Minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Finance held on February 16, 2022, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom Online Platform

Present: John Picard, Cindy Breckheimer, Filmore McPherson, Justin Murphy, and Katie Stein

Also present: Stacy Nobitz, Finance Director; Lauren Rhines, Town Services Coordinator/Risk Manager; Peggy Lyons, First Selectwoman; Iennaco, Public Works Director;

Mr. Picard called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

1. Pledge of Allegiance. The Board of Finance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.


On motion made by Mr. Murphy, and seconded by Mr. McPherson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Finance meeting of January 19, 2022 as submitted.

3. Chairman’s comments.

There were no Chairman’s comments.

4. Citizen and Finance member comments.

Mr. McPherson reported that the Library is currently operating in the black.

Mr. McPherson also reported that the Pension Committee had met this morning and noted that the Police Department Pension is funded at 70.1%, the Fire Department Pension is funded at 82.8% and the Town Pension is funded at 68.%. He noted that after the $1 million budgeted for the Town Pension is deposited on July 1st, the Town Pension will be funded at 72%.
Mr. McPherson noted that changes to the Fire Department Pension are still being considered and if a change is made this would impact the Fire Department budget.

Mr. McPherson commented on the CIP Program noting that the Town is looking at bonding a number of items that he would consider as maintenance and he recommends that the Town apply some of the fund balance to build up or put funds in the budget for reserve for upcoming maintenance items.

Mr. Murphy reported that the Senior Center is now completely open and operating following mask mandate and pandemic protocols. He also noted that the Meals On Wheels Program continues to grow so the funding for this program is being depleted. A notice has been sent out to users of the program and they are hoping that some individuals who can afford it will contribute to the program. Mr. McPherson noted that he has volunteered for the Meals On Wheels program for 15 years and it is a very rewarding experience. He encouraged members of the community who have time to volunteer for this program.

5. Report from First Selectman

First Selectwoman Lyons noted that the three questions had been successful at the referendum yesterday and these items will have an impact on the Town budget and facilities. There will be a need to develop and appoint Building Committees, Policy Committees and a Facilities Committee. First Selectwoman also noted the acquisition of the Munger Road property and the closing for the sale of Island Avenue.

Mr. Picard requested that the agenda be opened and an item be added as #9.a, “Discuss and take action to approve a request from the Public Works Department to move funds from the Capital Improvement Program Highway Equipment Reserve Fiscal Year 2022-2023 to Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the amount of $100,000 for a Replacement Road Sweeper.”

On motion made by Mr. McPherson, and seconded by Ms. Stein, the Board voted unanimously to open the agenda and add Item 9.a “Discuss and take action to approve a request from the Public Works Department to move funds from the Capital Improvement Program Highway Equipment Reserve Fiscal Year 2022-2023 to Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the amount of $100,000 for a Replacement Road Sweeper.”

6. Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.
NEW BUSINESS

7. Discuss and take action to approve a Donation from Neighbor to Neighbor in the amount of $5,000 to provide emergency funding to individuals and families in need of assistance.

On motion made by Ms. Stein, and seconded by Ms. Breckheimer, the Board voted unanimously to approve a Donation from Neighbor to Neighbor in the amount of $5,000 to provide emergency funding to individuals and families in need of assistance.

8. Discuss and take action to approve a Special Appropriation request from the Selectman’s Office in the amount of $7,000 to fund the West Wharf lease agreement.

On motion made by Ms. Stein, and seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request of the Selectman’s Office for a Special Appropriation of $7,000 from Contingency to Account No. GG83000A – 53000, Unbudgeted Expenses, to fund the West Wharf lease agreement.

9. Discuss and take action to approve a Line Item Transfer request in the amount of $125,309.00 for Salary Reconciliations into Town Departments.

On motion made by Ms. Stein, and seconded by Ms. Breckheimer, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request from Human Resources to transfer $125,309 from Account No. GG83000A/51330, Salary Adjustments to Miscellaneous Wage Accounts for salary reconciliations into Town Departments.

9.a Discuss and take action on the request from the Public Works Department to move funds from the Capital Improvement Program Highway Equipment Reserve Fiscal Year 2022-2023 to Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the amount of $100,000 for a replacement road sweeper.

A motion was made by Ms. Stein, and seconded by Ms. Breckheimer, to approve the request from the Public Works Department to move funds from the Capital Improvement Program Highway Equipment Reserve Fiscal Year 2022-2023 to Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the amount of $100,000 for a replacement road sweeper.

In response to a question by Mr. Murphy, Mr. Iennaco noted that the existing sweeper is scheduled to be replaced in FY 2022-2023. This piece of equipment, which is 22 years old, is now currently out of commission and will cost $11,800 for parts and labor to repair. He believes it is more economically efficient to move the CIP funds from 2022-2023 to 2021-2022 and purchase a new sweeper now and not spend the money on repairing the current sweeper. The new sweeper is a 2016 model with low miles.
After discussion the Board voted on the motion made by Ms. Stein, and seconded by Ms. Breckheimer, to approve the request from the Public Works Department to move funds from the Capital Improvement Program Highway Equipment Reserve Fiscal Year 2022-2023 to Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the amount of $100,000 for a replacement road sweeper. The motion was approved unanimously.

In response to a question by Ms. Stein, Ms. Nobitz noted that, as a courtesy, the CIP should be advised of this change.


Mr. McPherson noted that the interest income for Temporary Investments is over the projected budget. In response to a question, Ms. Nobitz noted that the STIF fund receives very little interest.

Mr. McPherson noted that the Tax Collections are doing very good but he noted that $87,000 and this item is not budgeted. Ms. Nobitz note that this item is for fire abatements. She noted that a change in how this item is managed was changed approximately two years ago and now these refunds are taken from tax revenue.

11. Citizen comments.

There were no citizen comments.

12. Adjourn.

On motion made by Ms. Stein, and seconded by Mr. McPherson, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Terry Holland-Buckley
Clerk