

Finance Board Meeting Minutes: October 7th, 2013

Attendees: *George McCormack, Ben Caggiano, Steven Dapkiewicz, Bill Previdi, Dava Feltch, Julie Desimone, Rachel Meredith- Warren, George Georgountzos*

Chairman Georgountzos called the meeting to order at 7:38

Mr. Previdi started the meeting questioning the bylaws surrounding the formation of a committee. The committee in question is the "Weiss Farm" aka "Friends of Stoneham" committee. Mr. Previdi questioned the legality of setting up a committee without following bylaws specifically the 14 day stipulation.

Mr. Georgountzos countered that the committee was yet to meet and that may negate any misconduct.

Attorney Mike Warren was called from the audience as the Vice Chair of the Tri-Community Bikeway/Greenway committee to speak on several articles pertaining thereto.

Article 7 – To see if the town will accept land as a gift or purchase for \$1 for the use of the Tri-Community Bikeway/Greenway. *The board unanimously voted in favor.*

Article 8 – To see if the town will transfer monies from a current Tri-Community Bikeway/Greenway account to an account designated for maintenance and capital improvements. *The board unanimously voted in favor*

Article 9 – To see if the town will transfer monies from a current Tri-Community Bikeway/Greenway account to an account designated for engineering, construction or legal matters and/or issues, necessary for the construction of the Stoneham portion of the Tri-Community Bikeway/Greenway.

Ms. Feltch brought up the fact that Article 9 does NOT include maintenance. Attorney Warren agreed that the article should include maintenance and it undermines the purpose of the article. Ms Feltch made a motion to recommend favorable action contingent on maintenance being added to the language in an amendment at Town Meeting. *The amended motion was voted in favor of by the board.*

Mr. Georgountzos called Police Chief McIntyre to the microphone to discuss article 24. The article is to allow the police to do a nationwide background check, document fingerprints, and charge 100\$ for several types of merchants in town.

The Chief explained that MGL changed in 2010 to allow the police to perform an FBI nationwide background check. Currently, the police only have capacity to search Massachusetts state records.

Mr. McCormack questioned if the fee would be at the firm level or at the individual level. The Chief responded that it will be at the firm or licensee level for pawn brokers but for Ice Cream truck drivers and canvassers it will at the individual level. Ms. Meredith-

Warren questioned if the point if it is increase safety why not make it at the individual level for pawn brokers. Further, if the licensee is not on the floor the employees will be operating the client facing side of the business without the nationwide FBI background check.

The board voted 7-1 with Ms. Meredith- Warren voting against.

Article 1: To see if the town will allow signage changes to take place without going to town meeting. The article is referring to Redstone but it will be effective for all of the town.

Mr. Previdi said that the board doesn't have the knowledge to go over variance law and impact of the changes. Mr. Caggiano agreed and Mr. Georgountzos moved to table the article.

Article 2 : To see if the town will vote to hear reports from town committees at Town Hall meeting. No vote is required by the FAB.

Article 3: To see if the town will vote to have procedural motions (including a motion for indefinite postponement), submitted to the Town Clerk ("Clerk") at the Clerk's office or to the Clerk's official e-mail address no later than three (3) business days prior to the first day of the Town Meeting.

The moderator, Larry Means, explained from the audience that it is restrict unnecessary changes during the meeting holding up the meeting. The moderator stated that there have been incidences in the past where there has been chaos at the meeting because of late motions. He also stated by law he cannot totally restrict the motions.

Mr. Previdi questioned the term "ANY" motions which in theory would disallow the necessary amendments on the town hall floor. The moderator said that he would allow those and it was being put in place to prevent chaos. Mr. McCormack received clarification from the moderator on the fact that moderator will not disallow the necessary motions.

A vote was taken , 5 For, 2 Against, and 1 abstention.

Article 4: tabled

Article 5: tabled due to lack of money provided

Article 6: tabled

Article 10: This article pertains to the raise of \$6,300 for raises to the Town Administrators budget. Mr. Previdi requested that the board consult with the Town Accountant and/or Town Administrator

Article 11: tabled

Article 12: tabled

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$184 from Surplus Revenue to pay prior year medical bills for retired Policemen and Firemen injured in the line of duty, or do anything in relation thereto. *The board recommended unanimous favorable action.*

Article 14: Mr. Previdi read a number of capital items pertaining to this article but it was tabled to await final numbers.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to rescind the authorized, but unissued debt of the Town for Digital Portable Radios \$500. *The board recommended unanimous favorable action.*

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue \$35,000 to pay the prior year invoices for the purchase of two new computer servers. *The board recommended unanimous favorable action.*

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue \$11,932 to pay prior year legal invoices. *The board recommended unanimous favorable action.*

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available sewer surplus revenue funds \$125,000.00 for the purchase of a new dump truck. *The board recommended unanimous favorable action.*

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$486,814.00 to be received by the Town from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Chapter 90 local transportation aid funding for fiscal year 2014 for the purpose of continuing the permanent construction program on public ways within the Town or other eligible municipal projects and authorize the Town Administrator to make such expenditure. *The board recommended unanimous favorable action.*

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$25,000.00 for the purpose of embellishing Lindenwood Cemetery by hiring part-time help, purchasing equipment. *The board recommended unanimous favorable action.*

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to transfer One Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$180,000) from Surplus Revenue (generated from a combination of FY13 trash fee collections exceeding the projected amount as well as savings recognized in the FY13 Refuse Budget) for the purpose of collecting and disposing of trash and other items collected or received by the Town and recycling.

Mr. Georgountzos raised the op ed published in the Stoneham Independent by citizen Paul Rotondi. The op ed argues that the trash fee is a way to circumvent Prop 2 ½ and that it will allow the town to use money obtained by the fee for non trash services. Discussion around this argument went on for some time before Selectmen Boussy arrived. Selectmen Boussy clarified that none of the money would be going to anything other than trash services and the idea is reduce the trash fee which was done this year.

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to petition the Massachusetts General Court (State Legislature) for a special act authorizing, notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Town of Stoneham establishing a special fund to provide fund for the collection and disposal of trash and other items collected or received by the Town, recycling, and other costs related thereto.

Ms. Desimone recommended amending the language to include that the funds will NOT be spent on non trash related items. *The board recommended favorable action on Article 21 and 22 contingent on the language change.*

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to petition the Massachusetts General Court (State Legislature) for a special act, notwithstanding any general or special law, including Section 17 of Chapter 138 of the General Laws, authorizing the Town of Stoneham to grant up to five (5) additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises.

Mr. McCormack said this was good for the town, allowing the town to compete and raise additional commercial tax dollars. Mr. Caggiano stated that it would be good to get together with the Selectmen to determine what their goals are. Mr. McCormack questioned what the reason would be to not allow the licenses. The article was tabled.

Mr. Georgountzos went over a few administrative items such as article assignments. Also, it was made public that Ms. Phyllis Shea tendered her resignation due to the time commitment. Mr. Georgountzos opened the position up to the public.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10

Respectfully Submitted,

George McCormack