

**TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE, MA.  
50 MAIN STREET  
FINANCE COMMITTEE "BABY TOWN" MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2020 AT 6:30 PM**

1. CHAIR BIKOFSKY CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM INTRODUCING THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE AND WELCOMING ALL ATTENDEES.
2. COMMITTEE ATTENDEES: JAY BIKOFSKY, JIM BALFANZ, PAM BOUDREAU, NEIL HOLDEN, DIANE REUSS, STEPHEN SHATZ AND WILLIAM VOGT

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

3. CHAIR BIKOFSKY THANKED THE SELECT BOARD FOR THEIR CONTINUED INTEREST AND SUPPORT ALONG WITH MARK WEBBER, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR. HE ALSO THANKED ALL FOR THEIR TIME, COMMITMENT, PARTICIPATION AND DEDICATION OF THEIR SERVICE TO STOCKBRIDGE.

THE MEETING AGENDA WAS THEN REVIEWED FOR THOSE PRESENT ALONG WITH THE ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE AS THE TOWN'S FINANCIAL ADVISORY AND RECOMMENDING BODY. ATTENDEES WERE REMINDED OF ARTICLE IV SECTION 2 OF THE GENERAL BYLAWS WHICH FURTHER DETAILS THE COMMITTEES ROLE.

4. THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 8, 2020 WERE PRESENTED AND A MOTION WAS MADE BY STEVE SHATZ AND SECONDED BY NEIL HOLDEN. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND THE MINUTES WERE ACCEPTED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0).
5. RECONFIRMATION OF REVISED FY 21 PROPOSED WARRANT ARTICLES:

SEVERAL OF THE WARRANT ARTICLES HAD BEEN CLARIFIED AND REVISED PRIOR TO PRESENTATION AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ON JULY 25, 2020. BELOW ARE THE FINANCE COMMITTEE DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS AND RESOLUTIONS REGARDING THEM:

- A. ARTICLE 4: THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED ITS CONTINUED CONCERN REGARDING THE BUDGETING OF LEGAL FEES AS RESPECTS STOCKBRIDGE BOWL MATTERS. THE COMMITTEE WAS FURTHER REMINDED THAT THE SELECT BOARD HAD EXPRESSED THE FEELING THAT "RESOLUTION OF THIS MATTER WAS CLOSE AT HAND."  
A MOTION WAS MADE BY STEPHEN SHATZ AND SECONDED BY NEIL HOLDEN TO REAFFIRM ITS SUPPORT OF THE OPERATING BUDGET INCLUDING THIS ITEM. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND SUPPORT FOR THIS ARTICLE WAS UNANIMOUS (7-0).
- B. ARTICLE 10: THE COMMITTEE REVIEWED THE EDITS TO THIS ARTICLE CONCERNING THE FUNDING OF \$50,000 FOR RESTORATION OF THE CIVIL WAR MONUMENT. INCLUDED WAS THE PROVISION THAT SUCH APPROPRIATION BE CONTINGENT UPON THE DEVELOPMENT, PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF A FINAL PLAN AND FUNDING PACKAGE BY THE SELECT BOARD.



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**A MOTION WAS MADE BY STEPHEN SHATZ AND SECONDED BY NEIL HOLDEN TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THESE EDITS. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND SUPPORT FOR THE CHANGES WAS UNANIMOUS (7-0).**

- C. ARTICLE 18: THE COMMITTEE REVIEWED EDITS TO THIS ARTICLE TO INCLUDE THE APPROPRIATION AND TRANSFER OF \$40,000 FROM FREE CASH FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTRACTING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE PLANNING AND ZONING ASSISTANCE.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY NEIL HOLDEN AND SECONDED BY WILLIAM VOGT TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THESE EDITS. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND SUPPORT FOR THE CHANGES WAS UNANIMOUS (7-0).**

- D. ARTICLE 20: THE COMMITTEE REVIEWED THIS ARTICLE REQUESTING THE APPROPRIATION AND TRANSFER OF \$140,000 FROM AVAILABLE SEWER SURPLUS AND \$140,000 FROM AVAILABLE WATER SURPLUS TO RELOCATE THESE UTILITIES FROM CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE CURTISVILLE BRIDGE. A MOTION WAS MADE BY STEPHEN SHATZ AND SECONDED BY JAY BIKOFSKY TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THIS REQUEST. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND APPROVAL WAS UNANIMOUS (7-0).**

