

**TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE, MA, 50 MAIN STREET
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022 AT 6 PM**

1. CHAIR BIKOFSKY CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6 PM
2. FINANCE COMMITTEE ATTENDEES: JAY BIKOFSKY, JIM BALFANZ (REMOTELY BY ZOOM), PAM BOUDREAU, NEIL HOLDEN AND DIANE REUSS. STEVE SHATZ AND BILL VOGT WERE NOT IN ATTENDANCE

TOWN GOVERNMENT ATTENDEES: MICHAEL CANALES AND HUGH PAGE

OTHER ATTENDEES: STEVE BORNS (CTSBTV)

3. THE JOINT SELECT BOARD-FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2022 WERE PRESENTED AND A MOTION WAS MADE BY NEIL HOLDEN AND SECONDED BY PAM BOUDREAU. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY ALL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE, 5-0.
4. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE LATEST DRAFT WARRANT ARTICLES TO BE PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:
 - ARTICLE 4 (TOWN'S OPERATING BUDGET), ARTICLE 5 (TOWN'S ASSESSMENT OF THE BERKSHIRE HILLS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATING BUDGET) AND ARTICLE 6 (TOWN'S ASSESSMENT OF THE BERKSHIRE HILLS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT CAPITAL BUDGET) WERE PRESENTED, DISCUSSED AND A MOTION WAS MADE BY NEIL HOLDEN AND SECONDED BY PAM BOUDREAU. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND A RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF ALL THREE (3) WAS MADE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT, 5-0.
 - ARTICLES 7-23 DEALING WITH COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING OF HEATON COURT REPLACEMENT SIDING, A ROCKWELL MUSEUM HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT, A STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY SHADOW BOX REPLACEMENT, MAINTENANCE OF GOULD MEADOWS, PRESERVATION OF THE GOULD MEADOWS MILK SHED, ICE GLEN INVASIVE INSECT TREATMENT, RESTORATION OF THE CONCRETE BASIN OF THE CAT AND DOG FOUNTAIN, INSTALLATION OF A TOWN BEACH KAYAK/CANOE LAUNCH, INSTALLATION OF A HOUSATONIC RIVER KAYAK LAUNCH, LAUREL HILLS ASSOCIATION REVITALIZATION OF UPPER BOWKER'S WOODS, RECONSTRUCTION OF THE PINE WOODS DRIVEWAY, RESTORATION OF THE BERKSHIRE SCENIC RAILWAY BUILDING, HOUSING TRUST FUND, RESTORATION OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ENTRANCE AND EXTERIOR, RENOVATION OF THE GLENDALE FIRE STATION, CPC ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET AND HISTORIC RESOURCES, COMMUNITY HOUSING, AND OPEN SPACE RESERVES WERE INDIVIDUALLY PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JAY BIKOFSKY AND SECONDED BY JIM BALFANZ. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF ALL MADE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT, 5-0.

