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Marc J. Garofalo
MARC J. GAROFALO, MPA

City of Derby

BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT AND TAXATION

TAX BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY JANUARY 24, 2023

6:00 PM

ZOOM MEETING

Michael Alberta
Jim Blaskiewicz
Christopher Carloni
Jennifer Desroches
Michael Gray

Kristen Mancini-Wright
Holly Oraziatti
Bhamini Patel
Rose Pertoso
Roberto Santos

1. Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Dzieken, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present: Mr. Alberba, Mr. Blaskiewicz, Mr. Carloni, Ms. Desroches, Mr. Gray, Ms. Mancini-Wright, Ms. Oraziatti and Mr. Santos, Chairman.

Absent: Ms. Patel and Ms. Pertoso (Excused)

4. Additions, Deletions, Corrections and Adoption of the Agenda

Ms. Santos asked that the date on the agenda that was sent out be corrected to January 24, 2023 instead of 2022. He also said that the scheduled agenda for the budget presentations was not a good schedule. Mr. Mayhew said that this was a copy of the schedule from last year but could be changed to whatever the board wants to do. We would like to have the budgets as sent to the Finance Office, so we could look at them and go over what will be presented. Will there be copies sent to us, and Mr. Mayhew said that Mr. Santos asked all the department heads to send you copies so we will have the information. Mr. Santos asked if we are going to be able to see what the Deputy Finance Director has done with the budgets received by her. Mr. Mayhew said they would not get any other input until the mayor's budget is presented on March 7th. Mr. Santos asked if he could meet with the mayor and Mr. Mayhew to go over the budget before the BOAT starts to look and deliberate with the various departments.

Mr. Santos also asked about the VEMS dollar amount as it reads \$30,500 on the agenda, and Mr. Mayhew said it was a typo, the correct amount should be \$30,000. A motion to accept the agenda with corrections was made by Mr. Blaskiewicz and seconded by Mr. Alberta. Motion Carried.

5. Public Portion

Dr. Matthew Conway, Superintendent of Schools, asked if he could speak on the deficit in the school budget for the year. He said in the Special Education portion, there is an expected deficit of \$966,000 in the Special Education costs. These costs go up and down throughout the year. The excess costs are covered by a grant from the state, the first payment coming in February and the second coming in May.

\$659,710 is the estimate scheduled, however we should know the correct amount by May or June, with the best estimate being \$659,000. In 19/20, \$235,000 was set aside based upon this committee to create the non-lapsing account. In 23/24 many things have changed. Other portion of the city audit, the surplus was \$366,000 which is 2% which could be added to the non-lapse account, \$306,000 could be used to off set the deficit which would lower the amount to \$153,855. The non-lapsing account was increased by the state from 1% to 2%. In 20/21, the city auditor said that \$306,000 was the amount to be moved to the non-lapse account. In the capital budget, which would include HVAC, we may be able to secure funds from the State for 74% with the city to come up with the balance. The mayor asked if Johnson Controls was working on this, and Dr. Conway said they would be submitting the request on 1/26/23, with the final submission to be done in April. Mr. Blaskiewicz asked if Dr. Conway had sent all this information to the Finance Department, and Dr. Conway said this information came from the auditors. He went on to say in the BOE budget this number is hard to predict the Special Education portion as students are moving in and out. Mr. Blaskiewicz added, should this be done by the end of year. Mr.

Carlioni asked is this to the end of this year only. Dr. Conway said the BOE budget will be presented by 2/1/23, however the number would change by \$114,000 with the one family they know of moving out, but, that number could change the next day. Mr. Blaskiewicz asked if everything has been sent to the Finance Director and Dr. Conway said his budget manager has regular meetings with the Deputy Finance Director, and they speak a couple of times a week. Mr. Santos said this is based on children year over year, coming in and out of the program. The mayor thanked Dr. Conway for his presentation.

Eugene Driscoll, 246 Hawthorne Avenue, Valley Independent Sentinel, said he was following along as a member of the public, this was not on the agenda, and had no documentation and it was very hard to follow what Dr. Conway was saying. Mr. Garofalo asked if Dr. Conway could please send a copy of the presentation so it could be put on file, and Dr. Conway agreed to send it to Mr. Driscoll also.

6. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

7.1 New Business

7.1 Approval of Minutes -Regular Meeting 11-22-2022

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Mr. Alberta and seconded by Mr. Blaskiewicz. Motion Carried.

7.2 VEMS Settlement Final Payment

7.2.1 Transfer from Account (8400-390-0390-0000) Working Balance \$30,000.00
Transfer to Account (8400-390-0392-0000) VEMS Settlement \$30,000.00

A motion to accept was made by Mr. Blaskiewicz and seconded by Mr. Alberta. Mr. Carlioni asked for an explanation. Mr. Mayhew said that there was a judgement against the city, and this was the final payment. The Motion Carried.

7.3 Budget Meetings Preliminary Schedule

Mr. Santos asked that this be tabled at the next meeting of the BOAT on February 3, 2023, so that he could request information from all the department heads. Mr. Santos also wanted to meet with the mayor and Mr. Mayhew. Mr. Santos added that with the COVID numbers rising again, he thought it would be best to meet via Zoon. Mr. Mayhew said that the motion should be postponed, not tabled. A motion to postpone was made by Mr. Santos and seconded by Ms. Desroches. Mr. Garofalo interjected, that there is no monthly schedule of meetings, and this board must

adopt a schedule. A motion was made by Ms. Desroches and seconded by Mr. Carloni for BOAT to meet every 4th Tuesday, beginning in February at 6:00PM. Motion Carried.

8.0 Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Blaskiewicz and seconded by Ms. Desroches. The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Pitney

*****These minutes are subject to the approval of the Board of Apportionment & Taxation at their next regular meeting.**

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