

Stoneham Finance and Advisory Board  
Monday, April 27, 2017—7:30pm  
Stoneham Town Hall Banquet Hall

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:

Don Piatt, *Town Accountant*

AGENDA:

1. Review, Discuss and Vote on Town Meeting Warrant Articles #12 & 13
2. Review & Approve April 18, 2017 Meeting Minutes
3. Miscellaneous

MINUTES:

The Chair called the meeting to order and invited Mr. Piatt to address the Board regarding any adjustments made to the Town budget since it was last reviewed by the Board. Mr. Piatt reviewed the document “Town of Stoneham FY18 Budget Adjustments as of 4/25/17,” which can be found on the final page of these meeting minutes. The Chair asked if the “Resident services coordinator” for Mystic Valley Elder Services (Line 3 in “Expenditures”) would be working in the Stoneham Senior Center. Mr. Piatt replied that, no, the RSC would be working in the Stoneham Housing Authority.

The Chair asked the Board for a motion on Town Meeting Warrant Article 12. Mr. Manchester moved that the Board view the article favorably, Mr. Dapkiewicz seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board for a motion on Town Meeting Warrant Article 13. Mr. Manchester moved that the Board view the article favorably, Mr. Verner seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair asked the Board to recall that in the April 18, 2017 meeting of the Finance and Advisory Board, the members of the Board voted to amend the sewer construction article. The Chair had reviewed prior articles and realized that there was an unused portion of an old sewer article in the amount of \$150,000. The Board hoped to use those funds to offset sewer expenses in order to help maintain a healthy reserve fund for sewer costs. At the last Board of Selectmen meeting, the Chair said, Selectman Wilson suggested that the Water & Sewer accounts were facing a substantial deficit and that Fallon Road mitigation monies should be used to offset that deficit. The Board of Selectmen voted to allocate various funding sources to offset water and sewer project construction costs. The Chair expressed her commitment to controlling water and

sewer rates, and exhorted the Board to consider itself a “watchdog for the ratepayers and taxpayers” of the Town. She elaborated that any shortfalls that were discussed in the Board of Selectmen meeting are simply operational shortfalls, not a deficit. In the pursuit of establishing long-term planning principles, the Chair expressed her intent to plan a Tri-Board meeting between the Board of Selectmen, the Finance and Advisory Board, and the Water and Sewer Review Board.

Mr. Piatt explained further that no “deficit” exists as such; rather, the current water and sewer rates are not covering the operating expenses in their entirety. He expressed his view that the Town needs to know exactly what costs the rates need to cover and what level of funds need to be maintained in the reserves.

Mr. Mangino asked when the water and sewer rate reductions will kick in, and the Chair explained that the new rates will come into effect with the new fiscal year. Mr. Verner asked what the total savings will be per household, and Mr. Manchester said that each household will save \$55 quarterly on water and sewer costs. Mr. Verner asked if part of the savings is thanks to the personnel shifts from water and sewer maintenance budgets to operational budgets, and the Chair replied that yes, as some employees gradually shift back to the operational budget, more money will be saved in the water and sewer costs.

The Chair asked the Board to review the meeting minutes from the April 18, 2017 meeting. The Chair asked Mr. Dalton to revise the section concerning the sewer construction article to more accurately reflect the nature of the Board’s proposed amendment to the Article. Mr. Manchester requested small clarifications regarding his statements on Article 23 and Article 24. Mr. Verner requested an addition to the section concerning Article 24 to reflect his concerns about federal marijuana enforcement, and Ms. Hayes requested a small clarifying amendment to the section concerning Article 25. Mr. Dalton agreed to make all of these changes, amendments which are outlined at the end of these meeting minutes in the section “Amendments to the April 18, 2017 meeting minutes per the Finance and Advisory Board’s recommendations on April 27, 2017.”

The Chair expressed her intent to schedule the next Finance and Advisory Board meeting after Town Meeting takes place on May 1, 2017. Mr. Manchester moved for adjournment, Mr. Dapkiewicz seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas Dalton, *Secretary*

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

Amendments to the April 18, 2017 meeting minutes per the Finance and Advisory Board's recommendations on April 27, 2017

**Article 19** – 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. The Chair recommended that the Board amend the Sewer Construction Article to reduce the Capital Committee request of \$400,000 by the \$150,000 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.

**Article 23** – 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.

**Article 24** – 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.

**Article 25** – 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.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas Dalton, *Secretary*

Town of Stoneham  
 FY18 Budget Adjustments  
 As Of 4/25/17

Expenditures		Department	Comments
	Number		
75,879.00	399		Increase in Northeast Voc Assessment (\$1,046,697 from \$970,818 initially budgeted)
188,943.00		Other Budget Items	Increase in State Assessments
40,000.00	920		Resident services coordinator - Mystic Valley Elder Services
200.00	114		Moderator personnel budget reinstated
(75,523.00)	919		Reduction in Property & Casually and Professional Insurance - Per MIIA
(31,663.00)	919		Reduction in Workers Comp Insurance - Per MIIA
175,000.00	919S		Increase Trash Fund Subsidy Back to Original Estimate - No Trash Fee Adjustment Necessary at the Moment
9,889.00	145		There was a vacant position in the office - new staff member hired at higher grade/step
3,846.00	162		There was a vacant position in the office - new staff member hired at lower grade/step, increased hours from 20-30
386,571.00			
<b>Revenues</b>			
158,249.00			Increase in State Aid - House Way & Means
28,800.00			Estimated annual payment from Verizon (Barn Antenna) - Rental of Town Building/Property
100,000.00			ESTIMATED Increase in State Aid (Local Aid) - Senate Budget
75,000.00			Estimated increase in New Growth based on new housing projects
(3,412.00)			Reduce Tax Levy Estimate to Balance
358,637.00			
(27,934.00)			Net budgetary changes
27,934.00			Budgetary surplus from original budget
-			Net budgetary surplus/(deficit)