

Stoneham Finance and Advisory Board  
Monday, April 18, 2017—7:30pm  
Stoneham Town Hall Meeting 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:

Tom Younger, *Town Administrator*  
Don Piatt, *Town Accountant*  
Jeanne Craigie, *Town Moderator*  
Charlie Houghton

MINUTES:

The Chair called the meeting to order and invited Mr. Houghton to address the Board regarding Article 26, a zoning article which he submitted to the warrant. He explained that the article represents small changes to zoning lines in the area behind Rounds Hardware, and after a question from the Vice-Chair, Mr. Houghton clarified that the changes would not create new entries or exits from the Rounds parking area to Central Street. He elaborated that the passage of this article only represents the first step in the process of changing these property boundaries to better suit the owners and abutters. Mr. Manchester moved for the Board to view Article 26 favorably, the Vice-Chair seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 1, regarding the recent municipal election. Mr. Manchester moved for the Board to view Article 1 favorably, the Vice-Chair seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 2, regarding the selection of other necessary Town officers. Mr. Manchester moved for the Board to view Article 2 favorably, the Vice-Chair seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 3, regarding the Town officers and committees. Mr. Manchester moved for the Board to view Article 3 favorably, Mr. Verner seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 4, regarding the salaries of several elected officials, and after brief clarification of the Town Moderator's salary, Mr. Dalton moved for the Board to view Article 4 favorably, Mr. Manchester seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 5, regarding the revolving account for the Recreation Department. She asked Mr. Piatt what the current balance in the Recreation Department's account is, and Mr. Piatt said he would find out the specific number, but that he knew it is positive. Mr. Manchester moved for the Board to view Article 5 favorably, Mr. Dalton seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 6, regarding the revolving account for the Farmers' Market. Mr. Younger noted that because of the seasonal ebb and flow of revenues, the revolving account balances for the Recreation Department and Farmers' Markets will be low, but that projections are highly positive for the entire fiscal year. Mr. Caggiano asked what the Farmers' Market's annual income is, and Mr. Piatt said he would check. The Vice-Chair acknowledged that the Market is not a "money-maker" for the Town, but that its modest profits and stable operations are an absolute boon to the Town. Mr. Manchester moved for the Board to view Article 6 favorably, Mr. Dalton seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 7, regarding the revolving account for the library copy machine. Mr. Manchester moved for the Board to view Article 7 favorably, Ms. Hayes seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 8, regarding the revolving account for the Board of Health. The Vice-Chair moved for the Board to view Article 8 favorably, Mr. Manchester seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 9, regarding the revolving account for the Council on Aging facilities. Mr. Manchester moved for the Board to view Article 9 favorably, Mr. Dapkiewicz seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 10, regarding the revolving account for Council on Aging transportation. With the provision that the dates in the article would be updated in the final draft, Mr. Manchester moved for the Board to view Article 10 favorably, the Vice-Chair seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 11, regarding the revolving account for the fire department maintenance. With the provision that the dates in the article would be updated in the final draft, Mr. Manchester moved for the Board to view Article 11 favorably, Mr. Mangino seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 12, regarding the Town's expenses for the coming fiscal year. The Chair asked if the budget numbers were final, and Mr. Piatt responded that updates were still being made to the budget. The original surplus projection of \$29,000 has been reduced to a surplus projection of \$17,000, but Mr. Piatt assured the Board that he would submit a summary of all budget adjustments. Mr. Younger also remarked that the Town remains hopeful with regard to Chapter 90 changes that may emerge from the Senate Ways and Means Committee, but also cautioned that the number of Stoneham students attending charter schools in the coming year may change, also altering the budget. After the Vice-Chair moved that the Board view Article 12 favorably, she retracted her motion and the Chair agreed to wait to vote on Article 12 until finalized budget figures were available.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 13, regarding departmental budgets. By the same logic that the Board's vote on Article 12 was delayed, the Chair recommended waiting to vote on Article 13 until final budget numbers become available.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 14, regarding the Board of Selectman's authority to join a collective municipal bargaining agreement for electricity negotiations. Mr. Younger clarified that Town Meeting had already voted to join this agreement, but that the article at hand adds the authorization for the Board to enter contracts at the conclusion of negotiations. Mr. Dapkiewicz moved that the Board view Article 14 favorably, Ms. Hayes seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 15, regarding the formal creation of a Commission on Disability. The Vice-Chair asked for clarification on this motion, and Mr.

