

**TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE, MA.
50 MAIN STREET
JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE-SELECT BOARD
VIRTUAL BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY APRIL 14, 2022 AT 6:30 PM**

1. **FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR, JAY BIKOFSKY, MODERATOR FOR THIS SESSION, CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM.**
2. **SELECT BOARD ATTENDEES: ROXANNE MCCAFFREY, CHUCK CARDILLO AND PATRICK WHITE.**

FINANCE COMMITTEE ATTENDEES: JAY BIKOFSKY, JIM BALFANZ (REMOTELY BY ZOOM) PAM BOUDREAU, NEIL HOLDEN, DIANE REUSS, STEVE SHATZ AND WILLIAM VOGT (REMOTELY BY ZOOM).

TOWN GOVERNMENT ATTENDEES: MICHAEL CANALES AND HUGH PAGE.

OTHER ATTENDEES: CLARENCE FANTO (BERKSHIRE EAGLE) AND STEVE BORNES (CTSBT) BOTH REMOTELY BY ZOOM.

3. **JUSTIN CHRISTOPHER WAS CALLED UPON BY THE SELECT BOARD TO REVIEW THE BERKSHIRE SCENIC RAILWAY MUSEUM'S APPLICATION FOR HAND CRAFTED CATERING AND ANNUAL ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE.**
 - **HE MENTIONED THAT THE LICENSE WAS PROPOSED TO ACCOMMODATE A CAPACITY OF 70 ATTENDEES AT ONE TIME IN THE MUSEUM.**
 - **HE ADDED THAT EVENTS WOULD BE BOTH INDOOR AND OUTDOOR STARTING BETWEEN 2 AND 5 PM ENDING AT 11 PM.**
 - **SOME MUSIC COULD BE EXPECTED.**
 - **THE REVENUE GENERATED FROM THESE EVENTS, HE ADDED, WOULD BE USED TO UPGRADE THE MUSEUM'S PHYSICAL PLANT.**

THE SELECT BOARD DISCUSSED THE PROPOSAL AND A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROXANNE MCCAFFREY AND SECONDED BY PATRICK WHITE. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, A VOTE WAS CALLED AND THE SELECT BOARD VOTED 3-0 TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION.

4. **THE JOINT SELECT BOARD-FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF APRIL 7, 2022 WERE PRESENTED AND A MOTION WAS MADE BY STEVE SHATZ AND SECONDED BY PAM BOUDREAU. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0 BY MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.**
5. **CHAIR BIKOFSKY THEN REVIEWED THE MOST CURRENT DRAFT OF THE PROPOSED FY 23 TOWN OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE JOINT COMMITTEE:**

HE ADVISED THE JOINT COMMITTEE THAT THE CURRENT DRAFT BUDGET FOR FY23 WAS \$11,549,384.00 REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF \$833,424.00 OVER THE EXPIRING BUDGET. THE FOLLOWING INCREASES WERE HIGHLIGHTED:

- EDUCATION OPERATING AND CAPITAL EXPENSES-\$433,318.00
- FUEL COSTS -FOR TOWN OFFICES, POLICE, FIRE, HIGHWAY, CEMETERY, WATER AND SEWER \$50,100.00
- NEWLY BUDGETED POLICE POSITION-\$89,981.00
- AMBULANCE EXPENSES-\$11,689.38
- BERKSHIRE COUNTY RETIREMENT INCREASES-\$38,424.00
- DEBT SERVICE ON THE CHIME TOWER REFURBISHMENT-\$56,500.00
- STOCKBRIDGE BOWL STEWARDSHIP-\$40,000.00
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY-\$20,000.00
- CONSERVATION PEER REVIEW-\$20,000.00
- SALARY INCREASES RANGING BETWEEN 1-2%

CHAIR BIKOFSKY FURTHER NOTED THAT THE TOWN'S REVENUE RECEIPTS INCREASED \$699,318.00 OVER THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR AND THE OPERATING BUDGET INCLUDED CREDIT OF \$33,457.00 FOR THE UNFILLED EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT POSITION.

PATRICK WHITE INQUIRED IF PROJECTED FIRST QUARTER FY 23 TAX REVENUE RECEIPTS AS WELL AS GENERAL TOWN REVENUES COULD BE PROVIDED. MICHAEL CANALES INDICATED THAT HE WOULD PREPARE THIS INFORMATION.

