

STOCKBRIDGE SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 11, 2021
6:30 p.m.
ZOOM MEETING - TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET

Present:

Chuck Cardillo, Roxanne McCaffrey, Patrick White and Mike Canales

Call to Order:

Chuck called the meeting to order.

First on the agenda Mike gave a review of the FY22 draft budget. With screen share Mike overviewed the new budget spread sheet and asked for the Board's input. Mike first asked the Board about the litigation line and asked for consideration of lowering it to \$85,000 as there is no pending litigation. Jay Bikofsky asked if the Rest of the River legal fees were addressed here and Mike felt that this number would cover them. Jay added that he would also check with Steve Shatz as he is the ROR representative. The Board agreed to reduce the litigation budget.

Mike then continued through the draft and stated that they will fine tune it over the next month. Mike reviewed the individual department budgets. The Planning Board is looking to have their planner again next year and Mike recommended putting this through as a separate article. Chuck agreed. One line for the Police Department; "new Patrol Equipment" has increased for cruiser replacement with the possibility of looking at a hybrid vehicle. Patrick questioned if the Tree Warden salary is adequate and to look at it. Over all with the Highway, Mike suggested leaving it much the same and look at it closer next year once Hugh can do the analysis himself. Mike is still looking into the Transfer Station budget. Water and Sewer expenses; the electricity line is being lowered to reflect solar. With the Council on Aging, the Town is speaking with Great Barrington who is running a transportation program for seniors. We could turn over our van for a value and join a regional service with them. Mike just met with Park and Rec and some adjustments have been made; increasing expenses by \$5750 and decreasing salary by \$3500. Mike reviewed the debt schedule which allows us to look ahead and also looked at the revenues. Lastly, Mike reviewed a tax rate estimator for budget planning. Roxanne stated the need of a line for the Stockbridge Bowl Stewardship Committee and questioned funds that were previously appropriated for the Beach house. Roxanne said that she has a few more pieces to put together for the SBSC for a special article this year. Mike requested that they bring questions forward, decide which departments the Board would like to meet with and continue to fine tune the budget.

Next, discussion was on the Warrant Articles; what articles to bring forward and how will they be prioritized. The Planning Board should be ready with the Sign Bylaw, the Driveway Bylaw and the Downtown Parking Bylaw. Also mentioned were the 911 numbering bylaw, the Select Board's Dog and Kennel Bylaw and Right to Farm Bylaw, the Police Department's Bear/Trash Bylaw, Mosquito Control Participation bylaw, Short-Term Rental Bylaw, Planning Board Planner for Bylaw Updates for an additional year (possibly a permanent budget line after this year) along with an additional year of funding to keep the consultant who has been working on the Great Estate bylaw. Also mentioned was to poll the Town on Residential Exemption as a Non-Binding Question, the Stockbridge Bowl Stewardship Commission/Budget and Bylaw, the Housing Trust Fund Bylaw and the Beachwood request for a Road Maintenance District.

On the Averic Bridge Project update, Mike said they had the site visit and know what is happening with the first bridge and the second. The first bridge is out to bid and will be fixed this year and the second the following year. Mike said that they are going after the Small Bridge Grant Program for the second bridge in the fall. Patrick questioned the possibility of accelerating this project by appropriating the money to repair the bridge from town funds.

Trash/Recycling Receptacles for Main Street was next discussed and Mike said the only decision is to decide what to order. Roxanne said that they also needed to come up with a number and locations. Chuck made a motion to have Roxanne and Barbara come up with how many, the style and get them ordered. Patrick seconded; all were in favor.

Next up was discussion on the ADA Grant and BRPC Housing Rehabilitation Grant: Mike said that the Town became a part of the BRPC Housing Rehabilitation Grant with Dalton and money was allocated through the Community Development Block Grant but this was delayed when COVID hit. One part of the Grant was to do an ADA assessment. Mike applied for and the Town has received an independent ADA grant to develop our transition plan and self-evaluation. Now, we can reallocate the CBDG funds so that more homes can be included in the rehabilitation program.

Patrick proposed the use of remaining CARES money for food assistance. Mike said that he would check with Town Counsel.

Next was discussion on the Winter Outdoor Dining Grant. Mike stated that a decision needed to be made. Patrick said that he took responsibility for applying for a grant without realizing the limitations that would be imposed by the state. They now needed to decide if the received grant can be used. Mike said that the largest issue was that it has to be located on municipal land and has to be a part of a larger project scope addressing outdoor dining. We do not have a mechanism to make this happen. If the grant cannot be implemented as

applied for, the money must be returned. Patrick questioned what else we could do. Mike said that how you want to implement anything becomes the question. Chuck suggested making a motion that the grant be returned; noting the reasons. He also asked that businesses request what they may need. Patrick seconded; all were in favor. Vote: Roxanne: I, Chuck: I, Patrick: I. Mike said at their next meeting they will be considering waving seasonal alcohol fees as they already did with the annual fees. He continued that this is something the Town can do; there are certain things that we can do to support businesses and those we cannot.

Mike asked the Board if they wanted to change next week's meeting time to 9:00 a.m. and Chuck said he would like to keep it at 8:00 a.m. Mike noted that they will address the road maintenance tax at the 18th meeting.

Terri asked that it be mentioned that nomination papers are available; email or call the Town Clerk to arrange pick up. The offices up for election are listed on the Town Website.

Chuck said that if residents wish to send comments and concerns please email: selectmen@townofstockbridge.com

For seniors over 75 in need of a COVID vaccine: call 211 to receive information.

Chuck made a motion to vote to enter into Executive Session per MGL Ch 30A, sec 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and that the Board will not return to open meeting session. Roxanne seconded. Roll call vote: I Roxanne, I Patrick, I Chuck.