

**TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE, MA.
50 MAIN STREET
FINANCE COMMITTEE VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2023 AT 6 PM**

1. CHAIR BIKOFSKY CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6 PM.
2. COMMITTEE ATTENDEES: JAY BIKOFSKY, JIM BALFANZ, PAM BOUDREAU, ED LANE, JORJA MARSDEN, DIANE REUSS, AND BILL VOGT. STEVE SHATZ WAS NOT IN ATTENDANCE.

TOWN ATTENDEES: PATRICK WHITE AND MICHAEL CANALES

3. THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 26, 2022 WERE PRESENTED AND A MOTION FOR APPROVAL WAS MADE BY JIM BALFANZ AND SECONDED BY BILL VOGT. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED 7-0 BY ALL PRESENT. STEVE SHATZ WAS NOT IN ATTENDANCE.
4. FINANCE COMMITTEE ROLE AND ORGANIZATION:
CHAIR BIKOFSKY REVIEWED THE ROLE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE. HE MENTIONED THAT SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE TOWN'S BYLAWS, THE MODERATOR HAS APPOINTED THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, COMPRISED OF SEVEN MEMBERS AND TWO ALTERNATES. HE MADE PARTICULAR NOTE OF THE FACT THAT MODERATOR JOHNSON HAS APPOINTED AN EXCEPTIONALLY QUALIFIED COMMITTEE WITH CURRENT EXPERTISE IN CORPORATE AS WELL AS INDIVIDUAL FINANCE IN ADDITION TO SEVERAL FORMERLY IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE.

CHAIR BIKOFSKY THEN REMINDED ALL THAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE SERVES AN ADVISORY ROLE FOR THE APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF EVERY ARTICLE IN THE WARRANTS FOR THE ANNUAL OR ANY SPECIAL TOWN MEETING DEALING WITH THE APPROPRIATION OR BORROWING OF MONEY, THE CREATION OF DEBT OR DISPOSAL OF TOWN PROPERTY AS REFERRED BY THE SELECT BOARD. THE COMMITTEE ALSO FULLY INFORMS ITSELF AS TO THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TOWN AND PREPARES A STATEMENT OF THE FIXED CHARGES AGAINST THE TOWN FOR WHICH TAXES MUST BE LEVIED.

A NUMBER OF FINANCE COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS WERE FURTHER MENTIONED INCLUDING OVERALL SUPERVISION OF THE BUDGET PROCESS, ENCOURAGEMENT OF PROSPECTIVE OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETING, ENCOURAGEMENT OF FULL FUNDING OF THE OPEB EXPOSURE, ENCOURAGEMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE, AND SUPPORT OF FUNDING RESERVE MONIES IN LIGHT OF THE PANDEMIC TO NAME BUT A FEW. IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT STOCKBRIDGE HAS ONE OF THE LOWEST TAX RATES IN THE COUNTY.

THE CHAIR CONCLUDED BY THANKING THE SELECT BOARD FOR THEIR UNANIMOUS SUPPORT OF THE EXISTING FINANCE COMMITTEE'S OUTSTANDING CANDIDATE APPOINTMENT PROCESS BY THE MODERATOR AS WELL AS THE COMMITTEE'S ROLE AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND DEPARTMENT HEADS ALSO FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

5. KEY FY 24 CAPITAL BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS WERE REVIEWED BY MICHAEL CANALES FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- THE STUDY GRANT FOR REPLACEMENT OF AVERIC BRIDGE 2 HAS BEEN RECEIVED. APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT CONSTRUCTION FUNDING ARE IN PROCESS FOR 2024 PROJECT COMPLETION.
- SALT SHED IN THE TRANSFER STATION HAS BEEN FUNDED FOR 2024 COMPLETION.
- MAIN STREET CROSSWALK GRANT PROPOSES TO UTILIZE ARPA FUNDING. BIDS WERE LET ON FEBRUARY 8, 2023 FOR RETURN BY MARCH 1, 2023. A MAY 23RD CONSTRUCTION INCEPTION DATE IS PLANNED.
- TUCKERMAN'S BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IS CURRENTLY IN THE DESIGN PHASE TO BEGIN IN 2024-2025, ONE SEASON IS CONTEMPLATED WITH FULL BRIDGE CLOSURE. AN INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT FROM MASS. WORKS IS BEING EXPLORED.
- DREDGING STOCKBRIDGE BOWL AS RESPECTS PERMITTING AND BUDGET IS EXPECTED TO BE REVIEWED BY THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE AT A FUTURE MEETING.
- PHASE 3 REVIEW OF STORM WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS IS CURRENTLY IN PROCESS ALONG WITH A FULLY FUNDED PLAN.
- THE 10 YEAR REPLACEMENT RESTRICTION ON THE CURTISVILLE BRIDGE IS BEING EXPLORED AS TO THE AVAILABILITY OF A 2025 PLANNING GRANT.

6. AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROPOSED BYLAWS AND OTHER MATTERS:

SEVERAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING BY-LAWS HAVE BEEN PROPOSED TO INCLUDE ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS AND RESIDENTIONAL INCLUSIONARY DEVELOPMENT. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE UNTIL FIRST REVIEWED BY THE PLANNING BOARD.

PATRICK WHITE AND RANNE WARNER, CHAIR OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST MENTIONED THAT PINEWOODS IS FULLY OWNED BY CONSTRUCT, INC. AS THIS PROPERTY IS CONSIDERED AFFORDABLE HOUSING, OWNED BY A PRIVATE, NON STOCKBRIDGE TOWN ENTITY, THE TOWN'S COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE HAS HISTORICALLY PARTIALLY SUPPORTED A PORTION OF PINEWOOD'S MAINTENANCE NEEDS TO CONFORM TO THE STATE'S REQUIREMENT

OF 10 % PARTICIPATION. THE COMMITTEE WAS ADVISED THAT THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST WOULD BE REQUESTING FUNDING FROM CPC FOR FY 2024. MORE INFORMATION IS TO FOLLOW AS RESPECTS THE TRUST'S REQUEST FROM CPC.

7. ETHICS TRAINING PROGRAM:

THE CHAIR REMINDED COMMITTEE MEMBERS THAT THE MA. REQUIRED ETHICS TRAINING PROGRAM WAS TO BE COMPLETED BY FEBRUARY 24, 2023.

8. THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:11 PM.