

Stoneham Finance and Advisory Board  
Monday, May 15, 2017—7:30pm  
Stoneham Town Hall Hearing Room

ATTENDEES:

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

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

GUESTS:

Jeanne Craigie, *Town Moderator*  
Diana Cooper, Susan Lippman, and Tim Waitkevitch, *Candidates for appointment*

AGENDA:

1. Evaluation of Prospective Finance & Advisory Board Member Appointees/Re-appointees
2. Review & Approve April 18 & 27, 2017 Meeting Minutes
3. Miscellaneous

MINUTES:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and directed the Board to the first item on the agenda. First, she informed the members that the Chair and Mr. Verner were not seeking reappointment to the Finance and Advisory Board as their current terms expired. Mr. Caggiano and Mr. Mangino are both seeking reappointment by the Town Moderator, and a total of five appointments are to be made to fill vacancies. Ms. Craigie, the Town Moderator, was invited to introduce the candidates for appointment to the Board.

Ms. Craigie thanked the Chair for the invitation to introduce candidates. She first expressed her hope, with the support of the Town Administrator, Town Accountant, and Town Counsel, that the Finance and Advisory Board could avail of training opportunities over the next year. Ms. Craigie introduced the candidates for appointment: Ms. Lippman, a former member of the Winchester Finance Committee looking to get involved in town government; Ms. Cooper, a Stoneham native with a professional background in the financial services industry; and Mr. Waitkevitch, current member of the Stoneham Capital Committee and Budget Director for IT in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Board had the opportunity to interview the candidates. Ms. DeSimone asked if any candidates had any conflicts of interest, and all three replied that they had no conflicts they were aware of, although Mr. Waitkevitch remarked that as a state employee, he would take extra care to avoid any conflicts as an appointed Town official. Ms. Hayes asked if the candidates had any specific issues that motivated them to seek appointment. Ms. Lippman expressed her desire to

get more involved in Town affairs as she approaches professional retirement. Mr. Waitkevitch said that as a relatively new resident of the Town, he wants to apply his background in public administration to get involved and to improve Stoneham. Ms. Cooper similarly expressed a desire to serve her neighbors and expand her involvement around town.

The Vice-Chair asked the candidates if they felt that they would be able to commit to the time demands of the FAB and if they can handle the criticism that inevitably accompanies public service. Ms. Lippman replied that she understands the commitments Board members make and that she feels that disagreement and discussion are the quickest path to consensus-building, and that she does not shy from negative feedback. Mr. Waitkevitch also understands the time commitment and feels that it's important to listen to and process all feedback, positive and negative. Ms. Cooper said that she is prepared to make the necessary time commitment and that she feels that negative reactions will always come, but that she will always aim to build consensus and foster discourse.

Mr. Mangino asked the candidates if they own property in the Town. Ms. Lippman owns a house, Mr. Waitkevitch owns a condominium, and Ms. Cooper rents her home. Mr. Mangino asked if the candidates agree that the Board's primary duty is to represent ratepayers and taxpayers and their interests. Ms. Lippman replied that she feels that the Board exists to represent payers and to ensure the Town's financial compliance and stability. Mr. Waitkevitch expressed his view that the Board's central duty is to help residents understand and address Stoneham's financial obligations and to inform the Town on financial matters. Ms. Cooper said that he feels the Board's duty is to serve the best interests of the Town and the rate- and taxpayer whenever possible, without regard for the demands and whims of political factions.

Mr. Caggiano thanked the candidates for attending the meeting and answering the members' questions and said that he would be glad to welcome all three to the Board. The Chair expressed her view that all three candidates seem highly qualified to serve.

The Vice Chair expressed her opinion that Mr. Caggiano and Mr. Mangino ought to be reappointed by the Moderator. Mr. Manchester moved that the Board recommend Mr. Caggiano and Mr. Mangino for reappointment. Mr. Dapkiewicz seconded the motion and the Board assented unanimously.

Mr. Manchester moved that the Board recommend Mr. Waitkevitch for appointment and that the Board wait to make recommendations on the other two candidates. Mr. Dapkiewicz seconded the motion. Mr. Caggiano questioned why the Board would wait to recommend the other two candidates, and Mr. Manchester expressed a view that Mr. Waitkevitch is a known quantity, having served on the Capital Committee. The Board assented unanimously to the Waitkevitch recommendation.

The Vice-Chair moved that the Board approve the meeting minutes for the Board's April 18 meeting, Mr. Dapkiewicz seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously. Mr. Manchester moved that the Board approve the meeting minutes for the April 27 meeting, Mr. Caggiano seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair thanked the members of the Board for serving and expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Chair. The members variously expressed their gratitude to the Chair. Mr. Manchester moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Dapkiewicz seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas Dalton, *Secretary*