

**TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE, MA.  
50 MAIN STREET  
JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE-SELECT BOARD  
VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023 AT 6:30 PM**

- 1. THE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE JOINT MEETING WITH THE SELECT BOARD WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:35 PM BY CHAIR BIKOFSKY**
- 2. FINANCE COMMITTEE ATTENDEES: JAY BIKOFSKY, JIM BALFANZ, PAM BOUDREAU. ED LANE, JORJA MARSDEN, DIANE REUSS AND STEVE SHATZ.  
BILL VOGT WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND DUE TO A CONFLICTING BHRSD MEETING**

**SELECT BOARD ATTENDEES: PATRICK WHITE, CHUCK CARDILLO AND JAMIE MINACCI**

**TOWN EMPLOYEE ATTENDEES: MICHAEL CANALES AND VINCENT GARAFOLI**

- 3. CHAIR BIKOFSKY REMINDED ALL PRESENT AND PARTICIPANTS THAT THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THE JOINT MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS WITH FIRE CHIEF GARAFOLI SEVERAL MAJOR FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET ITEMS:**
  - CHAIR BIKOFSKY ASKED CHIEF GARAFOLI TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF THE PURCHASE OF A NEW REPLACEMENT FIRE ENGINE. HE ADDED THAT PURCHASE OF THE ENGINE WAS APPROVED AT LAST YEARS ANNUAL TOWN MEETING.**

**CHIEF GARAFOLI MENTIONED THAT TWO ARTICLES WERE APPROVED AT THE LAST ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, THE FIRST FOR \$750,000.00 AND A SECOND FOR \$250,000.00, WITH THE HOPE THAT A GRANT WOULD BE RECEIVED TO OFF SET THE \$250,000.00 REQUEST. UNFORTUNATELY, THE GRANT WAS NOT AWARDED AND THE TOWN WOULD BE REQUIRED TO FUND THE ENTIRE PURCHASE PRICE, APPROVED BY THE VOTERS, SELECT BOARD AND FINANCE COMMITTEE AT THAT MEETING. HE ADDED THAT THE LEAD TIME TO ORDER AND RECEIVE THE ENGINE WOULD BE ESTIMATED AT 750 DAYS. HE FURTHER ADDED THAT THIS ENGINE WOULD BE USED IN ANY FUTURE PROSPECTIVE JOINT COMMUNITY FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS.**

**SELECT BOARD CHAIR PATRICK WHITE CALLED FOR A SELECT BOARD VOTE TO APPROVE PROCEEDING WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENGINE SPECIFICATIONS AND BIDDING PROCESS. HE MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY CHUCK CARDILLO AND A VOTE OF 3-0 IN FAVOR WAS NOTED.**

  - CHIEF GARAFOLI WAS THEN ASKED TO DISCUSS HIS REQUEST OF \$65,000.00 TO PURCHASE 18 SETS OF REPLACEMENT FIRE FIGHTING TURN OUT GEAR FOR THE VOLUNTEER MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT. HE INFORMED THE JOINT COMMITTEE THAT ORIGINALLY THIS REQUEST WOULD NOW BE INCREASED TO**

**\$90,000.00 WITH THE ADDITION OF SEVEN (7) NEW VOLUNTEERS, BRINGING THE TOTAL TO 25. DIANE REUSS CONFIRMED WITH CHIEF GARAFOLI THAT THIS NEW EQUIPMENT WOULD REPLACE THOSE CURRENTLY OBSOLETE AND OUTDATED. SELECT BOARD CHAIR PATRICK WHITE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS REQUEST SECONDED BY JAMIE MINACCI. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND THE SELECT BOARD APPROVED THIS REQUEST 3-0.**

- LASTLY, CHAIR BIKOFSKY ASKED CHIEF GARAFOLI ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST FOR AN ADDITIONAL FULL TIME STAFF MEMBER TO FUNCTION AS A REPLACEMENT FOR THE RETIRING NED BALDWIN, WHO CURRENTLY FILLS THIS ROLE AND IS RETIRING MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>. THIS INDIVIDUAL, HE SAID WOULD SERVE A DUAL FIRE FIGHTER/EMT FUNCTION AND WORK SHIFTS CURRENTLY DIFFICULT TO COVER WITH VOLUNTEERS. HE EXPRESSED HIS AGREEMENT WITH A CANDIDATE TO BE RECRUITED ON A SPECIFIED CONTRACTUAL TERM BASIS, POSSIBLY FOR ONE OR TWO YEARS.  
SELECT BOARD CHAIR PATRICK WHITE MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY CHUCK CARDILLO TO APPROVE. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND APPROVED 3-0 BY THE SELECT BOARD.**

**IT WAS NOTED THAT THESE APPROVED FY 24 BUDGET REQUESTS WOULD BE CONFIRMED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AT THEIR NEXT MEETING ON APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> AND FURTHER PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MAY 15, 2023 FOR APPROVAL.**

- 4. THERE BEING NO FURTHER JOINT COMMITTEE BUSINESS, THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED TO ADJOURN PARTICIPATION AT 6:50 PM.**