

**TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE, MA.
50 MAIN STREET
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020 AT 6:30 PM**

1. **CHAIRMAN BIKOFSKY CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM.**
2. **COMMITTEE ATTENDEES: JAY BIKOFSKY, JIM BALFANZ, DIANE REUSS, STEVE SHATZ AND BILL VOGT**

TOWN ATTENDEE: MARK WEBBER

3. **THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2019 WERE APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE 5-0.**

THESE MINUTES, UPON THE SELECT BOARD CHAIRMAN, TERRY FLYNN, AND COMMITTEE'S DIRECTION, WERE TO BE CIRCULATED TO BHRSD SUPERINTENDENT PETER DILLON FOR HIS COMMENTS AS THE MEETING DEALT WITH A RESPONSE TO THE BHRSD'S NEXT STEPS COMMITTEE PRESENTATION REGARDING THE RENOVATION OR REBUILDING OF A NEW MONUMENT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL.

4. **THE COMMITTEE WAS ADVISED OF A SCHEDULED PRESENTATION OF THE TOWN'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT ENDING JUNE 30, 2019 BY ADELSON & CO. P.C. TO THE SELECT BOARD AND FINANCE COMMITTEE ON THURSDAY JANUARY 23, 2020 AT 4 PM.**
5. **CHAIRMAN BIKOFSKY NOTED THAT THE SIGNED CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENTS WERE RECEIVED BY THE TOWN CLERK FROM ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS.**
6. **FINANCE COMMITTEE FY 2020 BUDGET REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL:**
 - * FINANCE COMMITTEE-131 MEETING, DUES AND SUBSCRIPTION EXPENSES OF \$2,150.00 WERE APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE 5-0.**
 - * RESERVE FUND-132 OF \$150,000.00 WAS APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE 5-0.**
 - * TRANSFER TO OPEB TRUST FUND-995 OF \$345,000.00 WAS APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE 5-0 WITH THE SUGGESTION THAT AN ACTUARIAL ANALYSIS BE CONDUCTED TO VALIDATE THE FUNDING LEVELS, SCHEDULED EVERY 3 YEARS.**
 - * TRANSFER TO STABILIZATION-998 OF \$250,000.00 WAS APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE 5-0.**

7, EXECUTIVE SESSION:

* CHAIRMAN BIKOFSKY CALLED FOR A MOTION AND VOTE TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION PER M.G.L. CH. 30A. SECT. 21 (a)(3) TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE STRATEGY AS RESPECTS THE REST OF THE RIVER ACTIVITIES AND VOTE ON A RESERVE FUND TRANSFER. THE MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED AND A VOTE OF 5-0 CALLED FOR OPENING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

* AFTER ADDRESSING THIS MATTER IN EXECUTIVE SESSION, A MOTION WAS CALLED AND SECONDED AND A VOTE OF 5-0 TAKEN TO RESUME WITH THE OPEN MEETING.

8. DISCUSSION AND UPDATE OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE 2020 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

* STOCKBRIDGE REVITALIZATION: THE FINANCE COMMITTEE REITERATED A NEED FOR A DETAILED REVIEW OF THE TOWN'S GENERAL BY-LAWS IN THEIR ENTIRETY.

STEP 1: AS A STEP TO REVIEWING THE ZONING AND COTTAGE ERA BY-LAWS, THE PLANNING BOARD IS WORKING ON A GRANT FOR THE SERVICES OF A PART TIME PLANNER TO SECURE FUNDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF "ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS" AS WELL AS DETERMINE IF ADDITIONAL STATE SUPPORT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FOR OTHER ZONING AND COTTAGE ERA BY-LAW ELEMENTS.

STEP 2: COMPLETION OF STEP 1 WOULD THEN SUGGEST THE PLANNING BOARD ADDRESS A RE-EVALUATION OF THE TOWN'S MASTER PLAN BY AN EXPERIENCED PLANNER.

THE STATUS OF JOEL RUSSELL'S EFFORTS ON REVISIONS TO THE COTTAGE ERA AND OPEN SPACE BYLAWS WERE RAISED AND MARK WEBBER NOTED THAT HIS WORK WAS IN THE PROCESS OF COMPLETION TO ULTIMATELY BE REVIEWED BY THE PROPOSED GRANT FUNDED PART TIME PLANNER, NOTED ABOVE.

* COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE: THE MATTER OF ANNUAL AUDITING OF APPROVED PROJECTS, EXPENDITURES TO DATE AND UNSPENT CPC FUNDS WAS AGAIN RAISED BY THE COMMITTEE WITH MARK WEBBER INDICATING THAT HE WOULD CHECK THE SITUATION WITH THE AUDITORS. IT WAS NOTED THAT PROPOSED FUNDING FOR REPAIR OF THE DOG AND CAT FOUNTAIN AS WELL AS THE SOLDIERS MONUMENT WERE UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE CPC.

* HISTORIC PRESERVATION - CURTISVILLE BRIDGE: MARK WEBBER MENTIONED THAT BIDS WERE REQUIRED FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE WING WALLS AND

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ONCE RECEIVED, FUNDING BY THE CPC OR SPECIAL ARTICLE WOULD BE CONSIDERED.

- * AFFORDABLE HOUSING: IT WAS MENTIONED THAT AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING RECOMMENDATION WAS BEING DRAFTED BY JIM Balfanz AND STEVE SHATZ FOR PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SUBSEQUENTLY BY THE SELECT BOARD. IT WAS ALSO MENTIONED THAT AN "ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS" ACTION REPRESENTS A FIRST STEP.
- * BUDGET PROCESS: MARK WEBBER MENTIONED THAT DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS WERE DUE JANUARY 10TH AND THOSE WITH INCREASES WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON AN INDIVIDUALIZED BASIS. THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT SPECIAL ATTENTION BE PAID TO THE LITIGATION BUDGET AS WELL ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECT FUNDING REQUIRING BIDS PRIOR TO AN APPROVAL TO COMMENCE WORK.
- * TOWN OFFICE SECURITY SYSTEM: IT WAS MENTIONED THAT EFFORTS IN THIS AREA ARE UNDER WAY WITH A CHANGING OF LOCKS AND INSTALLATION OF SILENT DESK ALARMS.
- * STOCKBRIDGE BOWL: THE ISSUE OF ALGAE REMEDIATION WAS IN THE HANDS OF THE TOWN FOR RESOLUTION.
- * TOWN GARAGE: MARK MENTIONED TO THE COMMITTEE THAT THE STEEL FRAME WAS BEING ERECTED WITH THIS PORTION OF THE PROJECT SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BY THE END OF JANUARY.
- * LARRYWAUG BRIDGE REPAIR: MARK MENTIONED THAT BID PROPOSALS FOR THIS PROJECT WERE DUE BY JANUARY 31, 2020.
- * TOWN TRUST FUNDS: MARK INDICATED THAT HE WOULD OBTAIN THE LIST OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WHO COULD THEN REQUEST AN APPOINTMENT FROM THE SELECT BOARD.
- * FUND BALANCES: CURRENT BALANCES OF THE RESERVE FUND, STABILIZATION FUND AND DEDICATED TRUST FUNDS WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE AS PART OF THE BUDGET PROCESS.
- * SOLAR CELL TOWER INCOME: THE COMMITTEE WAS ADVISED THAT A PROJECTION OF INCOME WOULD BE PART OF THE FY 2020 BUDGET PROCESS.
- * DOWNTOWN TRAFFIC STUDY: THE COMMITTEE WAS INFORMED THAT A STUDY OF MITIGATION STEPS WAS BEING PREPARED FOR DISTRIBUTION.
- * WATER AND SEWER EXTENSIONS: MARK INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH THE COMMISSIONERS ON A GRANT TO EXTEND THESE SERVICES TO AND FROM STOCKBRIDGE BOWL.

* TOWN ADMINISTRATOR RECRUITMENT: MARK REMINDED THE COMMITTEE THAT THE SEARCH COMMITTEE WAS SELECTED AND THE PROCESS WOULD SOON BEGIN FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF AS PERMANENT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

* SELECT BOARD-FINANCE COMMITTEE JOINT MEETING: IT WAS THE GENERAL CONSENSUS OF THE COMMITTEE THAT SUCH A MEETING BE SCHEDULED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FY 2020 BUDGET PREPARATIONS.

9. THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8PM.