

**TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE, MA.  
50 MAIN STREET  
FINANCE COMMITTEE VIRTUAL "BABY TOWN" MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022 AT 6:30 PM**

- 1. CHAIR BIKOFSKY CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM**
- 2. COMMITTEE ATTENDEES: JAY BIKOFSKY, JIM BALFANZ, PAM BOUDREAU, NEIL HOLDEN, DIANE REUSS, STEPHEN SHATZ AND WILLIAM VOGT**

**TOWN GOVERNMENT ATTENDEES: MICHAEL CANALES**

**OTHER ATTENDEES: CLARENCE FANTO**

- 3. CHAIR BIKOFSKY WELCOMED ALL IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL ATTENDEES AND THANKED THE SELECT BOARD FOR THEIR CONTINUED INTEREST AND SUPPORT. HE FURTHER THANKED MICHAEL CANALES, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, AS WELL AS THE DEPARTMENT HEADS FOR EXERCISING COMMENDABLE FISCAL DISCIPLINE AND COMPLIANCE WITH EXISTING BUDGETS AS WELL AS THEIR EFFORTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FY 23 BUDGET.**

**HE INTRODUCED THE MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND ALSO THANKED THEM FOR THEIR COMMITMENT, PARTICIPATION AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE.**

- 4. THE CHAIR REVIEWED THE MEETING AGENDA FOR THOSE ATTENDING AS WELL AS THE PURPOSE OF THE "BABY TOWN" MEETING AND ROLE OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AS THE TOWN'S FINANCIAL AND RECOMMENDING BODY.**
- 5. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR FY 2021:**

**CHAIR BIKOFSKY PRESENTED THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS REPORT AND ADDED THAT ALL TOWN DEPARTMENTS CONTINUED TO EXERCISE FISCAL DISCIPLINE AND COMPLIANCE WITH THEIR BUDGETS. HE COMMENTED ON THE FY 21 TAX RATE \$9.78, A DECREASE OF \$.09 FROM FISCAL YEAR 2020. THE CERTIFIED FREE CASH BALANCE OF \$1,851,487.00 WAS MENTIONED AS WELL AS SUPPORT FOR PROJECTS SUCH AS PLANNING AND ZONING PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES, OPEB FUNDING, STOCKBRIDGE BOWL WATER TESTING, ICE GLEN TREE MONITORING AND TREATMENT, MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADES OF THE TOWN'S TENNIS AND BASKETBALL COURTS AND FUNDING OF THE REMAINING LARRYWAUG BRIDGE PROJECT. APPROVAL OF LARGE EXPENDITURES WERE ALSO MENTIONED TO INCLUDE RESTORATION OF THE CHIME TOWER, REPLACEMENT OF THE PARK STREET PUMP STATION, FUNDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TOWN HOUSING TRUST AND WATER MAIN ENGINEERING FOR THE TUCKERMAN'S BRIDGE. THE CHAIR ADDED THAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND DEPARTMENT HEADS ON DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MULTI YEAR CAPITAL AND OPERATING BUDGETS ALONG WITH EXPLORING REFINANCING AND ACCELERATION OF PAYMENTS TO REDUCE LONG TERM INDEBTEDNESS.

6. PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED ARTICLES AND WARRANTS FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING APPROVAL ON MAY 16, 2022:

ARTICLE 4: STEVE SHATZ REVIEWED THIS PROPOSED ARTICLE, THE TOWN'S OPERATING BUDGET. HE MENTIONED THAT THE TOTAL FY 23 PROPOSED BUDGET WAS \$11,549,312.00, AN \$833,352.00 INCREASE OVER FY 22. HE NOTED INCREASES IN THE BHRSD EDUCATIONAL ALLOCATION, TOWN EMPLOYEE SALARY INCREASES OF 2-3%, INCREASED TOWN FUEL COSTS, PUBLIC SAFETY (AN ADDITIONAL POLICE OFFICER AND INCREASES IN AMBULANCE SERVICES), PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES (INCREASES IN MACHINERY AND OPERATING EXPENSES), INCREASES IN EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT BENEFITS AND AN INCREASE IN DEBT SERVICE FOR ACCELERATED PAYMENTS. HE CONCLUDED THAT THE FY 23 OPERATING BUDGET MINUS EDUCATION IS PROPOSED TO INCREASE \$400,035.00 FOR A FY 23 TOTAL OF \$7,957,799.00 OVER FY 22 OF \$7,557,744.00.

