

**TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE, MA.  
50 MAIN STREET  
JOINT SELECT BOARD AND FINANCE COMMITTEE  
IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024 AT 6 PM**

- 1. FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR BIKOFSKY CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6 PM.**
- 2. MEETING ATTENDEES: SELECT BOARD: CHUCK CARDILLO, JAMIE MINACCI AND PATRICK WHITE**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE: JAY BIKOFSKY, JIM BALFANZ, PAM BOUDREAU, ED LANE. JORJA MARSDEN, DIANE REUSS, STEVE, SHATZ AND WILLIAM VOGT**

**TOWN EMPLOYEES: MICHAEL CANALES, DARRELL FENNELLY, VINCENT GARAFOLI AND HUGH PAGE**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE CAROL OWENS, REMOTELY**

- 3. POLICE CHIEF FENNELLY WAS CALLED UPON TO PRESENT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S FY 25 CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS:**
  - HE INDICATED THAT THIS YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT BE REQUESTING A POLICE CRUISER REPLACEMENT.**
  - CHIEF THEN ADVISED THE JOINT COMMITTEE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS REQUESTING REPLACEMENT AND UPGRADE OF FOURTEEN (14) PORTABLE RADIOS AND FOUR (4) VEHICLE MOUNTED REPEATERS, CURRENTLY OVER TEN (10) YEARS OLD, AT A COST OF \$53,363.42. HE ADDED THAT THE STATE WOULD BE MANDATING THE RADIO REPLACEMENT WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS REQUESTED RADIO REPLACEMENT WOULD NOT SATISFY THE FUTURE STATE MANDATED RADIO UPGRADE REQUIREMENTS BUT RATHER REPLACE THE EXISTING EQUIPMENT CURRENTLY IN USE.**

**PATRICK WHITE INQUIRED IF THE EXISTING REPEATERS COULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE UPGRADED RADIOS. THE CHIEF RESPONDED THAT HE BELIEVED THEY COULD BE.**

**FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE, CHIEF FENNELLY INDICATED THAT HE WOULD GET ADDITIONAL QUOTES FOR THE NEWLY PROPOSED FUTURE STATE MANDATED EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS TO ALLOW A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE TWO SYSTEMS FOR REVIEW BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE.**

**CHIEF FENNELLY CONTINUED WITH A SECOND DEPARTMENTAL CAPITAL REQUEST, NAMELY FUNDING THE CO-RESPONDER SYSTEM WITH THE LEE AND LENOX POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND TRI-TOWN HEALTH. CURRENTLY THIS SYSTEM IS FUNDED BY AN ARPA GRANT, \$42,500.00, (THE STOCKBRIDGE CONTRIBUTION) UNTIL MAY 1, 2024. HE INFORMED THE COMMITTEE THAT THIS REQUEST WAS FOR CONTINUED TOWN FUNDING OF THE SYSTEM FOR ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR TO SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE EMERGENCY CALLS FOR THE THREE PARTICIPATING TOWNS.**

**4. FIRE CHIEF GARAFOLI WAS CALLED UPON TO PRESENT HIS DEPARTMENT'S FY 25 CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS:**

- CHIEF REQUESTED A REPLACEMENT OF TWELVE (12) SCBA (SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS) BOTTLES EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 2024 AT A COST OF \$13,000.00.**
- THE SECOND FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST WAS REPLACEMENT OF FIRE FIGHTING HOSE NOZZLES 20 YEARS OLD WITH NEW REPLACEMENTS COSTING \$25,000.00. THE REPLACEMENTS, CHIEF MENTIONED, WILL GENERALLY LAST FOR 10 YEARS. THE JOINT COMMITTEE SUGGESTED THAT THIS REQUEST BE DEFERRED FOR ONE YEAR TO FY 26.**
- CHIEF GARAFOLI'S FINAL REQUEST WAS REPLACEMENT OF AT LEAST TWO (2) BATTERY OPERATED POSITIVE PRESSURE FANS AT A COST OF \$3,800.00. EACH.**

**5. HUGH PAGE, HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR, PRESENTED HIS DEPARTMENT'S CAPITAL REQUESTS FOR FY 25:**

- HIGHWAY REQUESTED A JOHN DEERE 3046 TO REPLACE EXISTING EQUIPMENT AT A COST OF \$65,000.00. THIS EQUIPMENT WILL ALSO BE USED FOR SIDEWALK REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE.**
- THE NEXT HIGHWAY REQUEST WAS REPLACEMENT OF A LARGE INTERNATIONAL TRUCK AT A COST OF \$270,000.00 USED FOR SNOW PLOWING.**
- THE FINAL DEPARTMENT REQUEST WAS STRUCTURAL REPAINTING OF THE COMPACTOR AT \$25,000.00.**

**PAGE 3 JOINT SELECT BOARD-FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 27, 2024  
CON'T.**

**WITH RESPECT TO THE CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS PRESENTED BY POLICE, FIRE AND HIGHWAY, MICHAEL CANALES INFORMED THE JOINT COMMITTEE THAT THEY WOULD BE FUNDED WITH FREE CASH IF APPROVED.**

- 6. OPEB (OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS): THE MATTER OF USING OPEB FUNDS TO SUPPORT MEDICARE AND MEDICAID PAYMENTS WAS RAISED BY PATRICK WHITE. STEVE SHATZ AND MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE EXPRESSED CONCERN REGARDING SUCH A PROPOSAL AS THE TRUST WILL NOT BE FULLY FUNDED UNTIL 2030. IN ADDITION, THE TOWN'S ACTUARIES, ODYSSEY ADVISORS, HAVE NOT BEEN CONSULTED AS TO THIS PROPOSAL AND IT'S POTENTIAL IMPACT ON INCREASED INSURANCE COSTS AND DISCOUNT RATES ALL OF WHICH COULD IMPACT THE FUND'S BALANCE. IT WAS THE GENERAL CONSENSUS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE THAT AN ANALYSIS BE PREPARED BY ODYSSEY FOR FUTURE REVIEW BY THE SELECT BOARD, FINANCE COMMITTEE, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND ADELSON AND CO. THE TOWN'S AUDITORS BEFORE ANY ACTION IS CONTEMPLATED. CHUCK CARDILLO AGREED AND DIRECTED THAT THE MATTER BE CLOSED AT THIS POINT IN TIME.**
- 7. THERE BEING NO FUTURE BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:21 PM.**