- **ARTICLE 24** DEALING WITH THE APPROPRIATION OF CEMETARY TRUST FUNDS FOR THE PRESERVATION, REPAIR AND RESTORATION OF CEMETARY STONES WAS PRESENTED. A MOTION WAS MADE BY NEIL HOLDEN AND SECONDED BY JAY BIKOFSKY. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL MADE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT, 5-0.
- **ARTICLES 25-38:** THESE ARTICLES WERE PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE UTILIZING AVAILABLE FREE CASH FOR A NUMBER OF PURPOSES. INCLUDED ARE THE FOLLOWING: **ARTICLE 25**- \$14,000 FOR PAINTING AND REPAIRS TO THE INTERLAKEN FIRE STATION, **ARTICLE 26**- \$37,500. FOR RESTORATION AND REPAIRS TO THE GLENDALE FIRE STATION, **ARTICLE 27**- \$35,000 TO FUND REST OF THE RIVER PROJECT NEGOTIATIONS, **ARTICLE 28**- \$340,000. FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) MID-SIZED HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT PLOW TRUCKS AND SANDERS, **ARTICLE 29**- \$50,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT L28 TOOL CARRIER, **ARTICLE 30**- \$20,000. FOR THE PURCHASE OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT, **ARTICLE 31**- \$55,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT F-350 TRUCK, **ARTICLE 32**- \$35,000. FOR THE PURCHASE OF A HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT F-150 TRUCK, **ARTICLE 33**- \$100,000. FOR THE PURCHASE OF A HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BACKHOE, **ARTICLE 34**- \$50,000. FOR A KAMPOOSA BOG HYDROLOGICAL STUDY, **ARTICLE 35**- \$5,700. FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE PUBLIC BEACH AND SWIMMING AREAS, **ARTICLE 36**- \$25,000. FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE PUBLIC BEACH RESTROOM ROOF, **ARTICLE 37**- \$385,206. SEWER SYSTEM EXPANSION AND **ARTICLE 38**- \$10,000. FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ICE GLEN SIGNS. A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM BALFANZ AND SECONDED BY DIANE REUSS. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND THE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF EACH MADE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT, 5-0.
- **ARTICLE 39-** WAS A REQUEST FOR \$20,000. FROM OVERLAY SURPLUS TO CONTRACT SERVICES TO PERFORM APPRAISALS AND REVALUATION. A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM BALFANZ AND SECONDED BY NEIL HOLDEN. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL MADE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT, 5-0.

- **ARTICLE 40**-WAS PRESENTED AS A REQUEST FROM AVAILABLE FREE CASH FOR \$7,000. FOR AN EQUIPMENT TRAILER TO BE SHARED BY THE HIGHWAY AND WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENTS. A MOTION WAS MADE BY JAY BIKOFSKY AND SECONDED BY NEIL HOLDEN. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND THE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL MADE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT, 5-0.
- **ARTICLES 41-49**: THESE ARTICLES WERE PRESENTED WITH PROPOSED FUNDING BY THE WATER OPERATIONS RESERVE FUND AS WELL AS AVAILABLE SEWER SURPLUS FUNDS. **ARTICLE 41**-\$7,000. SHARED COST OF THE EQUIPMENT TRAILER WITH WATER OPERATIONS RESERVE FUNDS, **ARTICLE 42**- \$7,000. SHARED COST OF THE EQUIPMENT TRAILER UTILIZING AVAILABLE SEWER SURPLUS FUNDS, **ARTICLE 43**-\$6,500. UPGRADE OF THE SEWER AND WATER BILLING SOFTWARE UTILIZING AVAILABLE SEWER SURPLUS FUNDS, **ARTICLE 44**- \$6,500. UPGRADE OF THE SEWER AND WATER BILLING SOFTWARE FROM THE WATER OPERATIONS RESERVE FUND, **ARTICLE 45**- \$22,000. FUNDING FOR THE LAKE AVERIC BATHYMETRY AND SAFETY YIELD STUDY FROM THE WATER OPERATIONS RESERVE FUND, **ARTICLE 46**-\$10,000. FUNDING FOR A PUMP IN THE TURBINE FEASIBILITY STUDY WITH WATER OPERATIONS RESERVE FUNDS, **ARTICLE 47**-\$25,000.TO PAINT THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT ROOF WITH WATER OPERATIONS RESERVE FUNDS, **ARTICLE 48**-\$20,000. FUNDING FOR THE FILTERED WATER TURBIDIMETER INSTALLATION WITH WATER OPERATIONS RESERVE FUNDS AND **ARTICLE 49**-\$20,000 TO FUND A DEP MASTER WATER SYSTEM PLAN UTILIZING WATER OPERATIONS RESERVE FUNDS. A MOTION WAS MADE BY PAM BOUDREAU AND SECONDED BY JIM BALFANZ. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND THE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF EACH WAS MADE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT, 5-0.
- **ARTICLE 50**- THIS ARTICLE PROPOSES CONDUCTING A DEP I&I STUDY SURVEY WITH \$99,200. TO BE FUNDED WITH AVAILABLE SEWER SURPLUS. AS THIS IS A NEWLY PROPOSED PROJECT, JIM BALFANZ MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY JAY BIKOFSKY FOR CONSIDERATION OF THIS NEW ARTICLE SUBJECT TO SELECT BOARD APPROVAL AT THEIR APRIL 21, 2022 UPCOMING MEETING. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS THEN VOTED TO SUPPORT THE ARTICLE SUBJECT TO FUTURE SELECT BOARD APPROVAL., 5-0.
- **ARTICLES 51 & 52**-**ARTICLE 51**- PROPOSES \$96,963. FROM AVAILABLE SEWER SURPLUS TO PAY PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST DEBT SERVICE FOR THE SEWER SYSTEM EXPANSION AUTHORIZED AT THE APRIL 1, 2002 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING. **ARTICLE 52**-PROPOSES \$65,600. FROM AVAILABLE SEWER SURPLUS TO PAY PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST DEBT SERVICE FOR THE PARK STREET PUMP STATION PROJECT

