

*Oneonta City School District
Finance/Audit Committee Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2021
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The meeting began at 3:30 PM via Zoom.

Members Present: Lisa Weeks, Business Manager; Tom Brindley, Superintendent; Bill Grau, Board of Education; Jamie Reynolds, Board of Education; Amy Burnsworth, Board of Education

Health Insurance Update-Our labor units have rejected a change in health insurance plans so we will not make the change for 2021-2022. However, we will continue to work on this for future budgets as there may be some misunderstandings regarding coverage. Perhaps the units also need more time to assess. This could have potentially netted the district millions of dollars. The district will request a side by side comparison of actual claims for a year to determine the difference in coverage. After we receive this information, we may want to consider combining new coverage with a health savings plan if the additional out of pockets for our members is minimal. As a result of our looking into another option, our own consortium has looked into the option of a Medigap plan. Their findings and determinations will be shared at a meeting on March 2, 2021. We are recommending keeping the retiree buyout option on the table at a one-time payment to be determined. Our 2021-22 individual premium cost is \$10,849. The committee will be updated regarding the determination on the Medigap coverage so that we can determine an amount to offer. To be clear, it would be either Medigap coverage OR a buyout option, not both.

Review of Financial Memorandum-We reviewed the items on the February 23, 2021 Financial Memorandum.

Internal Controls Audit will begin next week. This is a requirement (unfunded mandate) since we have an enrollment of over 1,500 students. We did not fulfill this requirement last year due to COVID. The cost is \$12,000.

All projects authorized in the repair reserve have been completed so the necessary adjustment will be made to reflect this. These projects included underground storage tank removal at HS, tank closure at CS, CS Parking lot work, CS roof repair, scoreboards, concession stand repairs and water treatment system for new boilers. We started with \$750,000 and previously adjusted by \$291,958. This adjustment of \$2,139 brings total used to \$294,097.

We may want to start looking at other repair reserve work.

The Smith Group is a cooperative purchasing network that we will use for our current small capital project which includes Bus Garage pavement and doors, Underground storage tank removals and doors at GP and VV and vestibule work at VV. Our purchasing policy already allows for cooperative purchasing. On the addendum is approval of the contract for this work.

Our project authorized \$681K. However, we are not doing the work at RS because they do not have room in their incidental building aid budget. We will need to revisit this when their incidental cost allowance resets.

The budget amendment for Frey is to purchase a control screen for the pool filtration system which is necessary for the proper functioning of that system.

Capital Project-To be approved on the Financial Memorandum. This work should be complete by the end of the summer. Work should begin over breaks with paving at the bus garage to take place in the summer of 2021.

Budget Development Status- We are plugging away at the 2021-22 budget. At this point, we are up about \$1.1M. Building requests are being researched. There are two staffing requests. With what is in so far, we are up \$1.1M or 2.72%. This creates a 3.9% tax increase or \$769K over the tax cap and uses \$1M in fund balance.

IT budget discussion will continue tomorrow. There are a lot of software and hardware costs to gather. We will also be discussing adding some type of summer school program.

Transportation CPI has not been released yet, but we don't expect it to be a lot.

As in all years, our final budget is highly dependent on the state aid that we can expect to receive.

Analysis of State Aid Proposal-Handouts were provided outlining the Governor's Proposal for aid to our district. It has become clearer why the Governor included the STAR payment this year. In the future, if that is cut, it impacts the district not the individual taxpayer with an exemption. This is very deceptive since the STAR exemption is a benefit to individual homeowners, not state aid to school districts. In tying it to state aid to districts, the cut would impact the district.

Once again, NYS is backfilling it's aid reduction with Federal funds. This is dangerous for out years when there is no Federal funding to fill this gap.

The CARES Act funding, which is backfilling the state aid reduction is NOT additional funding.

Like the last round of this funding, we will need to backfill the grant with what we have in our General Fund budget, not purchase additional items or services.

Other Discussion:

Our Internal Controls Auditor will begin interviews next week. We have already begun to send the information that they have requested. Board members may be contacted by Gloria from Cwynar & Company for an interview of Internal Controls and Procedures.

We have received the data and information request for our Independent Financial Audit so we will begin working on that audit as well.

Our meeting ended at 4:11pm.

Next meeting: March 23, 2021, 3:30pm

Location: TBD (DL Room or Zoom)

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa J. Weeks

Business Manager