Younger remarked that the current Disability Committee is essentially *ad hoc*, but that formalizing its existence would open new opportunities for grant applications. Mr. Dalton asked how formalizing the Commission would affect the current committee. Mr. Younger explained that the Commission would be comprised of five to eleven members: the majority of members will be from the disabled community, one member will have a disabled family, and one member will be an elected or appointed town official. Mr. Dapkiewicz moved that the Board view Article 15 favorably, Mr. Manchester seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 16, regarding authorization to the Board of Selectmen to sell a certain parcel of land on Marble Street. Mr. Younger explained that the land is currently vacant and that the abutter has expressed interest in purchasing the land. Mr. Younger viewed the proposal favorably because the return of the land to the tax rolls and the revenues from the sale of the land will augment the Town coffers without the loss of any useful property. Mr. Manchester moved that the Board view Article 16 favorably, Ms. DeSimone seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 17, regarding authorization to the Board of Selectmen to sell a certain parcel of land on Perkins Street. Mr. Younger explained that similarly, the land in question is out of use, blocked in part by a fence built by the abutter, and that the abutter expressed interest in the use of the land. The abutter applied for an easement for the land, addressed in the next article. Mr. Manchester moved that the Board view Article 17 favorably, the Vice-Chair seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 18, regarding the provision of an easement for the previously-mentioned parcel of land on Perkins Street. Mr. Younger expressed his view that an outright sale is the better option for the Town. Mr. Dapkiewicz, agreeing, moved that the Board view Article 18 favorably and Mr. Mangino seconded the motion. Ms. Craigie inquired whether the passage of Article 18 would invalidate the authorization in Article 17, but Mr. Younger suggested that it would not, because the Board of Selectmen would remain authorized to make the sale if it wished. Mr. Dapkiewicz's motion was assented unanimously by the Board.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 19, regarding the Town's authorization to borrow capital. She asked Mr. Piatt if the sum noted is the final capital total, and Mr. Piatt remarked that it is, but that not all of the sum defined would be borrowed, and that he would furnish Town Meeting with a detailed summary. Mr. Manchester offered a partial breakdown of the figures, including a sum of \$40,000 for the Fire Department lead removal project, \$125,000 for the High School feasibility study, \$30,000 for the library foundation, and \$25,000 for the school sidewalk project. The aforementioned figures are to be funded through the transfer of sales revenue from foreclosed lands and the remaining sum from the High School boiler fund. He also outlined expenditures, funded through debt, of \$300,000 for the Police Department HVAC system, \$150,000 for a multi-use DPW utility vehicle, \$132,000 for the Town's sidewalk projects, and \$585,000 for the golf course irrigation system. Additionally, Mr. Manchester outlined the appropriation of \$400,000 from the water fund and \$400,000 from the sewer fund. Mr. Piatt added that \$150,000 remain allocated for sewer construction, and bearing this in mind, the Chair recommended that the Board amend the Sewer Construction Article to reduce the Capital Committee request of \$400,000 by the \$150K unused portion of a \$400,000 Sewer Construction Article from FY15. Mr. Manchester moved to amend the sewer appropriation to \$250,000 and for the Board to view the amended Article 19 favorably. Mr. Dapkiewicz seconded the motion and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 20, regarding accessibility improvements at the Stoneham Theatre. Mr. Manchester asked if the Disability Committee had been given an opportunity to provide input, and Mr. Younger confirmed that the Disability Committee was consulted, that liability issues will be covered in the terms of the easement, and that the design is well-reviewed and permanent. Mr. Manchester moved that the Board view Article 20 favorably, Mr. Mangino seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 21, regarding the establishment of a Veterans' Assistance Trust Fund in the Town. Mr. Younger explained that the VATF would be funded through an optional contribution on property tax payments and through voluntary donations, and that it would allow the Town's Veterans' Agent to provide assistance to Stoneham veterans. Mr. Dapkiewicz moved that the Board view Article 21 favorably, Mr. Verner seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 22, regarding the Town's enacting of the Stretch Energy Code. Mr. Manchester explained that the adoption of the code is a criterion for participation in the statewide Green Communities Act. Mr. Younger elaborated that participation in the GCA can expand access to state grants and programs. Mr. Manchester moved that the Board view Article 22 favorably, Mr. Dalton seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 23, regarding A-frame advertisements in the Town Center. Mr. Manchester expressed his opposition, citing concerns that the public walkway is too narrow to allow any obstructions, that the article unfairly favors select few businesses, and that obstructions would challenge disability access. Mr. Manchester further emphasized his view that the Town's Disability Committee should have been consulted on this issue. Mr. Manchester moved that the Board view Article 23 unfavorably, Mr. Verner seconded the motion, and the majority assented, with Mr. Mangino abstaining.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 24, regarding a moratorium on non-medical marijuana sales in the Town. Mr. Dalton expressed his view that a moratorium is appropriate, given the Town's apparent opposition in the November election to the legalization of recreational marijuana use, but asked if the Town has any sense of the revenues that stand to be lost if a moratorium is instituted. The Vice-Chair remarked that prudence was appropriate and that a moratorium is well-advised, and Mr. Manchester cited a Senate committee report that suggested that recreational marijuana legalization could be financially harmful to municipalities, producing more costs than revenues. Mr. Verner acknowledged the uncertainty surrounding marijuana legalization because of the dissonance between state and federal laws on this issue. Mr. Dalton urged the Board to remain open to future policymaking with regard to recreational use given its general legalization in the Commonwealth. Mr. Manchester that the Board view Article 24 favorably, and the majority assented, with Mr. Dalton's abstention and Ms. Hayes' dissent.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 25, regarding the prohibition of sales of cats and dogs at pet stores in the Town. Mr. Manchester moved that the Board view Article 25 favorably, Ms. Hayes seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board to consider Article 27, regarding a citizen-petitioned resolution. From the audience, Mr. Means remarked that most towns discourage similar political resolutions in order to prevent Town Meeting's inundation with such articles. Mr. Dalton remarked that perhaps the Town should not discourage resolutions, because Town Meeting offers a rare opportunity for the Town to assert non-policy statements of intent and belief. Mr.