AUTHORIZED AT THE JUNE 12, 2021 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING. A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM BALFANZ AND SECONDED BY JAY BIKOFSKY. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL WAS MADE FOR EACH OF THESE ARTICLES BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT, 5-0.

- **ARTICLE 53-** THIS ARTICLE PROPOSES TO RAISE \$4 MILLION THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS APPROVED BY THE SELECT BOARD FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE FOLLOWING INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES; TUCKERMAN BRIDGE, AVERIC ROAD BRIDGE, PURCHASE OF A FIRE ENGINE, SALT SHED AND PUMP STATION. A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM BALFANZ AND SECONDED BY DIANE REUSS. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF THIS ARTICLE WAS MADE BY ALL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT, 5-0.
 - **ARTICLE 54-** WAS PRESENTED TO CREATE A NEW SPECIAL PURPOSE STABILIZATION FUND WITH A BALANCE OF \$1, 243,100. TO FUND THE REMAINING DEBT SERVICE OF THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST OF THE TOWN OFFICES AND WATER TREATMENT PLANT AND THE FUNDING OF A NEW BERKSHIRE HILLS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SHOULD IT BE APPROVED. A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM BALFANZ AND SECONDED BY DIANE REUSS. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT RECOMMEND APPROVAL, 5-0.
 - **ARTICLE 55-** THIS ARTICLE PROPOSES TO USE \$250,000. FROM AVAILABLE FREE CASH TO PARTIALLY FUND THE REPLACEMENT FIRE ENGINE. A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM BALFANZ AND SECONDED BY JAY BIKOFSKY. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND THE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL WAS MADE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT, 5-0.
 - **ARTICLE 57-** THIS ARTICLE PROPOSES TO BORROW \$1.5 MILLION TO SUPPORT THE COSTS OF A FEASIBILITY AND SCHEMATIC DESIGN STUDY FOR THE MONUMENT MOUNTAIN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL THE STOCKBRIDGE SHARE WOULD BE \$450,000. A MOTION WAS MADE BY JAY BIKOFSKY AND SECONDED BY PAM BOUDREAU. A VOTE WAS CALLED AND RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL MADE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT 5-0.
5. MICHAEL CANALES CONCLUDED BY ADVISING THE COMMITTEE THAT THE PROPOSED FY 23 TAX RATE WITH THE ARTICLES AS PRESENTED WOULD BE \$9.52 AN INCREASE FROM \$9.38 IN FY 22.
 6. CHAIR BIKOFSKY REMINDED THE COMMITTEE OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT FUTURE DATES: MAY 9, 2022 6:30 PM "BABY TOWN METING" AND MAY 16, 2022 6:30 PM THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING.
 7. CHAIR BIKOFSKY ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 7 PM.

