

**TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE, MA.  
50 MAIN STREET  
FINANCE COMMITTEE "BABY TOWN" MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2021 AT 6:30 PM**

1. CHAIR BIKOFSKY CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM.
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 MICHAEL CANALES

OTHER ATTENDEES: CLARENCE FANTO AND STEVE BORNES

3. CHAIR BIKOFSKY THANKED THE SELECT BOARD FOR THEIR CONTINUED INTEREST AND SUPPORT, CONGRATULATED ROXANNE MCCAFFREY ON HER ELECTION AS SELECT BOARD CHAIR, AND THANKED THE SELECT BOARD, MICHAEL CANALES, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, AS WELL AS THE DEPARTMENT HEADS FOR EXERCISING COMMENDABLE FISCAL DISCIPLINE AND COMPLIANCE WITH EXISTING BUDGETS AS WELL AS DEVELOPMENT OF THE FY 22 BUDGET.

HE INTRODUCED THE MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND ALSO THANKED THEM FOR THEIR COMMITMENT, PARTICIPATION AND DEDICATION OF THEIR SERVICE TO STOCKBRIDGE.

4. THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2021 WERE PRESENTED AND A MOTION WAS MADE BY STEPHEN SHATZ AND SECONDED BY DIANE REUSS. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND THE MINUTES WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED (7-0).
5. IT WAS NOTED THAT PROPOSED FY 22 WARRANT ARTICLE #27 HAD BEEN CLARIFIED AND REVISED PRIOR TO PRESENTATION AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ON JUNE 12, 2021. THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WAS ASKED TO CONSIDER THE REVISION WHICH INCLUDED INCREASING AVAILABLE FREE CASH FROM \$30,000.00 TO \$70,000.00 FOR TREE MONITORING AND TREATMENT WITHIN ICE GLEN PER A CONSULTANT'S RECOMMENDATION. A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM BALFANZ AND SECONDED BY JAY BIKOFSKY. A VOTE WAS THEN CALLED AND THE PROPOSED REVISION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE (7-0).
6. CHAIR BIKOFSKY REVIEWED THE MEETING AGENDA FOR THOSE PRESENT AS WELL AS THE PURPOSE OF THE "BABY TOWN MEETING" AND ROLE OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AS THE TOWN'S FINANCIAL ADVISORY AND RECOMMENDING BODY.



7. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR FY 2020:

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 2020 TAX RATE OF \$9.87 A DECREASE OF \$.26 FROM FY 2019. A CERTIFIED FREE CASH BALANCE OF \$2,454,301.00 WAS MENTIONED AS WELL AS SUPPORT FOR PROJECTS SUCH AS COMMUNITY HOUSING ROOF REPAIR AT HEATON COURT, RESTORATION OF THE CIVIL WAR MONUMENT, AND STABILIZATION FUNDING TO BOLSTER FUTURE COVID-19 REVENUE SHORT FALLS OR INTERRUPTIONS. APPROVAL OF LARGE EXPENDITURES WERE HIGHLIGHTED TO INCLUDE BHRSD OPERATING AND CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS, PLANNING AND ZONING CONSULTING SERVICES, AVERIC BRIDGE REPAIR AND WATER AND SEWER UTILITIES RELOCATION (PROXIMATE TO THE CURTISVILLE BRIDGE). IN CLOSING, THE CHAIR ADDED THAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND DEPARTMENT HEADS ON DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MULTI YEAR CAPITAL AND OPERATING BUDGETS AS WELL AS FURTHER EXPLORING REFINANCING AND ACCELERATION OF PAYMENTS TO REDUCE LONG TERM INDEBTEDNESS.

8. PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED ARTICLES AND WARRANTS FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING APPROVAL ON JUNE 12, 2021:

ARTICLE 4: STEPHEN SHATZ REVIEWED THIS PROPOSED ARTICLE, THE OPERATING BUDGET. HE MENTIONED THAT THE FY22 PROPOSED BUDGET WAS \$10,713,169.00 A 1.5%, \$156,555, INCREASE OVER FY 21. HE NOTED A 2% COST OF LIVING INCREASE INCLUDED FOR TOWN EMPLOYEES. HE INDICATED INCREASES IN PUBLIC SAFETY (AN ADDITIONAL POLICE CRUISER, FIRE DEPARTMENT SALARIES, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS INCREASES IN CENTRAL DISPATCH ALLOCATIONS) AND HUMAN SERVICES (TRI-TOWN HEALTH SALARIES). IN ADDITION, HE MENTIONED INCREASES IN CULTURE AND RECREATION (LIBRARY AIR CONDITIONING AND PARKS AND RECREATION BEACH EXPENSES) AS WELL AS AN INCREASE IN THE TOWN'S INSURANCE. HE NOTED DECREASES IN SELECTMEN, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND TOWN OFFICE EXPENSES, PUBLIC WORKS-HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT SALARIES AND DEBT SERVICE ASSOCIATED WITH TOWN HALL, FIRE TRUCK AND GARAGE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST.

