

STOCKBRIDGE SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 25, 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:

Jay Bikofsky called the joint Finance Select Board meeting to order. In attendance from the Finance Committee: Jay Bikofsky, Jim Balfanz, Pam Boudreau, Neil Holden, Diane Reuss, Steve Shatz, and Bill Vogt. Finance Committee approval of 3/11/21 finance meeting minutes. Jim moved for approval. Steve seconded. All were in approval.

Next was the budget presentation from the Fire Department. Jay stated that concerning repairs of engine #2, which is 21 years old and up for replacement in the next one to two years, the general consensus was that it did not make sense to do major bodywork. Instead, they would do in house patching for this year; no capital expenditure. The matter of stipends for Fire Department volunteers was researched and it was decided with the addition of five new volunteers, that the stipend hourly point rate would go from \$8/hour to \$12/hour. Mike reviewed the procedure of how the stipends will be distributed. Looking at the other capital expenses, Mike said that they are looking repairing the Interlaken Station through either the CPC funds or Green Communities. With the hoses they scaled back the initial \$16,000 proposal to \$2,400; thereby eliminating all three of the capital purchases for this year. They will come back for purchasing a new engine and in the mean time this year they will be applying for the Assistance to Firefighters' grant to see if they can get money toward a new engine.

Jay said that they have yet to hear back from Lenox on their ambulance service contribution and will follow up once he hears.

Jay said that they are currently looking at \$129,000 increase to the operating budget. Mike said that they do not expect any other operating budget issues and added that the over-all increase to the budget this year was \$140,000. Jay continued that at a future meeting the Finance will vote on recommendations to the Select Board.

There was discussion on extending sewer around the Stockbridge Bowl to include Lake Drive and Mike said they would look into it.

Next was a review of the capital items and Warrant. Jay began with Water and Sewer's need of underground cameras; \$12,000 coming out of Water and Sewer surplus. Also coming from this surplus is the Tuckerman's Bridge engineering study of \$38,000 and the repainting of the Quiet Knoll tank at \$3,690. For the Park Street pump station replacement project at \$720,000, it is being recommended as a 20-year borrowing supported by the Sewer revenue account. Jay questioned the \$20,000 study for the cemetery project funded by

cemetery trust fund. Karen Marshall stated that it was to bring in professionals to review approximately 600 of the oldest stones to determine repairs needed; with repairs to follow the next year.

Next discussed to come from Free Cash was: \$40,000 from for a part-time Planning Board consultant and planner, \$35,000 to the Stockbridge Bowl Stewardship Committee for lake testing, \$50,000 to OPEB, \$100,000 for housing rehabilitation for elderly residents as a guaranteed loan, (Mike noted that it is still being worked out to determine if this proposal can move forward and Roxanne asked why we are doing this when BRPC already has a block grant that serves this purpose. Jay stated that the BRPC grant has a rigid income and family size requirement and they are attempting to get more latitude), the Rest of River commitment is \$35,000, Ice Glen tree management project for \$30,000, Regional School Planning Committee study of \$8,000. Parks and Recreation is putting forward to borrow from free cash for funding to resurface the tennis and basketball courts and replacing some fencing, and \$15,000 for a consultant to study replacing street lights with LED lighting, further funded with a DOER grant, with potentially a \$28,000 savings to the Town annually.

Going back to the Chime Tower, Mike stated that looking at the project time frame and increase in costs, they increased the total for borrowing to \$600,000 with a twenty-year borrowing period. Mike stated the need to repair and maintain the Chime Tower. Jay continued with the replacement of a large highway truck and the financing of vehicles by Chapter 90 funds, outright purchases or a 5-year note schedule which is Mike's recommendation.

Discussion will continue. The financing for the downtown intersection funding will move forward after a presentation of the proposal. Steve Shatz stated that the Finance Committee should not make recommendations on anything before approved by the Select Board and Mike said that this is the plan. Mike said that they have a starting free cash of \$1,851,487, proposed spending of \$408,000 leaving a balance of \$1,443,487. Mike added that he wanted both boards aware that the Larrywaug Bridge project is going out to bid, with a bid return of April 20th. With 1.2 million dollars remaining, depending on where the bids come in, they may need to come back to request funds in order to complete the project. Jay adjourned the joint session.

