

**TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE, MA.  
50 MAIN STREET  
JOINT SELECT BOARD-FINANCE COMMITTEE  
FY 23 BUDGET MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 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, PAM BOUDREAU, STEVE SHATZ AND WILLIAM VOGT. NEIL HOLDEN AND DIANE RUESS WERE UNABLE TO ATTEND.**

**TOWN GOVERNMENT ATTENDEES: MICHAEL CANALES-TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, DARYL FENNELLY-CHIEF OF POLICE, VINCENT GARAFOLI-FIRE CHIEF AND HUGH PAGE-SUPERINTENDENT HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT.**

**OTHER ATTENDEES: CLARENCE FANTO AND STEVE BORNES (REMOTELY)**

- 3. THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 28, 2022 WERE PRESENTED AND A MOTION WAS MADE BY STEVE SHATZ AND SECONDED BY WILLIAM VOGT. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED 5-0 (NEIL HOLDEN AND DIANE RUESS WERE NOT IN ATTENDANCE.)**
- 4. MODERATOR BIKOFSKY CALLED UPON CHIEF OF POLICE DARYL FENNELLY TO PRESENT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FY23 BUDGET REQUEST:**
  - CHIEF PRESENTED HIS DEPARTMENTAL REQUEST FOR AN ADDITIONAL OFFICER TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE. HIS PROPOSAL INCLUDED THE REQUEST FOR ONE ADDITIONAL PATROL OFFICER AT AN ANNUALIZED COST OF \$118,164.75 WHICH INCLUDED SALARY, OVERTIME, UNIFORMS, TRAINING COSTS AND MEDICAL COVERAGE.**
  - HE INDICATED THAT THIS REQUEST WAS NECESSARY AS A RESULT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MA. POLICE REFORM LEGISLATION OF JULY, 2021 REQUIRING ALL POLICE OFFICERS, FULL TIME AND RESERVE TO COMPLETE “BRIDGE ACADEMY TRAINING.”**
  - CURRENT DEPARTMENTAL STAFFING, HE ADDED, WAS SIX (6) FULL TIME OFFICERS IN ADDITION TO THE CHIEF AND ONE RESERVE OFFICER, PART TIME. HE FURTHER ADDED THAT WITH THE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED TRAINING REFORM**

REQUIREMENT, IT WOULD BE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN RESERVE OFFICERS, SINCE THE MAJORITY OPT NOT TO COMPLETE THE BRIDGE ACADEMY TRAINING PROGRAM.

- HE ADVISED THE COMMITTEE THAT A RESERVE OFFICER WAS NECESSARY TO COVER VACATION, DAYS OFF AND OVERTIME DEMANDS THAT WERE NOW BEING ADDRESSED WITH FORCED OVERTIME OF THE FULL TIME STAFF. HE ADDED THAT THE ADDITIONAL NEW POSITION WOULD RELIEVE THE SERGEANT OF REGULAR PATROL FUNCTIONS AND ABLE TO FOCUS ON SUPERVISION, GREATER INVOLVEMENT WITH MORE OF THE LARGE INVESTIGATIONS, ACCREDITATION YET STILL BE OBLIGATED TO COVER REGULAR PATROL OVERTIME SHIFTS. FURTHER, HE ADDED THAT OVERALL PATROL COVERAGE WITH THIS NEW POSITION WOULD BE ENHANCED.
- HE CONCLUDED HIS PRESENTATION WITH A STATEMENT THE LAST DEPARTMENTAL REQUEST FOR AN ADDITIONAL OFFICER WAS IN 2014.

- DISCUSSION:

THE JOINT COMMITTEE INQUIRED AND WAS ADVISED THAT OVERTIME EXPENSES WOULD BE REDUCED BY AN ESTIMATED \$12,000.00.

SELECTMAN CARDILLO NOTED THAT BY ASSIGNING GREATER INVOLVEMENT WITH INVESTIGATIONS TO THE SERGEANT, PATROLMAN OVERTIME EXPENSES WOULD BE REDUCED BUT NOT TOTALLY ELIMINATED.

JIM BALFANZ INQUIRED ABOUT THE NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS AND WAS ADVISED BY THE CHIEF THAT INCREASES WERE BEING NOTED WITH COMPUTER AND PHONE SCAMS AND RELATED FRAUD SITUATIONS.

