

**TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE, MA.
50 MAIN STREET
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY MARCH 5, 2020 AT 6 PM**

1. CHAIR BIKOFSKY CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6 PM.
2. COMMITTEE ATTENDEES: JAY BIKOFSKY, NEIL HOLDEN, DIANE REUSS, STEPHEN SHATZ , AND WILLIAM VOGT. DUE TO A CONFLICT, JIM BALFANZ ARRIVED AT 6:15 PM.

TOWN ATTENDEE: MARK WEBBER

3. THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2020 WERE APPROVED BY ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT (5-0). JIM BALFANZ HAD NOT AS YET ARRIVED TO VOTE.

4. OPERATING BUDGET FY 2021:

CHAIR BIKOFSKY ADVISED THE COMMITTEE THAT TRI-TOWN HEALTH WAS EXPLORING VNA (VISITING NURSE) OPTIONS AS THE LEE BRANCH OF VNA PORCHLIGHT, THAT PROVIDES SERVICES TO STOCKBRIDGE, WOULD BE CLOSING. HE SUGGESTED THAT AN ADDITIONAL \$7,000 MIGHT BE REQUIRED IN THE FY21 BUDGET.

MARK WEBBER INDICATED HE WOULD REVIEW THE MATTER AND REPORT BACK TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WITH A RECOMMENDATION.

5. RESERVE FUND TRANSFER:

MARK WEBBER ADVISED THE COMMITTEE THAT THE SELECT BOARD HAD APPROVED A RESERVE FUND TRANSFER OF \$20,000 FOR EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT. HE ASKED THAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ALSO APPROVE THIS NECESSARY REQUEST.

STEVE SHATZ MOVED, DIANE REUSS SECONDED AND THE COMMITTEE VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE. JIM BALFANZ HAD JUST ARRIVED AFTER THE VOTE WAS TAKEN.

6. LARRYWAUG BRIDGE PROPOSAL:

MARK WEBBER ADVISED THE COMMITTEE THAT BIDS HAD BEEN RECEIVED FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE ROUTE 183 LARRYWAUG BRIDGE . HE MENTIONED THERE WERE TWO (2) BIDDERS, ROACH AND MAXYMILLIAN WITH ROACH SUBMITTING THE LOWEST AT \$2.520 MILLION. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY PROVIDE THE COMMITTEE WITH THE PROJECT DETAILS INCLUDING THE START AND FINISH DATES. THE COMMITTEE RAISED CONCERN AS RESPECTS ROACH'S EXPERIENCE. MARK WEBBER INDICATED HE WOULD CANVASS OTHER TOWNS ON THIS MATTER AND REPORT BACK TO COMMITTEE.

7. PROPOSED FY 2021 ARTICLES:

MARK WEBBER REVIEWED THE PROPOSED ARTICLES FOR PRESENTATION TO THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE SELECT BOARD.

* CHIME TOWER RENOVATION: THE PROJECT PROPOSES TO APPROPRIATE \$ 228,000. FROM FREE CASH. THIS ESTIMATE IS CONSIDERED LOW AND WILL BE SUBJECT TO BID.

NO FINANCE COMMITTEE ACTION WAS TAKEN.

* SOLDIER'S MONUMENT REPAIR: THIS PROJECT PROPOSES TO APPROPRIATE \$196,000. FROM FREE CASH. THE ESTIMATE REFERENCED IS SUBJECT TO BID AS WELL AS TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION TRAFFIC ROUTE ALTERNATIVES.

NO FINANCE COMMITTEE ACTION WAS TAKEN.

* HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT ONE TON TRUCK WITH PLOW EQUIPMENT: THIS REQUEST IS FOR \$145,000. FROM FREE CASH AND REPRESENTS AN EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT.

NO FINANCE COMMITTEE ACTION WAS TAKEN.

* PART-TIME PLANNER: THIS REQUEST FROM THE PLANNING BOARD TO THE SELECT BOARD REPRESENTS A \$25,000. APPROPRIATION FROM FREE CASH AND SUGGESTS THIS REQUEST INVOLVED INPUT FROM THE BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION.

NO FINANCE COMMITTEE ACTION WAS TAKEN.

* CURTISVILLE BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION: THIS PROPOSED RECONSTRUCTION SUGGESTS THAT A BOND BE SECURED FOR \$1,830,000. DETAILS OF THIS PROJECT ARE ALSO NECESSARY TO SECURE COMPETITIVE BIDS. THE COMMITTEE INQUIRED ABOUT PARTIAL CPC FUND SUPPORT. MARK SUGGESTED THAT RAY MIYARES EXPLORE THE MATTER OF THE USE OF UNCOMMITTED CPC FUNDS.

NO FINANCE COMMITTEE ACTION WAS TAKEN.

* CYANOBACTERIA TESTING: THIS PROPOSAL PROVIDES \$53,000 FROM FREE CASH TO TRAIN WATER AND SEWER STAFF TO PROVIDE THIS FUNCTION.

NO FINANCE COMMITTEE ACTION WAS TAKEN.

* HUMAN RESOURCE SHARED POSITION: A SHARED POSITION WITH EGREMONT, GREAT BARRINGTON, OTIS AND SHEFFIELD IS PROPOSED FOR THIS FUNCTION. \$10,000 WOULD BE APPROPRIATED FROM FREE CASH.

NO FINANCE COMMITTEE ACTION WAS TAKEN.

PAGE 3 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 5, 2020 CON'T.

*** RENOVATION OF A CEMETERY STORAGE BUILDING: THIS PROJECT PROPOSES A RENOVATION OF THIS FACILITY UTILIZING \$78,500 FROM THE CEMETERY TRUST FUND. THE CEMETERY COMMISSION WOULD HAVE TO REVIEW AND RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THIS PROJECT.
NO FINANCE COMMITTEE ACTION WAS TAKEN.**

*** COA VAN: REPLACEMENT OF AN UNDERUTILIZED COUNCIL ON THE AGING VAN WITHOUT HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY IS PROPOSED, FUNDED WITH \$ 30,000 FROM FREE CASH. THE EXISTING VEHICLE WOULD BE TRADED-IN WITH A VALUE TO BE DETERMINED.
NO FINANCE COMMITTEE ACTION WAS TAKEN.**

*** INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR STABILIZATION FUND: ESTABLISHED IN THIS PAST FISCAL YEAR, A CONTINUATION OF FUNDING \$250,000 FROM FREE CASH WAS PROPOSED FOR THIS PURPOSE.
NO FINANCE COMMITTEE ACTION WAS TAKEN.**

*** OTHER ARTICLES TO BE CONSIDERED INCLUDE REST OF THE RIVER FUNDING, COMMUNITY PRESERVATION AND CPC, THE PILOT PROGRAM AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY HOUSING TRUST.**

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

THE COMMITTEE RAISED THE PROSPECTS OF REVIEWING THE TOWN'S CURRENT BOND INDEBTEDNESS AS RESPECTS REFINANCING.

9. THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:05 PM.