Continuing with the Selectman's meeting Police Chief Fennelly asked to seek approval to provide a conditional offer of at will employment to one Reserve Police Officer applicant. With the Board's approval Darrelle said that he would move forward with a complete background check, medical exam, drug screen and if all successful move the recruit into their field training program. Darrelle presented Stockbridge resident, Kaden Shafiroff who has successfully completed the Reserve Academy and is currently employed by the New Marlborough Police Department. He has already been through the two-step interview process. Chuck made a motion that the Board accept Darrell's recommendation and move forward with it. Roxanne seconded; all were in favor.

Next, Chuck made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 11th meeting. Roxanne seconded; all were in favor.

Chuck noted a thank-you letter to the Riverbrook Residence for \$2,000 in-lieu of taxes payment.

Chuck made a motion that they appoint Michael Vogt to the Stockbridge Housing Authority as Resident/Tenant. Patrick seconded; all were in favor.

Chuck made a motion that they appoint Miles Moffatt to the Stockbridge Green Communities Committee. Patrick seconded; all were in favor.

With two applicants for the Conservation Commission alternate position, Lisa Bozzutto and Gary Johnston, Patrick stated that Gary is great for the position and that Lisa comes in with 11 years of experience. Stating that it was not Patrick's plan to seek reappointment in June, he offered to resign this evening and appoint both. He would like to be able to participate as an ad-hoc member for now. Chuck made a motion to accept Patrick's resignation from the Conservation Commission. Roxanne seconded; both were in favor. Chuck made a motion that they appoint Patrick as the Select Board's liaison to the Conservation Commission. Roxanne seconded; both were in favor. Chuck made a motion to appoint Lisa Bozzutto to the permanent position and Gary Johnston as alternate to the Conservation Commission. Roxanne seconded; all were in favor.

Next was to take action on date of delay for the Annual Town Meeting, allowing outdoor attendance on a Saturday with a rain date of Sunday. Chuck made a motion to hold the Annual Town Meeting on June 12th at 10:00 a.m. with a rain-date of Sunday, June 13th at 1:00 p.m. Roxanne seconded; all were in favor.

Town Elections are on May 18th.

Next, the Board reviewed the Short-Term Rental Bylaw. Roxanne reviewed the document which discussed Town registration only, not a full permitted process. This would allow the ability for the Town to respond to complaints. Patrick questioned registered vs permitted wording and stated that he had comments on the bylaw. Roxanne continued and explained that this is an attestation required to register. It was discussed if an LLC, corporation or trusts will be allowed. Roxanne said that this would be a discussion for Town Counsel on the wording to eliminate corporations. Patrick suggested that affordable housing cannot be allowed to rent out as short-term rentals and also professional operators should be banned. Patrick also asked to add under 2.2 "or an enforcement action by the Planning Board or Conservation Commission," and under 2.3: 15 minutes was changed to 30 minutes. Mike said that they will

clarify wordage with Town Counsel. It was also suggested that the Board annually set a registration fee.

Barbara Zanetti from the Chamber of Commerce asked if short term rentals will be required Fire and Tri Town Health inspections as Bed and Breakfasts are required. The answer was that it would not be a requirement as there is nothing in the State building code regulating short term rentals.

Roxanne read the proposed bylaw that would create the Stockbridge Bowl Stewardship Commission. Patrick questioned what the problem is that we are trying to solve by creating this bylaw. Roxanne said that with it becoming a commission, it remains ongoing. Patrick felt that it could continue to function just as well as an advisory committee, allowing for member flexibility. Jaimie Minacci, chair of the SBSC, stated that she had some questions as she had not seen this bylaw. Roxanne said that it is not that the current process is not working, but a commission would ensure that the ball does not get dropped in the future, for the future of the Stockbridge Bowl and the watershed. Patrick felt that the membership should have some flexibility. Roxanne stated that the point of the membership was to bring together various stakeholder groups; thereby unifying data, knowledge and the making of decisions. Roxanne agreed that the member list could possibly be modified. made more general. Patrick felt that as the LPOD regulatory group, a Planning Board member should also be on the committee.

Next, was to take action on Seasonal Alcohol License Renewals for the BSO-Tanglewood, Naumkeag and Berkshire Theatre Festival Main Stage. Chuck made a motion to approve the seasonal alcohol licenses. Roxanne seconded; all were in favor.

It was decided to continue the discussion on the MVP action grant program and the Resilient Housing component.

Mike said that the Larrywaug Bridge bid opening is on April 20th with an estimated October date of completion.

Lastly, the Board discussed the SBA's request for inclusion in the forthcoming Town Annual Report. As the submission is not a financial report and to not set the precedence for everyone to want to be included, Chuck made a motion that that it be tabled for a year. Roxanne seconded; all were in favor.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Chuck adjourned the meeting.