**6. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR FY 2019:**

**CHAIR BIKOFSKY REVIEWED THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS REPORT. HE MENTIONED ALL TOWN DEPARTMENTS CONTINUED TO EXERCISE FISCAL DISCIPLINE AND COMPLIANCE WITH THEIR BUDGETS. HE COMMENTED ON THE FY 2019 TAX RATE OF \$10.13 AN INCREASE OF \$.37 FROM 2018. A CERTIFIED FREE CASH BALANCE OF \$1,637,872 WAS MENTIONED AS WELL AS SUPPORT FOR PROJECTS SUCH AS THE MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADE OF THE TOWN BEACH AND PARKS, PURCHASE OF LAKE MANAGEMENT EQUIPMENT, COMPLETION OF THE HIGHWAY GARAGE, AND A ROAD AND BRIDGE INFRASTRUCTURE STABILIZATION FUND. APPROVAL OF LARGE EXPENDITURES WERE HIGHLIGHTED TO INCLUDE BHRSD OPERATING AND CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS, THE AVERIC BRIDGE REPAIR, FIRE STATION OSHA UPGRADES, TRAFFIC STUDY IMPROVEMENTS AND OPEB FUNDING. IN CLOSING, THE CHAIR ADDED THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MULTI YEAR CAPITAL AND OPERATING BUDGETS AND FURTHER EXPLORE REFINANCING AND ACCELERATION OF PAYMENTS TO REDUCE LONG TERM INDEBTEDNESS.**

**7. PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED ARTICLES AND WARRANTS FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ON JULY 25, 2020:**

**ARTICLE 4: STEPHEN SHATZ REVIEWED THIS PROPOSED ARTICLE, THE OPERATING BUDGET. HE MENTIONED THAT THE FY21 PROPOSED BUDGET WAS \$10,556,613.00, A \$210,949.00 2% REDUCTION OVER FY 20. HE NOTED THAT A 2% COST OF LIVING INCREASE WAS INCLUDED FOR TOWN EMPLOYEES. HE ADDED THAT THE REDUCTION IN THE OPERATING BUDGET COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO A \$56,000**



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**SAVINGS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, \$10,200 REDUCTION OF SELECT BOARD EXPENSES, AND A BREAK, FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR OF \$345,000 FUNDING FOR OPEB UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE TOWN'S ACTUARIES AND AUDITORS. HE FURTHER MENTIONED INCREASES IN AMBULANCE EXPENSES, ZEBRA MUSSEL MONITORING AND PARKS AND RECREATION SALARIES AND EXPENSES. HE CONCLUDED HIS COMMENTS BY MENTIONING A REDUCTION IN THE TOWN'S DEBT SERVICE EXPENSES WITH THE RETIREMENT OF SOME OUTSTANDING INDEBTEDNESS.**

**ARTICLE 5: CHAIR BIKOFSKY MENTIONED THE \$2,856,577.00 BHRSD PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET ALLOCATION , AN INCREASE OF \$85,146.00 OVER FY 20.**

**ARTICLE 6: CHAIR BIKOFSKY WENT ON TO DISCUSS THE BHRSD PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET ALLOCATION OF \$83,986.00, A DECREASE OF \$20,333 OVER FY20.**

**ARTICLE 7: WILLIAM VOGT REVIEWED THIS PROPOSED ARTICLE OF \$69,640.00 FOR ROOF PROJECTS AT HEATON COURT COMMUNITY HOUSING PRESENTED FOR COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING.**

**ARTICLE 8: THE PROPOSED RESTORATION OF CHIMNEYS AT CHESTERWOOD FOR \$20,000.00 WAS PRESENTED BY BILL VOGT ALSO FOR COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING.**

**ARTICLE 9: THE PROPOSED DIGITIZING OF THE ROCKWELL MUSEUM'S BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE FOR \$20,000.000 UNDER COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING WAS REVIEWED BY BILL VOGT.**

