

**TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE, MA.
50 MAIN STREET
FINANCE COMMITTEE CTSB REMOTE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2020 AT 3:30 PM**

1. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIR BIKOFSKY AT 3:30 PM NOTING THAT THE ZOOM AGENDA WAS POSTED ON THE TOWN'S WEB-SITE AS WELL AS BEING CIRCULATED TO THE SELECT BOARD AND TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, MARK WEBBER.
2. COMMITTEE ATTENDEES: JAY BIKOFSKY, JIM BALFANZ, NEIL HOLDEN, DIANE REUSS, STEPHEN SHATZ AND WILLIAM VOGT

TOWN GOVERNMENT ATTENDEES: ROXANNE MCCAFFREY, PATRICK WHITE AND MARK WEBBER

OTHER ATTENDEES: STEVE BORNS (CTSB), CLARENCE FANTO (EAGLE), BETH CARLSON, KATE FLETCHER AND CHRISTINE RASMUSSEN

3. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:

CHAIR BIKOFSKY WELCOMED THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AS WELL AS ALL OTHERS TO THE MEETING AND THANKED STEVE BORNS OF CTSB FOR HIS TECHNICAL INVOLVEMENT.

HE EXTENDED CONGRATULATIONS TO CHUCK CARDILLO ON HIS ELECTION TO SELECT BOARD CHAIR, PATRICK WHITE ON HIS ELECTION TO THE SELECT BOARD AND BILL VOGT ON HIS ELECTION TO PLANNING BOARD CHAIR.

CHAIR BIKOFSKY ENCOURAGED INPUT FROM ALL NON COMMITTEE MEMBERS EITHER BY ASKING QUESTIONS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING OR E-MAILING HIM DIRECTLY.

4. THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 7, 2020 WERE PRESENTED AND A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT BY STEVE SHATZ AND SECONDED BY BILL VOGT. A COMMITTEE VOTE WAS CALLED AND THE MINUTES WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED (6-0).
5. FY 21 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL:

THE FY 21 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET, APPROVED BY THE SELECT BOARD AT IT'S MAY 21, 2020 MEETING, WAS PRESENTED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR A RECOMMENDATION AND FUTURE PRESENTATION AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING. THE COMMITTEE REVIEWED THE DOCUMENT AND NOTED THAT IT REPRESENTED A 2% REDUCTION OVER FY 20. SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS INCLUDED NOT FUNDING \$345,000 FOR OPEB AS WELL AS A \$56,000 REDUCTION IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EXPENSES. IT WAS FURTHER NOTED THAT A 2% COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR TOWN EMPLOYEES WAS INCLUDED TO BE COMPARABLE WITH THE TOWN'S LABOR CONTRACTS.

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STEVE SHATZ AND JIM Balfanz asked for a discussion of the legal fees associated with the Stockbridge Bowl Association (SBA) to date and those projected. Mark Webber indicated that he would provide this information to the committee following the meeting.

A motion was made by Steve Shatz, seconded by Neil Holden, and following committee discussion, to recommend the FY 21 operating budget excluding the legal fees associated with SBA matters. A committee vote was called and this recommendation excluding the referenced SBA legal fees was unanimously approved 6-0.

6. PROPOSED WARRANT ARTICLES, REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL:

A. CPA PROPOSED ARTICLE(S):

The finance committee was circulated the list of the CPA articles, reviewed by counsel and unanimously approved by the CPC, in advance of this meeting.

Chair Bikofsky reviewed them with the committee:

- * EATON COURT HOUSING ROOF PROJECTS-\$69,640
- * CHESTERWOOD CHIMNEY REPLACEMENT-\$20,000
- * ROCKWELL DIGITIZED WEB-SITE AND LIBRARY-\$20,000
- * CIVIL WAR MONUMENT REPAIR/RESTORATION-\$50,000 WITH FUNDS TO BE PLACED IN AN ESCROW ACCOUNT UNTIL A FINAL PLAN WAS DEVELOPED, PRESENTED AND APPROVED
- * STOCKBRIDGE MUNSEE OX ROAST SITE INVESTIGATION-\$40,000
- * NAUMKEAG NORTH PORCH RESTORATION-\$9,500
- * BULLARD WOODS DRIVEWAY PAVING-\$10,835
- * GOULD MEADOWS FOOTBRIDGE CONSTRUCTION-\$18,850
- * CPC ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET-\$10,000
- * RESERVE HISTORIC RESOURCES, RESERVE AFFORDABLE HOUSING RESOURCES AND RESERVE OPEN SPACE RESERVE-\$0

After discussion of the aforementioned, Steve Shatz made a motion seconded by Jay Bikofsky to recommend approval of these requests. A committee vote was called with Bikofsky, Reuss, Shatz and Vogt in favor and Balfanz and Holden against (4-2).

B. AVERIC BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION PROPOSED ARTICLE:

Mark Webber advised the committee that an article was proposed to transfer \$150,000 from free cash to supplement previously awarded grant monies for the construction of the Averic Road Bridge.

THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED THE PROJECT, INCLUDING THAT THESE FUNDS WOULD SUPPLEMENT THE \$125,000 UNSPENT BRIDGE BOND MONIES. ALSO, IT WAS NOTED THAT THIS PROJECT WOULD COMMENCE THIS SUMMER. JIM BALFANZ MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY NEIL HOLDEN TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THIS REQUEST. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED UNANIMOUSLY (6-0) IN FAVOR.

C. COVID-19 AND INFRASTRUCTURE STABILIZATION FUND (S)

MARK WEBBER THEN ADVISED THE COMMITTEE THAT A STABILIZATION FUND (S) WAS PROPOSED TO DEAL WITH UNANTICIPATED EXPENSES RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, \$750,000 AND UNANTICIPATED INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS \$250,000 WITH FUNDS TO BE ALLOCATED FROM FREE CASH.

FOLLOWING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION, JIM BALFANZ MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY STEVE SHATZ TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THIS REQUEST. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND THE FINANCE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY VOTED IN FAVOR (6-0).

D. CURTISVILLE BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION:

MARK CALLED TO THE COMMITTEE'S ATTENTION THAT AN ARTICLE DEALING WITH THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CURTISVILLE BRIDGE WAS BEING CONSIDERED BY THE SELECT BOARD FOR PRESENTATION AT THE UPCOMING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING. THE COMMITTEE RAISED THE NEED TO CONSIDER A SECOND ENGINEERING PLAN AND COST ASSESSMENT TO VALIDATE THE ORIGINAL FORESIGHT STUDY. IN ADDITION, DETAILS OF THE STATUS OF THE MA. HISTORICAL COMMISSION, THE USE OF CPC FUNDS, ALLOCATION OF FREE CASH, BONDING AMOUNTS AND DURATION AS WELL AS THE USE OF WATER AND SEWER SURPLUS MONIES WOULD NEED TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE DECISION IF AND WHEN TO PROCEED AND COSTS TO BE BORNE BY THE TOWN.

NO FURTHER ACTION WAS TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE AT THIS POINT.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. LARRYWAUG BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT STATUS:

MARK ADVISED THE COMMITTEE THAT THIS PROJECT WAS TO COMMENCE MID-JULY 2020 AND EXTEND TO MID-MAY 2021 PENDING A REVIEW OF THE SUPER STRUCTURE BY ROCHE THE LOW BIDDER AWARDED THE PROJECT. MARK FURTHER ADDED THAT THE BONDING FOR THIS PROJECT INCLUDED \$200,000 FOR THE RESTORATION OF NORTH CHURCH STREET AND LARRYWAUG CROSSROAD, DETOUR ROUTES TO BE EFFECTED DURING THE CONSTRUCTION.

B. TOWN GARAGE PROJECT STATUS:

THE COMMITTEE ASKED FOR AN UPDATE ON THE TOWN GARAGE PROJECT. MARK MENTIONED THAT THE GARAGE COULD NOT PRESENTLY BE UTILIZED DUE TO CONTRACTOR WORKMANSHIP FLAWS IN THE CONCRETE FLOORING, SIDING AND ROOF. HE ADDED THAT NO FURTHER PAYMENTS WOULD BE MADE AS THE CONTRACTOR HAS AGREED TO REMEDY THE DEFECTS WITHIN THE ORIGINAL PROJECT CONTRACT PROPOSAL. JIM BALFANZ ASKED FOR A TIMELINE FOR THE REPAIRS, NOT PRESENTLY AVAILABLE ACCORDING TO MARK WEBBER.

C. RECREATION DEPARTMENT RESERVE FUND TRANSFER REQUEST:

MARK PRESENTED THE COMMITTEE WITH A \$4,000 RESERVE FUND TRANSFER REQUEST FOR THE TOWN BEACH AND ASSOCIATED PARKING LOT STAFF MONITORING AS A RESULT OF COVID-19.

JIM BALFANZ MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE SECONDED BY NEIL HOLDEN SUBJECT TO SELECT BOARD APPROVAL. THE FINANCE COMMITTEE THEN UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE (6-0) BASED UPON SELECT BOARD APPROVAL.

D. JOEL RUSSELL ZONING BY-LAWS ADDITIONAL CONSULTING FEES:

MARK WEBBER PRESENTED A REQUEST FOR A \$15,000 RESERVE FUND TRANSFER FOR ADDITIONAL CONSULTING WORK BY JOEL RUSSELL ON THE TOWN'S ZONING BY-LAWS. BILL VOGT, NEWLY ELECTED PLANNING BOARD CHAIR, THOUGHT THE CONTRACTUAL WORK AND PAYMENT HAD BEEN COMPLETED. HE SUGGESTED THAT ACTION ON THIS ITEM BE DEFERRED UNTIL IT COULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT PLANNING BOARD MEETING ON JULY 7, 2020. NO FURTHER ACTION WAS TAKEN.

E. ANNUAL TOWN AND "BABY TOWN" MEETINGS:

THE COMMITTEE WAS REMINDED THAT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WAS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY JULY 25TH AT 10 AM. DETAILS OF THE MONUMENT MT. HIGH SCHOOL VENUE HAVE YET TO BE FINALIZED.

THE DETAILS OF THE "BABY TOWN" MEETING AGENDA, DATE, TIME AND VENUE WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING ON JULY 1ST.

8. ADJOURNMENT: THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:46 PM.