

**TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE, MA.
50 MAIN STREET
FINANCE COMMITTEE REMOTE CTSB MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021 AT 6:15 PM**

1. CHAIR BIKOFSKY CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:15 PM.
2. COMMITTEE ATTENDEES: JAY BIKOFSKY, JIM BALFANZ, PAM BOUDREAU, NEIL HOLDEN, DIANE REUSS, STEVE SHATZ AND WILLIAM VOGT

TOWN GOVERNMENT ATTENDEES: PATRICK WHITE AND MICHAEL CANALES

OTHER ATTENDEES: STEVE BORNS (CTSB) AND CLARENCE FANTO (EAGLE)
3. THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 13, 2021 WERE PRESENTED AND A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM BALFANZ AND SECONDED BY WILLIAM VOGT. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND THE MINUTES WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.
4. MICHAEL CANALES REMINDED THE COMMITTEE THAT THE NEXT FY22 BUDGET RELATED MEETING WOULD BE REMOTELY HELD ON FEBRUARY 25, 2021 AS A JOINT SELECT BOARD-FINANCE COMMITTEE SESSION AT 6:30 PM. THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE A PROPOSED REGIONAL SCHOOL PLANNING BOARD STUDY AND FY 22 STOCKBRIDGE DEPARTMENT HEAD BUDGET PRESENTATIONS FROM POLICE AS WELL AS WATER AND SEWER.
5. THE DRAFT OF THE FY 22 BUDGET WAS THEN PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE BY MICHAEL CANALES. HE HIGHLIGHTED THE FOLLOWING:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

- * LITIGATION EXPENSE A PROPOSED REDUCTION OF \$15,000
- * TOWN OFFICES A PROPOSED BUILDING REPAIR REDUCTION OF \$8,500

PUBLIC SAFETY

- * POLICE PROPOSED INCREASED COST OF CONVERTING A GAS OPERATED CRUISER TO A HYBRID VEHICLE (GAS/ELECTRIC); DETAILED COSTS TO BE SUBSEQUENTLY PROVIDED
JIM BALFANZ ASKED THAT THE CHIEF'S OPINION ON THIS CONVERSION BE SHARED WITH THE COMMITTEE.
PROPOSED INCREASED COST OF POLICE RADIO UPGRADES; DETAILS TO BE PROVIDED
- * HIGHWAY PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF TWO (2) MEDIUM TRUCKS AND LIGHT TRUCKS TO BE FUNDED OVER A FIVE YEAR PERIOD; COST AND ACQUISITION TIMING DETAILS TO BE PROVIDED AS AVAILABLE.
- * AMBULANCE PROPOSED FY 22 EXPENSES TO BE DISCUSSED AT A MEETING WITH LENOX AS WELL AS DEVELOPMENT OF A PROPOSED ANNUALIZED AGREEMENT WITH CONCLUSIONS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

EDUCATION

CHAIR BIKOFSKY ADVISED THE COMMITTEE OF A PROPOSED \$215,773. OPERATING BUDGET INCREASE AS WELL AS A PROPOSED \$1,936. INCREASE IN THE STOCKBRIDGE CAPITAL BUDGET ALLOCATION. HE ADDED THAT THE INCREASE IN THE OPERATING BUDGET COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO A REDUCTION IN TUITION PAYMENTS FROM AFFILIATED TOWNS, INCREASED TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES, A REDUCTION OF AVAILABLE FREE CASH (EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY) AS WELL AS INCREASED SALARIES, EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AND RETIREE HEALTH CARE COSTS. MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW AT THE FEBRUARY 23RD BHRSD REMOTE ZOOM BUDGET MEETING. STEVE SHATZ ADDED THAT AN INCREASED STOCKBRIDGE ALLOCATION WAS TO BE EXPECTED.

