

TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE, MA.
50 MAIN STREET
JOINT FINANCE-SELECT BOARD
REMOTE ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2021 AT 6:30 PM

1. FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR BIKOFSKY, AS MODERATOR FOR THIS SESSION, CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM.
2. ATTENDEES: SELECT BOARD: CHUCK CARDILLO, ROXANNE MCCAFFREY AND PATRICK WHITE
FINANCE COMMITTEE: JAY BIKOFSKY, JIM BALFANZ, PAM BOUDREAU, NEIL HOLDEN, DIANE REUSS, STEVE SHATZ AND WILLIAM VOGT
TOWN GOVERNMENT: MICHAEL CANALES AND VINCENT GARAFOLI
OTHER ATTENDEES: CLARENCE FANTO (EAGLE) AND STEVE BORNS (CTSB)
3. THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2021 WERE PRESENTED AND A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THEM BY JIM BALFANZ AND SECONDED BY STEVE SHATZ. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND THE MINUTES WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.
4. FY 22 PROPOSED DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET PRESENTATIONS:
FIRE: CHAIR BIKOFSKY CALLED UPON CHIEF VINCENT GARAFOLI AND MICHAEL CANALES TO REVIEW THE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE COMMITTEE.
 - * MICHAEL AND VINCENT REMINDED THE JOINT COMMITTEE THAT ENGINE # 2 WAS SCHEDULED FOR REPLACEMENT WITHIN THE NEXT ONE -TWO YEARS. WITH THAT IN MIND, THE BODY WORK PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED TO REMOVE RUST WOULD BE SCALED BACK FOR COMPLETION ONLY ON A "PATCH WORK" BASIS, UTILIZING IN HOUSE MATERIALS.
 - * MICHAEL AND VINCENT THEN CONTINUED WITH A DISCUSSION OF FIRE DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER STIPENDS. THEY MENTIONED THAT FIVE (5) NEW VOLUNTEERS HAD BEEN RECRUITED FROM STOCKBRIDGE, LEE AND PITTSFIELD. FURTHER, THEY ADDED THAT THEY HAD SURVEYED A NUMBER OF SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES AND FOUND OUR PER CALL VOLUNTEER STIPEND WAS ON THE LOWER END OF THE SCALE. THEY CONCLUDED BY PROPOSING AN INCREASE OF THE OVERALL STIPEND LINE TO \$27,500.00, AN ADDITION OF \$3,500.00 OVER FY 21.
 - * MICHAEL CANALES MENTIONED THAT IN LIGHT OF CONSIDERATION OF REPLACING ENGINE #2 WITHIN THE NEXT ONE-TWO YEARS, HOSE REPLACEMENT COULD BE SCALED BACK TO A PROPOSED INCREASE OF \$2,400.00 TO THE DEPARTMENT'S EXPENSE BUDGET LINE.
 - * A PROPOSAL TO REPAIR AND REPAINT THE INTERLAKEN STATION WAS THEN REVIEWED FOR THE JOINT COMMITTEE. MICHAEL SUGGESTED THAT THIS WORK WOULD BE DEFERRED AND AN ATTEMPT TO SECURE CPC, "GREEN COMMUNITY" AND SUPPORT FROM A FIRE FIGHTERS GRANT WOULD BE EXPLORED.

AMBULANCE: MICHAEL CANALES ADVISED THE JOINT COMMITTEE THAT THIS WAS ONE OF THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENSES YET TO BE FINALIZED. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS AWAITING DETAILS FROM LENOX AS TO THE EXTENT OF THE INCREASE FOR FY22 AND WOULD COMMUNICATE THAT PROPOSAL TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE AS SOON AS IT WAS RECEIVED. CHAIR BIKOFSKY ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO FURTHER REDUCE THIS PROPOSAL TO A MUTUALLY AGREED UPON WRITTEN AGREEMENT. MORE TO FOLLOW ON THIS MATTER.

5. FY 22 PROPOSED WARRANT ARTICLES AND CAPITAL REQUESTS:

CHAIR BIKOFSKY THEN CALLED UPON MICHAEL CANALES TO REVIEW THESE REQUESTS FOR THE JOINT COMMITTEE.

- * NEW SEWER UNDERGROUND CAMERAS: MICHAEL MENTIONED THE PROPOSED REQUEST OF \$12,000.00 FOR NEW UNDERGROUND CAMERAS WOULD BE FUNDED BY WATER AND SEWER SURPLUS.
FOLLOWING THIS DISCUSSION, A QUESTION WAS RAISED FROM A RESIDENT ON LAKE SHORE DRIVE AS TO THE PROSPECTS OF EXTENDING SEWER LINES AROUND STOCKBRIDGE BOWL. STEVE SHATZ SUGGESTED THAT THE MATTER BE REFERRED TO THE SELECT BOARD TO STUDY THE REQUEST.
- * TUCKERMAN'S BRIDGE WATER MAIN ENGINEERING STUDY: MICHAEL PRESENTED THIS PROPOSED REQUEST FOR \$38,000.00 TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE TO BE FUNDED BY WATER AND SEWER SURPLUS.
- * QUIET KNOLL WATER TANK INSPECTION AND CLEANING: THE COMMITTEE WAS INFORMED OF A PROPOSED \$3,690.00 REQUEST FOR THIS PURPOSE, FUNDED BY WATER AND SEWER SURPLUS.
- * PARK STREET PUMP STATION: MICHAEL REVIEWED THE NEED TO REPLACE THIS FACILITY AT AN ESTIMATE OF \$720,000.00 WITH A PRE-FABRICATED STRUCTURE, FUNDED OVER A 20 YEAR PERIOD WITH BONDS. FURTHER DETAILS WILL FOLLOW.
- * CEMETERY STUDY: THE JOINT COMMITTEE WAS ADVISED THAT A STUDY AND REPAIR OF 600 OLDER STONES WAS BEING PROPOSED, \$20,000.00 TO BE FUNDED BY THE CEMETERY TRUST FUND.
- * PART TIME PLANNER: BILL VOGT WAS ASKED TO REVIEW THE NEED FOR A PART TIME PLANNER AND CONSULTANT TO ASSIST WITH THE REVIEW AND FORMULATION OF REVISED COTTAGE ERA BYLAWS AS WELL AS WORKING ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN WITH THE BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION. THE \$40,000.00 WOULD BE FUNDED BY FREE CASH.
- * OPEB: MICHAEL REVIEWED THE PROPOSAL TO FUND \$50,000.00 FOR THE COMING FY 22 IN THE TOWN'S EXISTING DEDICATED TRUST FUND WITH FREE CASH.