ARTICLE 5: STEVEN SHATZ MENTIONED THE \$3,072,350.00 BHRSD PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET ALLOCATION, AN INCREASE OF \$215,773.00 OVER FY 21.

ARTICLE 6: HE WENT ON TO DISCUSS THE BHRSD PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET ALLOCATION OF \$85,865.00 AN \$1,879.00 INCREASE OVER FY 21.



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**ARTICLE 7: BILL VOGT REVIEWED THIS PROPOSED ARTICLE OF \$34,000.00 FOR HEATON COURT WOOD SIDING BUILDING REPLACEMENT PRESENTED FOR COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING.**

**ARTICLE 8: RESTORATION OF THE HEATON COURT SIGN, \$5,000.00, WITH COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING WAS THEN PRESENTED BY BILL VOGT.**

**ARTICLE 9: BILL PRESENTED COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING OF \$7,270.00 FOR PRESERVATION OF A NAUMKEAG BRONZE SCULPTURE.**

**ARTICLE 10: THIS ARTICLE WAS THEN PROPOSED BY BILL VOGT FOR \$10,000.00 FOR THE STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY HVAC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT WITH COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING.**

**ARTICLE 11: BILL VOGT REVIEWED THE REQUEST OF \$15,000.00 FOR THE BERKSHIRE THEATER FESTIVAL'S MELLEN BARN SIDING AND TRIM REPLACEMENT WITH COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING.**

**ARTICLE 12: \$11,750.00 WAS PRESENTED FOR REMOVING INVASIVE SPECIES, IMPROVING RECREATIONAL WALKWAYS AND TREE WORK AT GOULD MEADOWS WITH COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING BY BILL VOGT.**

**ARTICLE 13: BILL VOGT WENT ON TO PRESENT A REQUEST FOR \$60,000.00 FOR RESTORATION OF THE CIVIL WAR MONUMENT TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT.**

**ARTICLE 14: A PROPOSED ARTICLE FOR \$25,000.00 FUNDING RESTORATION OF THE CONCRETE BASIN OF THE CAT AND DOG FOUNTAIN WITH COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING WAS PRESENTED BY BILL VOGT.**

**ARTICLE 15: \$5,000.00 FOR RESTORATION OF THE HORSE WATERING TROUGH WITH COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS WAS PRESENTED BY BILL VOGT.**

**ARTICLE 16: \$20,000.00 FOR GIS MAPPING, DEED RESTRICTION AND HISTORIC LISTING FOR THE STOCKBRIDGE MUNSEE COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT OF FIELD ARBORETUM WITH COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS WAS PRESENTED BY BILL VOGT.**

**ARTICLE 17: THE PROPOSAL OF \$75,000.00 WAS PRESENTED BY BILL VOGT TO BE FUNDED BY COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF A DRIVEWAY AT PINE WOODS.**

**ARTICLE 18: BILL VOGT THE PRESENTED THE REQUEST FOR \$33,000.00 FUNDED BY COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FOR INSTALLATION OF AN ADA COMPLIANT BATHROOM AND ELEVATOR AT RIVRBROOK.**

ARTICLE 19: A PROPOSED RIVERBROOK REQUEST FOR \$17,000.00 TO INSTALL A SPRINKLER SYSTEM WAS THEN PRESENTED BY BILL VOGT TO BE FUNDED BY COMMUNITY PRESERVATION.

ARTICLE 20: BILL VOGT CONTINUED WITH A \$100,000.00 PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP AND FUND A STOCKBRIDGE HOUSING TRUST WITH COMMUNITY PRESERVATION MONIES.

ARTICLE 21: \$10,000.00 WAS PROPOSED FOR THE CPC FY 22 ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET BY BILL VOGT FUNDED BY COMMUNITY PRESERVATION.

ARTICLE 22: BILL VOGT PRESENTED A COMMUNITY PRESERVATION RECOMMENDATION FOR \$28,000.00 FROM ESTIMATED COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ANNUAL REVENUES TO THE HISTORIC RESOURCES RESERVE, THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING RESERVE AND THE OPEN SPACE RESERVE.

ARTICLE 23: THE SUM OF \$40,000.00 FROM AVAILABLE FREE CASH WAS PRESENTED BY BILL VOGT FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTRACTING FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE PLANNING AND ZONING ASSISTANCE TO THE TOWN'S PLANNING BOARD.

ARTICLE 24: THE SUM OF \$35,000.00 FROM AVAILABLE FREE CASH WAS THEN PROPOSED TO ENGAGE WATER TESTING CONSULTANTS FOR STOCKBRIDGE BOWL.

ARTICLE 25: BILL VOGT THEN PRESENTED A REQUEST FOR \$50,000.00 ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE TOWN'S OPEB TRUST FROM CERTIFIED FREE CASH.