BILL VOGT ASKED HOW THE \$16,000.00 OPIOID SETTLEMENT WAS TO BE APPLIED. MICHAEL CANALES THEN INDICATED THAT THE USE OF THESE FUNDS WAS BEING REVIEWED AND THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE ADVISED OF THE AVAILABLE OPTIONS.

JIM BALFANZ MENTIONED THAT THERE WAS NO BUDGETED FUNDING FOR OPEB. MICHAEL RESPONDED THAT THE TOWN CURRENTLY HAD AN ACCOUNT OF \$3,720,507.00 AND, AFTER A CONVERSATION WITH THE ACTUARIES, IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT ADDITIONAL FUNDING WAS NOT NECESSARY FOR FY 23.

6. THE CHAIR THEN CALLED UPON MICHAEL CANALES TO DISCUSS THE FY 23 CAPITAL BUDGET:

MICHAEL ADVISED THE JOINT COMMITTEE THAT FY 23 PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS COULD BE FUNDED WITH FREE CASH, FY 22 RESERVE FUND BALANCES, AND THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS (DEBT CREATION AS NEEDED). HE REVIEWED THE FOLLOWING:

- **FREE CASH CAPITAL BUDGET FUNDING:**
 - + INTERLAKEN FIRE STATION PAINT AND REPAIRS...\$14,000.00-FIRE
 - + REST OF THE RIVER LEGAL FEES.....\$35,000.00
 - + GLENDALE FIRE STATION RESTORATION.....\$37,500.00-FIRE
 - + 2-MID-SIZED PLOW TRUCKS.....\$340,000.00-HIGHWAY
 - + USED BACKHOE.....\$100,000.00-HIGHWAY
 - + EQUIPMENT TRAILER.....\$7,000.00-HIGHWAY
 - + BOBCAT L28 TOOL CARRIER.....\$50,000.00-HIGHWAY
 - + SIGNS FOR ICE GLEN..... \$10,000.00
 - + KAMPOOSA BOG MAINTENANCE.....\$50,000.00
 - + RETIRE LOANS.....\$385,205.64
 - + BEACH HUT ROOF REPAIR.....\$25,000.00
 - + BEACH SHORELINE IMPROVEMENT.....\$5,700.00
 - TOTAL.....\$1,059,405.64

- **CPC CAPITAL BUDGET FUNDING:**
 - + GLENDALE FIRE STATION REPAIR.....\$37,500.00
 - + HEMLOCK TREATMENT.....\$85,000.00
 - TOTAL.....\$122,500.00

- **FY 22 AVAILABLE RESERVE FUND CAPITAL BUDGET FUNDING:**
 - + F-350.....\$55,000.00-HIGHWAY
 - + F-150.....\$35,000.00-HIGHWAY
 - + DEPARTMENTAL TOOLS.....\$20,000.00-HIGHWAY
 - TOTAL.....\$110,000.00-HIGHWAY

CHAIR BIKOFSKY ASKED HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT HUGH PAGE IF THERE WAS SCRAP VALUE TO ANY OF THE VEHICLES BEING REPLACED. HE INDICATED THERE WAS AND WOULD ADVISE THE JOINT COMMITTEE APPROPRIATELY AS THE REPLACEMENT TIME APPROACHED.

BILL VOGT SUGGESTED CREATION OF A DEPRECIATION FUND AND MICHAEL CANALES CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD WORK WITH DEPARTMENT HEADS TO CREATE SUCH A DOCUMENT IN CONNECTION WITH FUTURE MULTI YEAR CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT.

MICHAEL CONCLUDED DISCUSSION OF THE ABOVE BY INDICATING THAT AN ESTIMATED \$1.1 MILLION DOLLARS WOULD REMAIN IN FREE CASH AFTER COMMITTING TO THE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED CAPITAL ACQUISITIONS.

MICHAEL WAS THEN ASKED BY THE CHAIR TO DISCUSS THE UTILIZATION OF BORROWING FOR THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECTS:

- TUCKERMAN’S BRIDGE DESIGN AND REPLACEMENT.....\$2,080,000.00
- AVERIC ROAD BRIDGE..... \$1,200,000.00
- SALT SHED DESIGN AND REPLACEMENT.....\$448,000.00
- PARK STREET PUMP STATION ADDITIONAL COST.....\$200,000.00
- TOTAL.....\$3,928,000.00

THE COMMITTEE WAS ADVISED THAT THE INTERSECTION DESIGN AND UPGRADE, ORIGINALLY CONTEMPLATED WITH THE ABOVE PROJECTS WAS REMOVED TO BE SEPARATELY CONSIDERED WITHIN ONE TO TWO MONTHS AFTER THE TOWN MEETING, AT A SEPARATE SESSION.