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- * HOUSING REHAB: THE COMMITTEE WAS ADVISED THAT A HOUSING REHAB FUND WOULD BE PROPOSED TO PROVIDE ELIGIBLE ELDERLY RESIDENTS ASSISTANCE WITH CAPITAL REPAIRS; SIMILAR CONCEPT TO A HOME EQUITY LOAN TO BE RECOUPED UPON SALE OF THE PROPERTY. THE \$100,000.00 WOULD BE FUNDED WITH FREE CASH.
- * REST OF THE RIVER: MICHAEL MENTIONED THAT THE CONTINUED PROPOSED \$35,000.00 FUNDING FOR THIS EFFORT WOULD BE SUPPORTED WITH FREE CASH.
- * ICE GLEN TREE MANAGEMENT: THE COMMITTEE WAS ADVISED THAT THE PROPOSED \$30,000.00 FUNDING OF THIS PROJECT WOULD ALSO BE SUPPORTED BY FREE CASH.
- * REGIONAL SCHOOL PLANNING STUDY: A GRANT WAS SECURED TO SUPPORT A STUDY TO CONSOLIDATE THE BHRSD AND SBRSD. SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING WAS ALSO REQUIRED FROM THE EIGHT (8) PARTICIPATING TOWNS. MICHAEL MENTIONED TO THE COMMITTEE THAT EACH MEMBER TOWN'S REQUEST HAD BEEN REDUCED TO \$8,000.00 FROM \$15,000.00 TO BE FUNDED BY FREE CASH IN STOCKBRIDGE'S CASE.
- * STOCKBRIDGE BOWL TESTING: THE JOINT COMMITTEE WAS ADVISED THAT THIS CONTINUED TESTING, PROPOSED AT \$35,000.00 FOR FY 22, WOULD CONTEMPLATE USE OF FREE CASH.
- * PARKS AND RECREATION: RESURFACING AND RE-FENCING OF THE THE TOWN'S TENNIS AND BASKETBALL COURTS WOULD BE PROPOSED, IT WAS MENTIONED, AT A COST OF \$90,507.00 ALSO USING FREE CASH.
- * CHIME TOWER: DETERIORATION OF THE CHIME TOWER WAS THEN DISCUSSED BY MICHAEL. HE ADDED THAT THIS WAS BECOMING A SAFETY ISSUE AND THEN PROPOSED REPAIR OF THE STRUCTURE BORROWING \$550,000.00 OVER A (20) TWENTY YEAR PERIOD. HE FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT HE WOULD APPLY TO THE MA. HISTORIC TRUST FOR AVAILABLE FUNDING.
- * STREET LIGHT STUDY: MICHAEL RAISED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE THAT A NEW PROJECT HAD BEEN PROPOSED TO ENGAGE A CONSULTANT TO REVIEW STREET LIGHTING. FREE CASH OF \$15,000.00 WOULD SUPPORT THIS PROJECT.
- * HIGHWAY REPLACEMENT TRUCK: THE REPLACEMENT OF A MEDIUM TRUCK WAS THEN DISCUSSED USING A COMBINATION OF FREE CASH AND CHAPTER 90 FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE COST OF \$145,000.00.
- * DOWNTOWN INTERSECTION PROJECT: THE REDESIGN, PLANNING AND RE-CONSTRUCTION OF THE INTERSECTIONS ARE PRESENTLY UNDER REVIEW. MICHAEL MENTIONED THAT A PRESENTATION WOULD BE MADE TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE BEFORE THE ATM WITH THE DETAILS. MORE TO FOLLOW.

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MICHAEL CANALES CONCLUDED HIS DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED WARRANT ARTICLES AND CAPITAL REQUESTS BY NOTING THAT HIS PRESENTATION INCLUDED THE ITEMS TO DATE. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT OF THE ESTIMATED \$1.85 MILLION IN AVAILABLE FREE CASH, AN ESTIMATED \$408,000.00 WOULD BE USED TO FUND THE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED PROPOSALS LEAVING A REMAINING ESTIMATED BALANCE OF \$1.44 MILLION.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

JIM BALFANZ INQUIRED AS TO THE STATUS OF THE LARRYWAUG BRIDGE. MICHAEL RESPONDED THAT THE PROJECT RE-BIDS WERE DUE APRIL 20TH WITH A CONTEMPLATED COMPLETION DATE OF EARLY OCTOBER, 2021.

FUTURE DATES:

- * REMOTE EXIT AUDIT PRESENTATION MARCH 30, 2021 AT 6:30 PM**
- * TOWN ELECTION MAY 18, 2021**
- * PROPOSED ANNUAL TOWN MEETING JUNE 12, 2021, RAIN DATE JUNE 13, 2021**

7. THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, CHAIR BIKOFSKY ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 7:47 PM.