

**TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE, MA.**

**JOINT SELECT BOARD – FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY MARCH 23, 2017 AT 3 PM**

- 1. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 3 PM.**
- 2. SELECT BOARD ATTENDEES: CHUCK CARDILLO, DON CHABON AND STEVE SHATZ**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE ATTENDEES: JAY BIKOFSKY, JIM BALFANZ, MARY BOYCE, NEIL HOLDEN, JIM MC MENAMY AND DIANE REUSS**

**ALSO ATTENDING: DANIELLE FILLIO AND MARK WEBBER**

**OTHER ATTENDEES: TERRY FLYNN AND KEITH RAFTERY**

- 3. THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2017 WERE APPROVED WITH A CORRECTION RELATING TO REFERENCE OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2017; UNANIMOUSLY 6-0**
- 4. A BUDGET REQUEST FROM THE STOCKBRIDGE BOWL ASSOCIATION WAS THEN PRESENTED BY RICHARD SELTZER AND CRIS RAYMOND. THEY REVIEWED FOR THE JOINT COMMITTEE THE STATUS OF WEED HARVESTING, CHANNEL DREDGING, PROVIDED AN UPDATE OF THEIR FUND RAISING (BALANCE OF \$2,819,113 TO DATE), DISCUSSED PRIOR WARRANT ARTICLES APPROVED FOR \$75,000 FOR EACH OF THE PAST TWO YEARS, ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES TO PROTECT THE ENDANGERED SNAIL, PRIOR MA. D.E.P. MATCHING GRANTS, CPA FUNDING AND THE REQUIREMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL \$200,000 TO FINISH THE PROJECT.**

**THEY PRESENTED A REQUEST, ON BEHALF OF THE SBA, FOR \$75,000 TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS COMING YEARS WARRANT ARTICLES.**

**THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH THE OVERALL BUDGET DEMANDS FOR THIS COMING FISCAL YEAR (INCLUDING THE BRIDGES AND HIGHWAY GARAGE REPLACEMENT) AND CONCLUDED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE TOWN WAS TOTALLY SUPPORTIVE AND COMMITTEED TO THE SBA, IT WOULD BE BEST TO RECONSIDER THIS ADDITIONAL REQUEST NEXT YEAR AS THEY ALREADY RECEIVE FUNDING FROM THE CPA. THIS POSITION WAS AFFIRMED BY THE SELECT BOARD 3-0 AND THE FINANCE COMMITTEE 6-0.**

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- 5. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: LEN TISDALE REVIEWED THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BUDGET FOR FY 17-18. HE MENTIONED THAT THE EXPENSE BUDGET WOULD BE LEVEL FUNDED. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS EXPLORING JOINT WASTE HAULING FROM THE TRANSFER STATION WITH WEST STOCKBRIDGE. HE ALSO DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR A PICK-UP TRUCK REPLACEMENT (CURRENTLY WITH IN EXCESS OF 100,000 MILES) AS A WARRANT ARTICLE REQUEST.**

**THE AFOREMENTIONED EXPENSE AND CAPITAL HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REQUESTS WERE APPROVED BY THE SELECT BOARD, 3-0 AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, 6-0.**

**THE JOINT COMMITTEE WAS BRIEFED ON THE STATUS OF THE DEMOLITION/REPLACEMENT OF THE HIGHWAY GARAGE AND IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE PROJECT WAS EXPECTING THE RESULTS OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL SOIL SAMPLE STUDY.**

**LEN TISDALE CONCLUDED BY REVIEWING THE RECENT APPROVAL OF A \$500,000 STATE GRANT FOR THE LARRYWAUG BRIDGE REPAIR/REPLACEMENT.**

- 6. SALARY COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS: THE COMMITTEE REVIEWED THIS MATTER AND NOTED THAT THE CONTRACT NEGOTIATED EMPLOYEES WERE IN THE THIRD YEAR OF A THREE YEAR CONTRACT AND DUE TO RECEIVE AN ADJUSTMENT OF 2.5%. IT WAS AGREED THAT THIS ADJUSTMENT WOULD ALSO APPLY TO THE NON-CONTRACT EMPLOYEES AS HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE PAST.**

**THE MATTER OF PERFORMANCE APPRAISALS WAS DISCUSSED TO BE EXPLORED IN THE FUTURE WHEN A PERMANENT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR IS SELECTED.**

- 7. CEMETERY: THIS BUDGET WAS REVIEWED FOR THE COMMITTEE AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE SELECT BOARD AND FINANCE COMMITTEE.**
- 8. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CONTRACT NEGOTIATOR: THE THOUGHT OF ENGAGING A CONSULTANT WAS RAISED AND REFERRED TO THE SELECT BOARD FOR REVIEW AND FINAL BUDGET DISPOSITION POSSIBLY IN THE SELECTMEN'S EXPENSE LINE.**

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2017 CONTINUED**

- 9. OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: IT WAS MENTIONED THAT THE POSITION OF PERMANENT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR WOULD BE POSTED AFTER THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING. SHOULD SUCH A POSITION BE FILLED, THE OFFICE WOULD INCLUDE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, AND PART TIME CLERK. THE NEW POSITION OF PART TIME CLERK WOULD INVOLVE MANAGEMENT OF THE WEB SITE, TEMPORARY COVERAGE FOR VACATIONS OF THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR AND TOWN CLERK AND OTHER OFFICE SUPPORT FUNCTIONS.**

**THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 6-0 TO RECOMMEND THIS NEW PART TIME POSITION NOT TO EXCEED 19 HOURS PER WEEK.**

- 10. FUTURE MEETINGS WITH THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT, TREASURER, FIRE AND TRI-TOWN HEALTH ARE TO BE SCHEDULED.**
- 11. THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY MARCH 30, 2017 AT 3 PM.**
- 12. THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:45 PM.**