

**TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE, MA.
50 MAIN STREET
FINANCE COMMITTEE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2024 AT 6 PM**

- 1. CHAIR BIKOFSKY CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6 PM.**
- 2. FINANCE COMMITTEE ATTENDEES: JAY BIKOFSKY, JIM BALFANZ, ED LANE, JORJA MARSDEN, STEVE SHATZ AND WILLIAM VOGT
PAM BOUDREAU AND DIANE REUSS WERE UNABLE TO ATTEND.**

**TOWN ATTENDEES: MICHAEL CANALES AND HUGH PAGE
SELECT BOARD MEMBER JAMIE MINACCI ATTENDED REMOTELY.**

- 3. THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2024 WITH THE AUDITORS WERE PRESENTED FOR REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY WILLIAM VOGT AND SECONDED BY STEVE SHATZ. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND THE MINUTES WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ALL PRESENT, 6-0.**
- 4. THE JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE/SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 27, 2024 WERE PRESENTED FOR REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY WILLIAM VOGT AND SECONDED BY JORJA MARSDEN. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND THE MINUTES WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ALL PRESENT. 6-0.**
- 5. FY 25 OPERATING BUDGET (PROPOSED WARRANT ARTICLES 4, 5 AND 6) CONTINUED DISCUSSION AND REVIEW:**
 - MICHAEL CANALES ADVISED THE FINANCE COMMITTEE THAT THERE WAS ONLY ONE REVISION TO THE DRAFT BUDGET, PRESENTED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS, BEING CONTEMPLATED. HE MENTIONED THAT, UNDER THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT SECTION, THE TOWN RESERVE FUND LINE ITEM OF \$150,000.00 COULD BE REDUCED TO \$100,000.00 BASED UPON A REDUCTION IN THE TRANSFER EXPERIENCE OF PREVIOUS YEARS. HE ADDED THAT THIS PROPOSED REVISION WOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR APPROVAL AT THE APRIL 17, 2024 SELECT BOARD MEETING AND REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IF APPROVED.**
 - AS RESPECTS THE REMAINDER OF THE DRAFT FY 25 OPERATING BUDGET, THE SELECT BOARD WOULD ALSO BE REVIEWING THE ENTIRE PROPOSED BUDGET INCLUDING EDUCATION AT THEIR APRIL 17TH MEETING AND, IF APPROVED, BE REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING.**

6. FY 25 PROPOSED ADDITIONAL WARRANT ARTICLES:

- **PROPOSED ARTICLE 9 INCLUDING CAPITAL REQUESTS UTILIZING FREE CASH, DISCUSSED AT PREVIOUS FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS, WAS THEN REVIEWED BY MICHAEL FOR THE COMMITTEE. THESE INCLUDED FIRE DEPARTMENT SCBA BREATHING APPARATUS, POLICE DEPARTMENT MENTAL HEALTH CO-RESPONDER PROGRAM FUNDING, PAYMENT OF A HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TRUCK PURCHASE NOTE, FUNDING OF BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION AND REPAIRS, ENGINEERING CONSULTING FOR TOWN PROJECTS, PURCHASE OF A HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TRACTOR, PURCHASE OF A HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT LARGE PLOW TRUCK, PURCHASE OF A HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT ROADSIDE MOWER AS WELL AS A ONE TON TRUCK, STRUCTURAL PAINTING OF THE TRANSFER STATION, FINAL PAYMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF HIGHWAY GARAGE AND STUDENT TUITION AND TRANSPORTATION TO TACONIC HIGH SCHOOL FOR A CAREER EXPLORATORY PROGRAM. THESE PROPOSED CAPITAL REQUESTS AMOUNT TO \$1,415,622.00.**
- **PROPOSED ARTICLE 10, THE USE OF SEWER SURPLUS FOR TOWN SEWER PROJECTS, WAS PRESENTED BY MICHAEL FOR SEWER MAIN REPLACEMENTS, A SLUDGE PUMP REPLACEMENT AND FUNDS TO REDUCE FY 25 SEWER RATES. THESE PROPOSED REQUESTS AMOUNT TO \$191,105.00**
- **PROPOSED ARTICLE 11 WAS PRESENTED INCLUDING WATER SURPLUS FUNDS FOR HYDRANT REPLACEMENTS, REPLACEMENT OF THE WATER PLANT LOADING DOCK STAIRWAY, EPOXY FOR THE WATER PLANT FLOOR, A LAKE AVERIC WATER SUPPLY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT ENGINEERING STUDIES AND REPAIR AS WELL AS FUNDS TO REDUCE THE FY 25 WATER RATES. THESE PROPOSED REQUESTS AMOUNT TO \$ 653,778.00.**
- **PROPOSED ARTICLE 12 WAS REVIEWED FOR THE COMMITTEE BY MICHAEL CANALES. THE REQUESTS REPRESENT A PROPOSAL FROM THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE TO USE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION UNDESIGNATED FUNDS FOR A VARTIETY OF PROJECTS. THESE INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST, PINEWOODS, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY, RIVERBROOK, RESTORATION OF THE OLD TOWN HALL, ST. PAULS CHURCH, THE STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY, TOWN CEMETARY, STOCKBRIDGE BOWL, GOULD MEADOWS, OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND THE CIVIL WAR MONUMENT.**

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**THE TOTAL OF THESE CPC UNDESIGNATED FUND REQUESTS
AMOUNT TO
\$677,967.00**

- THE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED WARRANT ARTICLES WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE SELECT BOARD ON APRIL 17, 2024 FOR APPROVAL. IF APPROVED, THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL REVIEW THEM AT THEIR NEXT MEETING FOR A RECOMMENDATION.**

- 7. THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED
AT
6:53 PM.**