STEVE SHATZ ASKED IF THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN MENTAL HEALTH RELATED INCIDENTS. CHIEF ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS WAS INFACIT THE CASE AND, ALTHOUGH THE OFFICERS HAVE SOME TRAINING IN THIS AREA, TRI-TOWN HEALTH WAS DEVELOPING A MENTAL HEALTH RESPONDER POSITION, WITH FUNDING ACCORDING TO MICHAEL CANALES CURRENTLY BEING EXPLORED.

SELECT CHAIR MCCAFFREY EXPRESSED CONCERN RELATED TO THE RAMIFICATIONS OF FORCED OVERTIME ON THE TOWN'S PATROL OFFICERS.

BILL VOGT ASKED ABOUT RECRUITMENT FOR THE NEWLY PROPOSED POSITION AND WAS ADVISED BY CHIEF THAT WITH ADVERTISING IT COULD TAKE UP TO FOUR (4) MONTHS.

JIM BALFANZ SUGGESTED THE TOWN ASK LEGISLATORS FOR RECONSIDERSTION OF THE BRIDGE ACADEMY RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.

THE COMMITTEE INDICATED THAT IT WOULD REVIEW THE PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION AND ADVISE THE CHIEF OF ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS AND REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATIION AS MIGHT BE THE CASE.

5. MEETING MODERATOR BIKOFSKY THEN CALLED UPON HIGH PAGE, SUPERINTENDANT OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT, TO PRESENT HIS BUDGET REQUESTS FOR FY23:

- HUGH ADVISED THE COMMITTEE THAT FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS ROTATION AND REPLACEMENT OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT WAS NOT IMPLEMENTED AND MUCH OF THE EQUIPMENT WAS DETERIORATED AND NOT SERVICEABLE.
- HE ASKED MICHAEL CANALES TO REVIEW THE DEPARTMENT'S REQUESTS FOR THE COMMITTEE. MICHAEL PRESENTED THE CAPITAL BUDGET AS FOLLOWS:

TWO MIDSIZED PLOW TRUCKS-\$340,000.00  
ONE USED BACKHOE-\$100,000.00  
ONE EQUIPMENT TRAILER-\$7,000.00  
ONE F-350 HEAVY DUTY PICK-UP TRUCK-\$55,000.00  
ONE F-150 PICK-UP TRUCK-\$35,000.00  
ONE BOBCAT L28 TOOL CARRIER-\$50,000.00  
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPLACEMENT TOOLS-\$20,000.00  
PROPOSED TOTAL: \$607,000.00

- DISCUSSION:

MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE DISCUSSED THE FINANCING OF THESE REQUESTS TO INCLUDE THE USE OF FREE CASH, STABILIZATION FUNDS OR BORROWING (DEBT) WITH THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS.

STEVE SHATZ MENTIONED THAT THE PURCHASE OF FULLY ELECTRIC AND OR HYBRID VEHICLES BE EXPLORED AS PART OF A FINAL BUDGET RECOMMENDATION AND THE COMMITTEE WAS IN AGREEMENT.

SELECT BOARD CHAIR ROXANNE MCCAFFREY SUGGESTED THAT THE NEXT STEP SHOULD INCLUDE THE IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITIES, A RECOMMENDATION FOR FINANCING AND ORDERING LEAD TIMES FOR EQUIPMENT PURCHASES.

THE COMMITTEE SUGGESTED FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THIS BUDGET AT A FUTURE MEETING.