ARTICLE 5: STEVE SHATZ MENTIONED THE \$3,501,086.00 BHRSD PROPOSED FY23 OPERATING BUDGET ALLOCATION, AN INCREASE OF \$428,736.00 OVER FY 22.

ARTICLE 6: HE THEN DISCUSSED THE BHRSD PROPOSED FY 23 BHRSD CAPITAL BUDGET ALLOCATION OF \$90,447.00 AN INCREASE OF \$4,582.00 OVER FY 22.

ARTICLES 7-11: THESE PROPOSED ARTICLES WERE PRESENTED BY CHAIR BIKOFSKY.

- ARTICLE 7: PROPOSED BORROWING \$4,000,000.00 TO RESTORE / REPLACE THE FOLLOWING TOWN INFRASTRUCTURE AREAS: AVERIC ROAD BRIDGE #2, PURCHASE A REPLACEMENT FIRE ENGINE, REPLACE THE SALT SHED AND REPLACE THE PARK STREET PUMP STATION.
- ARTICLE 8: PROPOSED THE USE OF \$250,000.00 FREE CASH TO FUND THE REMAINING REPLACEMENT FIRE ENGINE PURCHASE.
- ARTICLE 9: PROPOSED THE BORROWING OF \$1,500,000.00 BY THE BHRSD FOR A FEASIBILITY AND SCHEMATIC STUDY OF THE PROSPECTS OF A NEW HIGH SCHOOL. THE STOCKBRIDGE SHARE WOULD BE 32.1%.
- ARTICLE 10: PROPOSED THE CREATION OF A NEW SPECIAL PURPOSE STABILIZATION FUND TO FUND THE REMAINING DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS FOR THE TOWN OFFICE BUILDING AND WATER TREATMENT PLANT SHOULD THE FUNDING OF A NEW BHRSD HIGH SCHOOL BE APPROVED.
- ARTICLE 11: PROPOSED THE USE OF \$325,350.00 FROM THE CEMETERY TRUST FUND FOR THE REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OF CEMETERY MONUMENT STONES.

**ARTICLE 12:** MICHAEL CANALES REVIEWED THE PROPOSAL TO USE \$385,206.00 OF CERTIFIED FREE CASH TO FUND THE REMAINDER OF THE SEWER SYSTEM EXPANSION AND UPDATE ORIGINALLY APPROVED IN APRIL, 2002.

**ARTICLES 13-39:** THESE PROPOSED ARTICLES WERE PRESENTED BY TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, MICHAEL CANALES.

