

Town of Montville Finance Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes for

January 30, 2018

5:00 P.M.

Room 203

Councilor Pike called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. He also led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Councilors McNally and Jaskiewicz. Mayor McDaniel and Finance Director Hart were also present.

Remarks from the Public: None

Councilor McNally moved, second by Councilor Pike, to approve the minutes of the 11/29/17 meeting. Councilor McNally and Councilor Pike approved. Councilor Jaskiewicz abstained. Motion passed.

The committee discussed the Town's Fund Balance Policy. The current policy states the Town shall maintain a balance between 8% and 12% of Total General Fund expenditures. The current balance is 14.1 %, which is sufficient to cover 1.7 months of General Fund expenditures. Hart informed the committee that the GFOA recommends a balance of 16.6%, which covers 2 months of expenditures. Mayor McDaniel stated that, according to the policy, if the balance goes below the minimum level, the Town will need to replenish within 3 years. Councilor McNally moved, second by Councilor Jaskiewicz, to recommend the Town Council update the Fund Balance Policy to maintain a balance between 12% and 16%. Motion carried.

The committee discussed the National Joint Powers Alliance which is used for cooperative purchasing. Hart will see what other Towns are using this and report to the Town Council.

The committee reviewed the list of delinquent taxes. Councilor McNally suggested the Town use a Marshall to collect taxes and sell tax liens, similar to New London. Councilor Jaskiewicz stated that the Town does currently have a policy to collect taxes that are more than two years delinquent. Hart will check with other Towns to see if they have a policy on this.

The committee reviewed the list of unspent designated funds. Hart explained that most of the projects on the list will be completed this year. There a few projects that are already completed and any remaining money will go back to the General Fund. She stated that at year end she contacts department heads to see if projects are completed and if any money will be returned to the General Fund.

Councilor Jaskiewicz moved, second by Councilor McNally, to move the regular March meeting from March 27, 2018 to March 20, 2018. Motion carried. The meeting will be held in Room 203 at 5:00 PM.

The committee discussed having the four fire departments submit a detailed list of their expenditures. Former Fire Chief for the Oakdale Fire department, Gary Murphy, explained that the Oakdale Fire Department is audited annually. He said he believes that all the fire departments do this. The committee would like the Finance Director to send a letter to the four fire departments asking for a copy of the most recent audit and in the future forward a copy to the Town Clerk.

New Business: Councilor Pike informed the committee that he spoke to the Superintendent and Montville is 123 out of 405 Towns on the waiting list for grant funding for school buses.

Remarks from the Public: Gary Murphy feels the Town should look into privatizing the school buses. He stated there is a reason why the majority of the Towns in Connecticut have done this. He also said that there is misinformation spreading through the fire departments. He said if the Council has questions regarding the ambulance funds, they should ask the fire departments directly. The fire department uses the money generated from ambulance calls for their members, buildings and equipment. With these funds, the departments do not have to come to the Town for money.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM.

Theresa Hart, Director of Finance