millar  
R. Carfiro  
D. Johnstone  
M. Neal

**Absent**

T. Corvo  
K. Kennedy

**Others Present**

C. Carfiro, CVFD  
B. Bartlett  
L. Bartlett  
T. Hiller

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

1. Discussed Public Act 19-36 that allows municipalities to increase the tax abatement available to volunteer firemen and first responders. Under current law, Colebrook provides an aggregate abatement of about \$20,000 a year. This will approximately double under the new act. M. Neal moved to recommend that the increased tax abatement be submitted to the town for approval as part of the referendum on May 5, 2020. Second, D. Johnstone. Passed unanimously, except for R. Carfiro who recused himself.
2. Several previously-identified risks to the 2020-21 budget may not materialize: the preliminary grand list is up 0.3% despite a lower MDC assessment; Colebrook's share of Region 7 will remain flat at 9.7% even though a large 6<sup>th</sup> grade class graduated last year; and state aid proposed in the Governor's budget is mostly unchanged from 2019-20.
3. Distributed the minutes to the Capital Committee meeting on January 2, 2020. They describe several major projects that may require may bonding if they move forward. The availability of STEAP grants will be an important factor. The projects include bridge repairs, the town garage, and relocation of the boilers at the Colebrook school.
4. The possibility of supplemental appropriations for legal fees to complete the WCS lawsuit and pay for a special education outplacement were noted, but no action is required at present. The combined amounts could be in the range of \$175,000, which would require approval by the town.
5. D. Johnstone moved to accept the minutes of December 19, 2019. Second, R. Carfiro. Passed unanimously.
6. M. Neal moved to adjourn. Second, J. Millar. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha F. Neal  
Secretary