ARTICLE 26: THE REQUEST FOR \$35,000.00 FROM AVAILABLE FREE CASH WAS THEN MADE BY BILL VOGT FOR ADDITIONAL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING THE REST OF THE RIVER PROJECT.

ARTICLE 27: A \$70,000.00 PROPOSED REQUEST FROM AVAILABLE FREE CASH WAS PRESENTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF TREE MONITORING AND TREATMENT WITHIN ICE GLEN.

ARTICLE 28: THE SUM OF \$8,000.00 FROM AVAILABLE FREE CASH WAS MADE BY BILL VOGT TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PLANNING BOARD IN ITS STUDY OF THE ADVISABILITY OF OPTIONS FOR CONSOLIDATION BHRSD AND SBRSD.

ARTICLE 29: BILL THEN PRESENTED A REQUEST FOR \$95,000.000 FROM AVAILABLE FREE CASH FOR SITE MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADES TO THE TOWN'S TENNIS AND BASKETBALL COURTS.



ARTICLE 30: THE \$15,000.00 REQUEST FROM AVAILABLE FREE CASH WAS MADE BY BILL VOGT FOR THE PURPOSE OF HIRING LIGHTING CONSULTANTS TO UPGRADE THE TOWN'S STREET LIGHTS.

ARTICLE 31: BILL VOGT PRESENTED A REQUEST FOR \$135,000.00 FROM AVAILABLE FREE CASH TO BE ADDED TO THE FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR THE LARRYWAUG BRIDGE PROJECT.

ARTICLE 32: \$20,000.00 FROM THE CEMETERY TRUST FUND WAS THEN PROPOSED TO HIRE CONSULTANTS TO STUDY AND EVALUATE THE RESTORATION OF OLD STONES WITHIN THE CEMETERY.

ARTICLE 33: BILL VOGT THEN PRESENTED A \$12,000.00 REQUEST FROM AVAILABLE SEWER SURPLUS TO FUND AN UNDERGROUND CAMERA SYSTEM.

ARTICLE 34: \$38,000.00 FROM WATER OPERATIONS RESERVE FUNDS WAS PROPOSED TO FUND TUCKERMAN BRIDGE WATER MAIN ENGINEERING.

ARTICLE 35: \$3,690.00 FROM WATER OPERATIONS RESERVE FUNDS WAS PRESENTED BY BILL VOGT FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSPECTION AND CLEANING OF THE QUIET KNOLL WATER STORAGE TANK.

ARTICLE 36: BILL VOGT INFORMED ALL PRESENT THAT \$97,717.00 FROM SEWER AVAILABLE SURPLUS BE REQUESTED TO FUND A PORTION OF THE DEBT SERVICE PAYMENT (PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST) OF THE SEWER SYSTEM EXPANSION AND UPDATE APPROVED APRIL 1, 2002.

ARTICLE 37: BILL THEN INFORMED ALL PRESENT THAT \$96,918.00 FROM SEWER AVAILABLE SURPLUS BE REQUESTED TO FUND A PORTION OF THE DEBT SERVICE PAYMENT (PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST) OF THE SEWER SYSTEM EXPANSION AND UPDATE APPROVED APRIL 1, 2002.

ARTICLE 38: A REQUEST FOR \$600,000.00 TO PAY THE COSTS OF RESTORING THE CHIME TOWER, AND ALL INCIDENTAL AND RELATED COSTS, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE SELECTMEN, WITH MONIES TO BE APPROPRIATED BY BORROWING THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OR NOTES WAS PRESENTED BY BILL VOGT.

ARTICLE 39: A FURTHER REQUEST FOR \$145,000.00 TO PAY THE COSTS OF PURCHASING A HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TRUCK WITH PLOW AND SANDER TO BE SPENT UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE SELECTMEN WITH FUNDS TO BE APPROPRIATED BY BORROWING THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OR NOTES WAS ALSO PRESENTED BY BILL VOGT.

**ARTICLE 40:** LASTLY, BILL VOGT PRESENTED A REQUEST FOR \$720,000.00 TO PAY FOR THE COSTS OF REPLACING THE PARK STREET PUMP STATION UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE STOCKBRIDGE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION WITH FUNDS TO BE APPROPRIATED BY BORROWING THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OR NOTES WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN.

**9. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**A. THE CHAIR INDICATED THAT THE COMMITTEE LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE SELECT BOARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, DEPARTMENT HEADS AND STAFF DURING THE COMING FISCAL YEAR ON FINANCIAL PROJECTS THAT IMPACT OUR TOWN.**

**B. CHAIR BIKOFSKY REMINDED ALL PRESENT THAT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WOULD BE HELD ON JUNE 12, 2021 AT 10 AM OUTSIDE ON THE GROUNDS OF TOWN HALL.**

**10. THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:29 PM.**