**ARTICLE 10: BILL VOGT REVIEWED THE \$50,000.00 PROPOSED RESTORATION OF THE CIVIL WAR MONUMENT WITH COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING AS WAS ADDRESSED EARLIER IN THESE MINUTES.**

**ARTICLE 11: PROPOSED COMMUNITY PRESERVATION \$40,000.00 FUNDING OF A STOCKBRIDGE-MUNSEE ARCHAEOLOGICAL OX-ROAST SITE WAS PRESENTED BY BILL VOGT.**

**ARTICLE 12: BILL VOGT REVIEWED THE PROPOSED \$9,500.00 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING OF A RESTORATION OF THE NORTH PORCH AT NAUMKEAG.**

**ARTICLE 13: \$10,835.00 PROPOSED FOR USE BY THE STOCKBRIDGE BOWL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PAVING OF THE UPPER DRIVEWAY OF THE BULLARD WOODS TO BE FUNDED BY COMMUNITY PRESERVATION WAS DISCUSSED BY BILL VOGT.**

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**ARTICLE 14: THE PROPOSED REMOVAL OF INVASIVE SPECIES AND CONSTRUCTION OF A FOOT BRIDGE AT GOULD MEADOWS FOR THE SUM OF \$18,850.00 FROM COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS WAS NEXT PRESENTED BY BILL VOGT.**

**ARTICLE 15: BILL VOGT REVIEWED THE PROPOSED COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING OF \$10,000.00 FOR A CPC ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET.**

**ARTICLE 16: THE PROPOSED CPC RECOMMENDATION TO RESERVE HISTORIC RESOURCES, AFFORDABLE HOUSING RESERVE AND OPEN SPACE RESERVE WAS DISCUSSED BY BILL VOGT.**

**ARTICLE 17: JAY BIKOFSKY PRESENTED THE PROPOSED ARTICLE TO TRANSFER THE SUM OF \$1,000,000.00 FROM CERTIFIED FREE CASH TO THE TOWN'S GENERAL STABILIZATION ACCOUNT. THE MONIES REPRESENT FUNDS FOR COVID-19 PANDEMIC CONTINGENCIES AS WELL AS THOSE FOR BRIDGE AND HIGHWAY UNANTICIPATED INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS.**

**ARTICLE 18: THE PROPOSED FUNDING OF \$40,000.00 FROM FREE CASH WAS DISCUSSED BY BILL VOGT TO BE DIRECTED FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DEALING WITH PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED IN THESE MINUTES.**

**ARTICLE 19: JAY BIKOFSKY REVIEWED THE PROPOSED APPROPRIATION OF \$150,000.00 FROM FREE CASH FOR THE AVERIC BRIDGE PROJECT.**

**ARTICLE 20: THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF \$140,000.00 FROM SEWER SURPLUS AND \$140,000.00 FROM WATER SURPLUS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RELOCATING THESE UTILITIES FROM THE PROXIMITY OF THE CURTISVILLE BRIDGE WAS THEN PRESENTED BY CHAIR BIKOFSKY.**

**CHAIR BIKOFSKY CONCLUDED THE DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSED ARTICLES FOR PRESENTATION AT THE ANNUAL MEETING BY INDICATING THAT ALL HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.**

**8. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**A. THE CHAIR INDICATED THAT THE COMMITTEE LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE CURRENT SELECT BOARD, DEPARTMENT HEADS, STAFF AND MICHAEL CANALES OUR NEWLY HIRED TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATING CAPITAL PROJECTS, A FIVE (5) YEAR CAPITAL BUDGET, AND OTHER FINANCIAL PROJECTS THAT IMPACT THE TOWN.**

**B. CHAIR BIKOFSKY THANKED MARK WEBBER FOR HIS INVOLVEMENT AND SERVICE TO OUR TOWN AND ALL RESIDENTS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT.**

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**C. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY,  
JULY 25, 2020 AT 10 AM OUTSIDE ON THE FIELD ADJACENT TO THE TOWN  
HALL PARKING LOT AT 10 AM.**

**9. THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT  
7:45 PM.**