- **ARTICLE 13:** PROPOSED USE OF \$340,000.00 FREE CASH TO PURCHASE TWO HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT MID-SIZED TRUCKS WITH PLOWS AND SANDERS.
- **ARTICLE 14:** PROPOSED USE OF \$100,000.00 FREE CASH TO PURCHASE A HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BACKHOE.
- **ARTICLE 15:** PROPOSED USE OF \$55,000.00 FREE CASH TO PURCHASE A HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT FORD F-350 TRUCK.
- **ARTICLE 16:** PROPOSED USE OF \$50,000.00 FREE CASH TO PURCHASE A HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BOBCAT L-28 TOOL CARRIER.
- **ARTICLE 17:** PROPOSED USE OF \$50,000.00 FREE CASH TO CONDUCT A HYDROLOGICAL STUDY OF KAMPOOSA BOG.
- **ARTICLE 18:** PROPOSED USE OF \$37,500.00 FREE CASH TO REPAIR AND RESTORE THE GLENDALE FIRE STATION.
- **ARTICLE 19:** PROPOSED USE OF \$35,000.00 FREE CASH FOR NEGOTIATION COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REST OF THE RIVER PROJECT.
- **ARTICLE 20:** PROPOSED USE OF \$35,000.00 FREE CASH TO PURCHASE A HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT FORD F-150 TRUCK.
- **ARTICLE 21:** PROPOSED USE OF \$25,000.00 FREE CASH TO REPLACE THE PUBLIC BEACH RESTROOM ROOF.
- **ARTICLE 22:** PROPOSED USE OF \$20,000.00 FREE CASH TO PURCHASE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT HAND-HELD EQUIPMENT.
- **ARTICLE 23:** PROPOSED USE OF \$14,000.00 FREE CASH TO PAINT AND REPAIR THE INTERLAKEN FIRE STATION.
- **ARTICLE 24:** PROPOSED USE OF \$10,000.00 FREE CASH TO INSTALL ICE GLEN INTERPRETIVE SIGNS.
- **ARTICLE 25:** PROPOSED USE OF \$7,000.00 FREE CASH TO PURCHASE AN EQUIPMENT TRAILER TO BE SHARED BY THE HIGHWAY, SEWER AND WATER DEPARTMENTS.
- **ARTICLE 26:** PROPOSED USE OF \$5,700.00 FREE CASH TO IMPROVE THE PUBLIC BEACH AND SWIMMING AREA.
- **ARTICLE 27:** PROPOSED USE OF \$99,200.00 SEWER AVAILABLE SURPLUS TO FUND A DEP I&I STUDY SURVEY.
- **ARTICLE 28:** PROPOSED USE OF \$96,963.00 SEWER AVAILABLE SURPLUS TO PAY A PORTION OF DEBT SERVICE FOR THE SEWER SYSTEM EXPANSION AND UPDATE PROJECT ORIGINALLY APPROVED APRIL, 2002.

- **ARTICLE 29:** PROPOSED USE OF \$65,600.00 SEWER AVAILABLE SURPLUS TO PAY A PORTION OF DEBT SERVICE OF THE PARK STREET PUMP STATION PROJECT ORIGINALLY APPROVED JUNE, 2021.
- **ARTICLE 30:** PROPOSED USE OF SEWER AVAILABLE SURPLUS TO PAY \$7,000.00 FOR AN EQUIPMENT TRAILER TO BE SHARED BY THE HIGHWAY, SEWER AND WATER DEPARTMENTS.
- **ARTICLE 31:** PROPOSED USE OF \$6,500.00 SEWER AVAILABLE SURPLUS TO UPGRADE THE SEWER AND WATER BILLING SYSTEM.
- **ARTICLE 32:** PROPOSED USE OF \$25,000.00 WATER OPERATIONS RESERVE FUNDS TO PAINT THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT ROOF.
- **ARTICLE 33:** PROPOSED USE OF \$22,000.00 WATER OPERATIONS RESERVE FUNDS FOR A LAKE AVERIC BATHYMETRY AND SAFETY YIELD STUDY.
- **ARTICLE 34:** PROPOSED USE OF \$20,000.00 WATER OPERATIONS RESERVE FUNDS FOR THE FILTERED WATER TURBIDIMETER INSTALLATION.
- **ARTICLE 35:** PROPOSED USE OF \$20,000.00 WATER OPERATIONS RESERVE FUNDS FOR A DEP WATER SYSTEM MASTER PLAN.
- **ARTICLE 36:** PROPOSED USE OF \$10,000.00 WATER OPERATIONS RESERVE FUNDS FOR THE PUMP AS TURBINE FEASIBILITY STUDY.
- **ARTICLE 37:** PROPOSED USE OF \$7,000.00 WATER OPERATIONS RESERVE FUNDS FOR AN EQUIPMENT TRAILER TO BE SHARED BY THE HIGHWAY, SEWER AND WATER DEPARTMENTS.
- **ARTICLE 38:** PROPOSED USE OF \$6,500.00 WATER OPERATIONS RESERVE FUNDS TO UPGRADE THE SEWER AND WATER BILLING SOFTWARE SYSTEM.
- **ARTICLE 39:** PROPOSED USE OF \$20,000.00 OVERLAY SURPLUS TO CONTRACT SERVICES TO PERFORM APPRAISALS AND REVALUATION.