Manchester moved that the Board view Article 27 unfavorably, Mr. Dapkiewicz seconded the motion, and the majority assented, with Mr. Dalton's abstention.

The Chair shifted discussion to the recent audit committee meeting with the CPA firm hired to conduct the audit. The Chair, Vice-Chair, Mr. Dapkiewicz and Mr. Mangino attended the public meeting with the accountants. The Chair remarked that all concerns outlined in the management letter are being implemented or actively considered. Mr. Dalton asked if the improvements were acceptable so far, and the Chair remarked that it represents a great start to addressing any problems. Mr. Younger also pointed out that standard audit practice is for the CPA firm to review the last year's recommendations in each new audit.

The Chair invited Ms. Craigie, the new Town Moderator, to address the Board. Ms. Craigie started by informing the Board of the best avenues by which to contact her, emphasizing her Town email address, [jcraigie@stoneham-ma.gov](mailto:jcraigie@stoneham-ma.gov). She reminded all members of the Board whose terms expire in 2017 to re-apply if they wish to continue to serve on the Board, and that her new appointments would be made after Town Meeting. Ms. Craigie also outlined her intention to check all warrant articles with the Town Administrator and Town Counsel to confirm their clarity, suitability and legality.

The Chair asked the Board to review the meeting minutes prepared for the March 27, 2017. Mr. Manchester moved that the Board accept the minutes, the Vice-Chair seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked if the Board should reconvene before Town Meeting to review Articles 12 and 13. Mr. Dalton remarked that it is best to meet before Town Meeting to allow ample public posting of the meeting. The Chair recommended a meeting on April 27, 2017 at 7:30 pm.

Mr. Dalton asked if the Board has received any updates on the Uninterruptible Power Source for the Police Station that was funded during the Board's last meeting. The Chair said that the Board has not received any update.

Mr. Manchester moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Verner seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Dalton  
*Secretary*