MICHAEL ALSO RAISED THE MATTER OF CURRENT INTEREST RATES AND INFORMED THE JOINT COMMITTEE THAT TODAY’S UNIBANK RATE WAS 2.55%. THIS WAS SAID IN THE CONTEXT OF BORROWING \$750,000.00 TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF A REPLACEMENT ENGINE FOR THE DATED PUMPERS #1 AND #2. THE ADDITIONAL \$250,000.00 WOULD BE PROPOSED TRANSFERRED FROM FREE CASH TO COMPLETE THE ESTIMATED PURCHASE COST.

THE ABOVE PROJECTS, TO BE SUPPORTED BY BORROWING, WOULD BE PRESENTED FOR TOWN MEETING APPROVAL IN PROPOSED ARTICLES 52 AND 54.

7. THE JOINT COMMITTEE WAS PRESENTED WITH AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED WARRANT ARTICLES FOR APPROVAL AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING. MICHAEL MENTIONED THAT ARTICLE 4 DEALT WITH THE PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED OPERATING BUDGET, ARTICLE 5 AND 6, THE TOWN’S BHRSD OPERATING AND CAPITAL ASSESSMENTS, ARTICLES 7 THROUGH 23 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS, ARTICLE 24 APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE CEMETERY TRUST FOR STOCKBRIDGE CEMETERY MAINTENANCE AND ARTICLE 25 THROUGH 40 APPROPRIATION OF FREE CASH, PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED IN CAPITAL PROJECT/ EQUIPMENT FY 23 BUDGETING. THE COMMITTEE WAS FURTHER BRIEFED ON ARTICLES 41 THROUGH 51 DEALING WITH APPROPRIATIONS OF WATER AND SEWER SURPLUS FUNDS.

ARTICLE 52 PROPOSED THE BORROWING OF \$4,000,000.00 FOR TUCKERMAN’S BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, AVERIC BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, THE SALT SHED REPLACEMENT AND ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE PARK STREET PUMP STATION REPLACEMENT. ARTICLE 53 TO FUND THE REMAINING WATER TREATMENT PLANT OUTSTANDING DEBT AS WELL AS THE FUNDING OF A NEW BHRSD HIGH SCHOOL IF APPROVED.

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ARTICLE 54 PROPOSED APPROPRIATION OF \$250,000.000 FROM FREE CASH FOR REPLACEMENT OF A FIRE ENGINE PUMPER AND \$750,000.00 TO FUND THE REMAINING COST OF THIS EQUIPMENT BY THE ISSUANCE OF DEBT THROUGH BORROWING/ BONDS. ARTICLE 55 PROPOSED SEWER EASEMENTS AND ARTICLE 56 THE BORROWING OF \$1,500,000.00, \$450,000 STOCKBRIDGE'S ALLOCATION FOR THE SCHEMATIC DESIGN AND FEASIBILITY OF REPLACEMENT AND OR UPGRADING MONUMENT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL.

WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED ARTICLES, PATRICK WHITE MADE A MOTION TO REMOVE THE INTERSECTION FROM THE \$4 MILLION PROPOSED BORROWING IN ARTICLE 52, SECONDED BY ROXANNE MCCAFFREY AND REPLACE IT WITH THE PURCHASE OF THE NEW FIRE ENGINE. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND A REVISED ARTICLE, TO BE REWORDED AS PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED, WAS APPROVED 3-0 BY THE SELECT BOARD.

JIM BALFANZ SUGGESTED THAT MAJOR FUNDING ARTICLES BE PRESENTED EARLY IN THE AGENDA OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION IN ORDER TO AVOID POSSIBLE CONCERNS THAT MIGHT BE RAISED BY THOSE WHO LEAVE THE MEETING BEFORE IT CONCLUDES.

REGARDING ARTICLE 54, PATRICK WHITE MADE A MOTION APPROPRIATING \$250,000.00 IN FREE CASH TOWARD THE OVERALL PURCHASE OF THE REPLACEMENT ENGINE WHICH WAS SECONDED BY ROXANNE MCCAFFREY. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND THE MOTION PASSED 3-0 TO REWORD THIS ARTICLE.

8. CHAIR BIKOFSKY ANNOUNCED A SCHEDULED FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 20TH AT 6 PM AND THE BABY TOWN MEETING ON MONDAY MAY 9TH AT 6 PM.
9. THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THIS JOINT MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:03 PM.