PUBLIC WORKS

- * HIGHWAY WAS DISCUSSED BY MICHAEL CANALES. HE MENTIONED THE OVERALL DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT WAS BEING REVIEWED ALONG WITH CONSIDERATION OF A MECHANIC AS PART OF THE FIVE (5) PERSON STAFF.
- * THE COMPACTOR/TRANSFER STATION WAS MENTIONED AND MICHAEL ADDED THAT AN INCREASED COST OF COMMERCIAL WASTE/COMPACTOR REMOVAL COULD BE ANTICIPATED AS WELL AS THE COST FOR SATURDAY AND SUNDAY EMPLOYEE COVERAGE OF THIS FACILITY. BILL VOGT INQUIRED WHETHER OR NOT THE FEES FOR COMPACTOR STICKERS COULD BE ANTICIPATED AND MICHAEL MENTIONED THAT IT WAS TOO SOON TO TELL. DIANE REUSS ASKED IF THE WEEKEND COMPACTOR COVERAGE WOULD BE STAFFED BY PART TIMERS, WHICH IT WAS NOTED THAT SCHEDULING DETAILS WERE BEING DEVELOPED.
- * WATER AND SEWER UTILITIES RELOCATION IN THE VICINITY OF THE CURTISVILLE BRIDGE WAS MENTIONED AT A COST OF \$280,000. EQUALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN FREE CASH AND WATER AND SEWER SURPLUS .
- * THE SOLAR ARRAY, MICHAEL MENTIONED AFFORDED ELECTRICITY CREDITS TO THE TOWN WITH THE SPECIFICS TO BE PROVIDED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.

HUMAN SERVICES

- * COUNCIL ON THE AGING SERVICES WERE RAISED FOR DISCUSSION BY MICHAEL CANALES. HE INFORMED THE COMMITTEE THAT THE THOUGHT OF SHARED SERVICES WITH GREAT BARRINGTON WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION INCLUDING THE TRANSFER OF THE STOCKBRIDGE VAN TO SUPPORT THIS PROJECT. MORE TO FOLLOW ON THIS.

CULTURE AND RECREATION

- * LIBRARY- IT WAS NOTED THAT AN HVAC IMPROVEMENT AND UPGRADE FOR THE LIBRARY ESTIMATED AT \$100,000 WAS IN THE PLANNING STAGE TO BE SUPPORTED BY AVAILABLE GRANT MONIES.

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- * PARKS AND RECREATION-REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF THE TENNIS AND BASKETBALL COURTS ADJACENT TO TOWN HALL WAS CURRENTLY BEING EVALUATED AND YET TO FINALIZED FOR PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE.

DEBT SERVICE

THE COMMITTEE REPEATED IT'S REQUEST THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN IN THIS BUDGET CYCLE TO REFINANCING THE TOWN'S DEBT, GIVEN CURRENT FAVORABLE INTEREST RATES. MICHAEL MENTIONED THAT A REDUCTION IN DEBT PAYMENTS WOULD BE BUDGETED FOR FY 22.

OPEB (OTHER POST EMPLOYEE BENEFITS)

THE COMMITTEE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST TO RE-EVALUATE OPEB FUNDING NEEDS WITH THE TOWN'S ACTUARIES, ODESSEY PARTNERS.

MICHAEL CONCLUDED THIS DISCUSSION ON THE FIRST FY 22 EXPENSE BUDGET DRAFT, MENTIONING A PROJECTED \$127,145.00 PROPOSED INCREASE. HE ADDED THAT ADDITIONAL MEETINGS WOULD BE SCHEDULED WITH THE SELECT BOARD AND FINANCE COMMITTEES TO FURTHER REFINE THE DOCUMENT.

6. CHAIR BIKOFSKY REVIEWED A PRELIMINARY LIST OF WARRANT ARTICLES AND CAPITAL REQUESTS FOR THE COMMITTEES CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS WITH DETAILS TO BE PROVIDED. THE LIST IS NOT INCLUSIVE AT THIS TIME:

PLANNING BOARD CONSULTANT

CHIME TOWER REPAIR

7/20 INTERSECTION REDESIGN

PARK STREET PUMP STATION

WATER AND SEWER UNDERGROUND CAMERA

QUIET KNOLL TANK CLEANING

AVERIC BRIDGE #2 REPAIR/REPLACEMENT

TUCKERMAN'S BRIDGE RE-ENGINEERING STUDY

POLICE PORTABLE AND MOBILE RADIO REPLACEMENTS

FIRE DEPARTMENT ENGINE 2 BODY WORK, HOSE REPLACEMENT AND

INTERLAKEN STATION REPAIR AND REPAINTING

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPLACEMENT VEHICLES

CPC FUNDED PROJECTS

RESIDENTIAL TAX EXEMPTION-NON BINDING

MICHAEL CANALES CONCLUDED THAT A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REQUEST JUSTIFICATION FORM WOULD BE CIRCULATED FOR EVALUATION PURPOSES.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

* A JOINT SELECT BOARD-FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING WAS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 25TH AT 6:30 PM. THIS WILL DEAL WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT PLANNING AND DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET REVIEW MEETINGS.

8. THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:25 PM