6. FIRE CHIEF VINCENT GARAFOLI WAS THEN CALLED UPON TO PRESENT THE DEPARTMENT'S FY 23 CAPITAL BUDGET:

- THE CHIEF MENTIONED THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF WAS COMPRISED OF 20 ACTIVE MEMBERS 7 OF WHICH ARE OFFICERS AND 8 EMT'S INCLUDING THE CHIEF.
- HE ADDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT CURRENTLY OPERATES TWO (2) PUMPERS ONE 1995 AND THE OTHER 2001 AS WELL AS A 2018 PUMPER TANKER. HE FURTHER MENTIONED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS A 2013 HEAVY RESCUE VEHICLE, A FORD EXPLORER, A POLARIS RANGER UTV, A HONDA ATV AND AN 18 FOOT ZODIAK RESCUE BOAT. HE ADVISED THE COMMITTEE THAT THE 2001 PUMPER HAD REACHED THE END OF ITS USEFUL SERVICE LIFE DUE TO CORROSION AND COSTLY REPAIRS BUT WAS STILL BEING USED AS THE DEPARTMENT'S FRONT LINE RESPONSE PUMPER. THE REMAINDER OF THE VEHICLES WERE STILL SERVICEABLE TO VARYING DEGREES.
- CHIEF GARAFOLI PROPOSED THAT THE 2001 PUMPER BE TAKEN OUT OF SERVICE AND REPLACED WITH A NEW PUMPER AT AN ESTIMATED REPLACEMENT COST OF \$960,000.00. THIS REPLACEMENT, HE INDICATED, WOULD SERVE AS THE NEW FRONT LINE RESPONSE PUMPER.
- MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ASKED THAT, AS THE MILEAGE ON THE 2018 PUMPER TANKER WAS ONLY 2,500 , COULD IT BE USED AS THE REPLACEMENT FOR THE 2001 PUMPER WHEN IT WAS TAKEN OUT OF SERVICE? CHIEF GARAFOLI RESPONDED THAT IN HIS OPINION THIS VEHICLE DID NOT HAVE THE ACCESSORIES OF A NEW ONE AND UPGRADING THE 2018 WOULD BE COSTLY AND WOULD LACK CERTAIN IMPORTANT UPGRADES.
- HE THEN EXPRESSED THE DEPARTMENT'S NEED FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$112,550.00 EXPENSE OPERATING BUDGET ALLOCATION. THIS WOULD INCLUDE FUNDS FOR REPLACEMENT FIRE HOSES AND NOZZLES, NEW AND REPLACEMENT TOOLS AND RADIOS, FUEL, TRAINING AND DUES, EQUIPMENT TESTING, VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT REPAIR, UNIFORMS AND BUILDING MAINTENANCE.

- **DISCUSSION:**

MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ASKED THAT ADDITIONAL OPTIONS BE EXPLORED AND PRESENTED AS RESPECTS THE REPLACEMENT OF THE 2001 FRONT LINE PUMPER.

CHAIR MCCAFFREY ASKED FOR THE MILEAGE OF THE TWO (2) PUMPERS.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS INQUIRED IF THE STOCKBRIDGE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS MIGHT BE USEFUL IN FRONT LINE PRIMARY PUMPER RESPONSE BY LENOX, LEE AND GREAT BARRINGTON.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO ASKED THAT THE USE OF THE 2018 PUMPER TANKER AS A REPLACEMENT FOR THE 2001 BE RE EVALUATED.

THE COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THIS DISCUSSION WITH A REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND ANOTHER MEETING WITH THE CHIEF.

7. MODERATOR BIKOFSKY THEN CALLED UPON MICHAEL CANALES TO REVIEW SOME OF THE OTHER CAPITAL REQUESTS AND MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED FOR DISCUSSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS. THESE INCLUDED:
  - BEACH SHED ROOF REPAIR
  - BEACH SHORELINE REFURBISHMENT
  - TUCKERMAN'S BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
  - AVERIC BRIDGE 2 REPLACEMENT
  - PARK STREET PUMP STATION INCREASED REPLACEMENT COST  
ORIGINALLY ESTIMATED AT \$700,000.00 TO \$1,150,000.00
  - TRANSFER STATION SALT SHED REPLACEMENT
  - A DISCUSSION OF FREE CASH, STABILIZATION FUNDS AND DEBT CAPITAL FINANCING
  - FUTURE RESERVE FUND REQUIREMENTS TO INCLUDE INCREASED FUEL COSTS
8. MODERATOR BIKOFSKY ASKED THE COMMITTEE IF THERE WAS ANY ADDITIONAL BUSINESS TO DISCUSS. THERE BEING NONE, HE REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE EXIT AUDIT MEETING AT 1 PM ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup> WITH ADELSON & CO.
9. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:25PM.

