

**TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE, MA.  
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY JANUARY 2, 2018 AT 7PM**

- 1. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7 PM**
- 2. FINANCE COMMITTEE ATTENDEES: JAY BIKOFSKY, JIM BALFANZ, MARY BOYCE, NEIL HOLDEN, DIANE REUSS, JIM MCMENAMY AND STEVE SHATZ**
- 3. THE MINUTES OF THE JOINT SELECT BOARD-FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF DECEMBER 11, 2017 WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.**

**THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF DECEMBER 11, 2017 WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WITH ONE CHANGE. THE CHANGE INCORPORATES LANGUAGE “ THE 37 INTERLAKEN PROJECT DECISION ULTIMATELY RESTS WITH TOWN VOTERS AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DUE TO A PROPOSED BY-LAW AMMENDMENT SUBMITTED BY 37 INTERLAKEN.”**

- 4. TEUTSCH LAWSUIT SETTLEMENT BRIEFING:**

**STEVE SHATZ REVIEWED FOR THE COMMITTEE THE ADDITIONAL DEMAND DETAILS MADE BY TEUTSCH LAWYERS, WHICH RESULTED IN A FINAL PAYMENT OF \$38,000 REACHED AT A CLOSED SELECT-BOARD EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS RAISED NUMEROUS QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS MATTER. INCLUDED WAS THE NON-EXISTANCE OF OPEN MEETING DISCUSSIONS, NOTIFICATION OF THE TOWN’S INSURER, DETAILS ON THE NATURE OF THE DELIBERATIONS, NON- EXISTENCE OF A WRITTEN OPINION REGARDING THE TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT FROM TOWN COUNSEL, LACK OF CONSULTATION WITH THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, METHOD OF PAYMENT AND THE LACK OF MINUTES OF THE SELECT-BOARD EXECUTIVE SESSIONS. THE AFOREMENTIONED WERE BUT A FEW OF THE CONCERNS RAISED.**

**DON CHABON, SELECT BOARD CHAIR ADVISED THE COMMITTEE THAT THIS MATTER DID INVOLVE TOWN COUNSEL, THAT THE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT WAS MADE DUE TO AN ORIGINAL CALCULATION ERROR, THAT IT WAS MORE COST ADVANTAGEOUS THAN LITIGATION, PAYMENT OPTIONS WERE FULLY EXPLORED CONCLUDING WITH AN UNUSED SALARY BUDGET LINE BEING THE MOST EXPEDITIOUS AND LEAST COMPLEX METHOD OF APPROVAL (CONTRASTED TO A RESERVE FUND TRANSFER) AND THAT THE MATTER WAS FINALLY SETTLED.**

**IN CONCLUSION, THE COMMITTEE ASKED CHAIRMAN CHABON TO CONSIDER MAKING A PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING THIS MATTER AT THE UPCOMING SPECIAL TOWN MEETING.**

**5. TOWN GARAGE REPLACEMENT OPTIONS AND FINANCING:**

**DANIELLE FILLIO BRIEFED THE COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF THIS PROJECT. THE FINAL OPTION WOULD INCLUDE A FIVE (5) BAY PRE-FABRICATED GARAGE WITH THE TALBOT CENTER REMAINING IN ITS' CURRENT LOCATION ADDING A BATHROOM. PROJECTED COST ESTIMATES, FROM MIKE KULIG, ARE \$2.1 TO \$2.3 MILLION WITH DETAILED BIDS BEING REQUESTED BY 2/15/2018.**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR, JAY BIKOFSKY, BRIEFED THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCING OPTIONS PRESENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION WITH CLARK ROWELL, THE TOWN'S FINANCIAL ADVISOR ON THESE MATTERS. THE THOUGHT PROPOSED WOULD INCLUDE APPROVAL OF A WARRANT AT THE JANUARY 22, 2018 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, THEN ACQUIRING STATE HOUSE NOTES FOR A 7 TO 8 MONTH PERIOD AND FINALLY ISSUING GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN JULY, AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER OF 2018 FOR A 10, 15 OR 20 YEAR TERM, DEPENDENT UPON DEMAND AND INTEREST RATE CONSIDERATIONS. THE INTEREST ON THE STATEHOUSE NOTES, ESTIMATED AT 2%, WOULD BE PAID OFF PRIOR BOND ISSUANCE, WHICH WOULD INCORPORATE THE TOTAL PROJECT PRINCIPAL.**

**THE WARRANT ARTICLE FOR APPROVAL AT THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WOULD FIRST BE REVIEWED BY CLARK ROWELL BEFORE THE MEETING.**

- 6. 37 INTERLAKEN PROJECT: AN OVERVIEW OF THIS PROJECT, PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED TO THE COMMITTEE, ALONG WITH OTHER RELATED MATERIALS WAS MENTIONED. THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED ITS' ROLE ON THE PROJECT, AS ADVISORY AND DIRECTED TOWARDS THE FINANCIAL ELEMENTS, AND DECIDED THAT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WERE A BIT PREMATURE UNTIL AFTER THE FEBRUARY 6, 2018 PUBLIC HEARING DIRECTED TO PROPOSED BYLAWS AND ZONING CHANGES. COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE ASKED TO FORWARD ANY FURTHER REQUEST FOR INFORMATION TO THE CHAIRMAN.**
- 7. BUDGET PREPARATION UPDATE: THE COMMITTEE WAS ADVISED THAT REQUESTS FOR BUDGET PROPOSALS WERE CIRCULATED TO DEPARTMENT - HEADS AND DUE BACK BY JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>. IT WAS FURTHER MENTIONED THAT THE FORMAT FOR OPERATIONAL AND CAPITAL BUDGETING WOULD BE THE SAME AS LAST YEAR, FY 17. FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS WOULD THEN BE SCHEDULED.**

**PAGE 3 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 2, 2018 CON'T**

- 8. TOWN ACCOUNTANT POSITION: THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ADVISED THE COMMITTEE THAT UNTIL A REPLACEMENT FOR THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT WAS DECIDED UPON, SHE AND THE TOWN CLERK WERE ABLE TO MANAGE THIS FUNCTION.**

**THE COMMITTEE WAS ALSO ADVISED THAT A FUTURE MEETING HAD BEEN SCHEDULED WITH THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE, APPOINTED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN, TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER.**

- 9. SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES: THE COMMITTEE WAS ADVISED THAT A NUMBER OF WARRANT ARTICLES WOULD BE PRESENTED AT THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING FOR APPROVAL. INCLUDED ARE THE FOLLOWING:**

- MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENT TEMPORARY MORATORIUM**
- APPOINTMENT OF A COMBINED TREASURER- COLLECTOR POSITION**
- APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE TOWN GARAGE REPLACEMENT**
- APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR A MAIN STREET TRAFFIC STUDY**

**THESE ARTICLES WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING ON JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>.**

- 10. OTHER BUSINESS: DANIELLE FILLIO MENTIONED THAT SHE WOULD BE TAKING COURSES IN GRANT WRITING, RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE REMINDED TO COMPLETE THEIR CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND RECEIPT OF THE OPEN MEETING LAW GUIDE, RETURNING THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE TOWN CLERK**

- 11. THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:20 PM.**