

Stoneham Finance and Advisory Board
Monday, October 3, 2016—7:30pm
Stoneham Town Hall Hearing Room

ATTENDEES:

Patricia Walsh, *Chair*
Hilde McCormack, *Vice-Chair*
Thomas Dalton, *Secretary*

Stephen Dapkiewicz Devon Manchester
Julianne DeSimone Angelo Mangino
Stephanie Hayes Robert Verner

AGENDA:

1. Review, Discuss and Vote on Warrant Articles for Town Meeting, October 17, 2016
2. Approval of August 31, 2016 Meeting Minutes
3. Miscellaneous

MINUTES:

At 7:30pm, the Chair called the meeting to order, directing the Board to Agenda Item #1. After reviewing the changes in capital inclusions from the original warrant and the latest warrant, changes which would be relevant later in the meeting, the Chair directed the Board to Article 1, a fifteen thousand (\$15,000) adjustment drawn out of free cash. Mr. Dapkiewicz asked for a more specific description of the purpose of the adjustment, and Ms. Hayes pointed out that Article 1 refers to the library recertification process also addressed in Article 11. The Vice-Chair moved that the Board view Article 1 favorably, Mr. Manchester seconded, and the motion passed with unanimous assent.

As an aside, Mr. Dapkiewicz stated his opinion that the library certification ought to be included in the annual budget rather than be covered by late adjustments at Town Meeting, and the Chair expressed her agreement with his opinion.

The Chair asked the Board to postpone consideration of Articles 2, 3 and 5 until the other articles had been discussed. She then directed the Board to Article 4, which related to unpaid invoices from the Department of Public Works and the Stoneham Arena which required rectification. The Chair explained that the invoices came in after the end of the fiscal year but require payment now. Mr. Manchester moved that the Board view Article 4 favorably, Mr. Mangino seconded the motion, and the Board voted in favor of the motion unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 6, which related to funding the deficit in the FEMA Fiscal Year 2015 Snow & Ice grant. Mr. Manchester moved that the Board view Article 6 favorably, the Vice-Chair seconded the motion, and it was passed with unanimous assent.

The Chair directed the Board to Article 7, regarding various legal costs incurred by the Town regarding Weiss Farm, the proposed land swap, the Winchester 40B proposal, Eversource litigation, and the Special Town Counsel. Mr. Mangino asked whether the funds in question had

already been spent, and the Chair remarked that some of the funds had already been spent and the remainder needed to be allocated for future costs. After some discussion of the appropriate funding mechanisms for such legal costs, Mr. Manchester reminded the Board that, regardless of the wisdom or necessity of any of the legal actions, the costs need to be covered now. Mr. Manchester moved to view Article 7 favorably, Mr. Verner seconded the motion, and the motion was passed with unanimous assent.

The Chair directed the Board to consider Article 8, related to a transfer of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in free cash to fund trash and recycling pickup and disposal. The Vice-Chair asked if this transfer was related to the increased costs of the temporary trash contract. The Chair explained that the transfer covers a shortfall between the now-defunct Hiltz contract and the new trash and recycling contract. Mr. Manchester asked why this shortfall wasn't covered by the trash fund, to which the Chair replied that the shortfall was much higher and that the trash fund was wiped out in covering it—the additional one hundred thousand dollars were for the purpose of filling the remaining funding gap. She elaborated that the Board of Selectmen was disinclined to increase the trash fee to cover a temporary contract. Mr. Manchester expressed his view that it does not seem feasible to maintain the trash fee at its current level with the increased costs of trash and recycling pickup and disposal, and Mr. Dapkiewicz remarked that the trash fee will likely return to the level it was before the recent decrease. After general discussion of the unfortunate lack of sufficient bond in the Hiltz contract, which could theoretically have covered the shortfall, Mr. Manchester acknowledged the need to cover the cost of trash and recycling pickup and disposal and moved that the Board view Article 8 favorably. Mr. Dapkiewicz seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion with unanimous assent.

Next, the Chair directed the Board to consider Article 9, regarding the Commercial Improvement Plan, the program funding the revitalization of commercial storefronts. Mr. Dapkiewicz moved that the Board view Article 9 favorably, Mr. Manchester seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion unanimously.

The Chair directed the Board to Article 10, regarding the Housing Production Plan. She explained that the funds were for the purpose of a grant application, to demonstrate that the Town could cover the costs for the program which would be paid for by the grant in question. The funds in question would not actually need to be spent, just allocated. The Vice-Chair moved that the Board view Article 10 favorably, Mr. Manchester seconded the motion, and it was passed with unanimous assent.

The Chair directed the Board to Article 11, a topic which had already been considered and approved by the Board in Article 1. Mr. Dapkiewicz moved to view Article 11 favorably, Mr. Verner seconded the motion, and it passed with unanimous assent.

The Chair moved to consideration of Article 12, relating to the triennial recertification of the Assessor. She explained that the funds in question merely need to be approved, because they are already allocated to the appropriate account. Mr. Dapkiewicz moved to view Article 12 favorably, Ms. Hayes seconded the motion, and it passed with unanimous assent.

The Chair directed the Board to consider Article 13, regarding the Town's acceptance of Chapter 90 monies for road repairs. Mr. Dapkiewicz inquired if the Town typically receives a report of how Chapter 90 funds are used, and Mr. Manchester said that yes, a report is typically provided. Mr. Manchester moved that the Board view Article 13 favorably, Mr. Dalton seconded the motion, and the Board approved it with unanimous assent.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 14, regarding the release of funds from the cemetery's Perpetual Care account for improvements and repairs to Lindenwood Cemetery. Mr. Manchester moved for a favorable viewing of Article 14, the Vice-Chair seconded the motion, and the Board passed the motion unanimously.

The Chair then asked the Board to resume the postponed consideration of Articles 2, 3, and 5. Article 2 related to the transfer of Free Cash into the Stabilization Fund, Article 3 related to the transfer of Free Cash into Capital Stabilization Fund, and Article 5 related to the appropriation of funds for various capital purchases. The Chair began a discussion of modified funding sources for this Free Cash.

Mr. Mangino inquired as to why the transfer balance changed so much from the initial warrant to the latest. The Chair said that was unclear, and that the Town Accountant would provide an explanation soon. She then expressed her view that the Board should recommend returning the property sales to available capital and allocating more funds into the Stabilization Fund, with the intent to preserve more Free Cash for May Town Meeting. The Vice-Chair and Mr. Dapkiewicz both recommended that the Board reconvene on October 12 to confirm that the proposed measure was appropriate, and Mr. Manchester moved that the Board apply Chair's modifications, with the provision that the changes are fiscally sound and appropriate. The Vice-Chair seconded the motion, and the Board approved it with unanimous assent.

Mr. Manchester moved that the Board view the modified Article 2 favorably, Mr. Dapkiewicz seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously. The Vice-Chair moved that the Board view the modified Article 3 favorably, Mr. Manchester seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

The Chair directed the Board to consider Article 5. After discussion of the individual items in the article, Mr. Manchester and Ms. DeSimone inquired about the funding mechanisms for Whip Hill. From the audience, Ms. Ellen McBride of the Conservation Commission clarified that Whip Hill is funded completely by the Whip Hill Trust, but the Trust fell short in covering roof repairs, and so the Town was being asked to cover the shortfall. Mr. Manchester moved that the Board view Article 5 favorably, the Vice-Chair seconded the motion, and the Board approved it unanimously.

The Chair moved to Agenda Item #2. Mr. Manchester moved to approve the minutes of the August 31, 2016 meeting, the Vice-Chair seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Mr. Dapkiewicz moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Manchester seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.