**ARTICLES 40-56:** THESE PROPOSED ARTICLES WERE PRESENTED BY JIM BALFANZ.

- **ARTICLE 40:** PROPOSED USE OF \$58,000.00 AND \$67,000.00 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION AND COMMUNITY HOUSING RESERVE FUNDS TO ESTABLISH THE TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE HOUSING TRUST.
- **ARTICLE 41:** PROPOSED USE OF \$100,000.00 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION HISTORIC PRESERVATION RESERVE FUNDS TO RESTORE THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ENTRANCE AND EXTERIOR.
- **ARTICLE 42:** PROPOSED USE OF \$85,000.00 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION OPEN SPACE RESERVE FUNDS FOR ICE GLEN INVASIVE INSECT TREATMENT.
- **ARTICLE 43:** PROPOSED USE OF \$70,000.00 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF THE PINE WOODS DRIVEWAY.
- **ARTICLE 44:** PROPOSED USE OF \$40,000.00 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUNDS TO RESTORE THE CAT AND DOG FOUNTAIN BASIN.

- **ARTICLE 45:** PROPOSED USE OF \$17,500.00 AND \$20,000.00 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION RESERVE FUNDS TO RENOVATE THE GLENDALE FIRE STATION.
- **ARTICLE 46:** PROPOSED USE OF \$33,529.00 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS TO REPLACE HEATON COURT WOOD SIDING.
- **ARTICLE 47:** PROPOSED USE OF \$23,176.00 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS FOR THE REVITALIZATION OF UPPER BOWKER'S WOODS.
- **ARTICLE 48:** PROPOSED USE OF \$20,000.00 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS FOR INSTALLATION OF A KAYAK/CANOE LAUNCH AT TOWN BEACH.
- **ARTICLE 49:** PROPOSED USE OF \$15,000.00 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS FOR INSTALLATION OF A KAYAK LAUNCH ON THE HOUSATONIC RIVER.
- **ARTICLE 50:** PROPOSED USE OF \$15,000.00 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS FOR RESTORATION OF THE BERKSHIRE SCENIC RAILWAY.
- **ARTICLE 51:** PROPOSED USE OF \$12,750.00 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS TO REMOVE INVASIVE SPECIES AT GOULD MEADOWS.
- **ARTICLE 52:** PROPOSED USE OF \$4,999.00 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS FOR CREATION OF A HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT BY THE NORMAN ROCKWELL MUSEUM.
- **ARTICLE 53:** PROPOSED USE OF \$2,900.00 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUNDS FOR THE GOULD MEADOWS MILK SHED RESTORATION.
- **ARTICLE 54:** PROPOSED USE OF \$2,713.00 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUNDS FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE SHADOW BOX BY THE STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY.
- **ARTICLE 55:** PROPOSED USE OF \$10,000.00 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS FOR THE FY 23 ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET.
- **ARTICLE 56:** PROPOSED USE OF \$ \$32,850.00 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ESTIMATED ANNUAL REVENUES FOR HISTORIC RESOURCES, AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND OPEN SPACE RESERVES.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS:**

- A. THE CHAIR MENTIONED THAT THE COMMITTEE LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE SELECT BOARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, DEPARTMENT HEADS AND STAFF DURING FY23 ON FINANCIAL PROJECTS THAT IMPACT OUR TOWN.
- B. CHAIR BIKOFSKY REMINDED ALL PRESENT OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SCHEDULED ON MAY 16, 2022.

**8. THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:25 PM.**

