

Stoneham Finance and Advisory Board  
Monday, February 27, 2017—7:30pm  
Stoneham Town Hall Hearing Room

ATTENDEES:

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

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Ben Caggiano       | Stephanie Hayes |
| Stephen Dapkiewicz | Angelo Mangino  |
| Julianne DeSimone  | Robert Verner   |

GUESTS:

Thomas Younger, *Town Administrator*  
Don Piatt, *Town Accountant*  
Tom Barry, *Chair, Capital Committee*

MINUTES:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm and introduced Mr. Barry, who Barry was in attendance to present to the Board regarding his committee's recommendations for capital expenditures in the budget.

Mr. Barry began by informing the Board that anticipated repairs to the Robin Hood School fire sprinkler system would be less expensive than originally predicted, because only the sprinkler heads, not the entire system, require replacement. He explained further that although no cost estimate has yet been determined, the repair will be less expensive than initially thought. Mr. Barry also reviewed his committee's additional capital expense recommendation, the removal and replacement of lead paint in the fire department.

The Chair also inquired about \$135,000 which had been allocated to the High School boiler fund, asking whether those funds would be reallocated to the high school reconstruction feasibility study. Mr. Barry replied that plans to reallocated those funds had been disrupted when it was thought that the Robin Hood sprinkler project would require the allocation of most available capital. He elaborated further that those funds could likely be returned to a fund for the high school feasibility study.

The Chair asked Mr. Barry how the Capital Committee vets and prioritizes capital expense recommendations. Mr. Barry replied that his committee prioritizes (1) the safety of the public and of town employees, (2) the cost of delaying action, and (3) the potential increase in cost over time.

The Chair directed Mr. Barry to discuss the two additional capital recommendations, purchases to be funded through borrowing: upgrades to the Police Department HVAC system and a new utility vehicle for the Department of Public Works. The latter, Mr. Barry explained, is a multi-purpose utility vehicle to replace the existing sidewalk plow and function as a tractor and lawnmower.

The Chair pointed out \$100,000 of debt designated for the public works sidewalk program, and asked why \$50,000 was allocated for sidewalk repair at Robin Hood and Colonial Park schools. Mr. Barry replied that the sidewalks have deteriorated after years of heavy and

regular snow removal treatments. The Chair expressed her concern that the sidewalk repairs, funded through debt, may not outlive their debt in terms of useful life, a concern echoed by the Vice-Chair.

The Chair asked whether the Water and Sewer construction articles are annually voted on by the Capital Committee, and Mr. Barry confirmed, citing the list of DPW capital needs. The Chair suggested that, in the future, public works projects should be posted publicly and an annual project list should be made available before Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Younger echoed this desire, stating that in the future, public works projects will be slated to coincide with other projects, especially water and sewer, and that a monthly project schedule will be made available on the town website.

Next, Mr. Piatt and Mr. Younger were invited to present the final budget proposal to the Board. He began by pointing out that further work on revenue projections, budget adjustments (especially in the school budget), and state aid projections eliminated the earlier deficit in the budget proposal. Elaborating regarding state aid, Mr. Younger expressed hope that state Chapter 70 aid would increase in the final state budget over the summer. Mr. Younger and Mr. Piatt also reported a conservative projection of \$4.2 million in Chapter 70 aid and \$3.7 million in general government aid. They also reported that they have begun monthly reviews of revenues to preempt shortfalls.

The Chair asked where the School Department's budget reductions were derived from, and Mr. Piatt responded that the reduction was reported without details, but that Dr. Olson assured him that the cut would not result in layoffs or program disruption. Mr. Younger next reported that the only personnel additions in the new fiscal year are the Assistant Building Instructor and Budget Analyst positions, as discussed in the Finance and Advisory Board's January meeting.

The Chair inquired about any expected changes to the Water and Sewer bill, and Mr. Younger replied that it would be lower in the new fiscal year, because of funding changes for the salaries of public works employees. The Vice-Chair asked if, with water and sewer bills going down and the trash fee remaining level, the town should anticipate a tax increase, suggesting that Proposition 2.5 would likely be invoked to raise taxes 2.5%.

The Chair asked the Board to review and approve meeting minutes for the December 19, 2016 meeting, which were prepared by Mr. Mangino due to the absence of Mr. Dalton at that meeting. The Vice-Chair moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Dapkiewicz seconded the motion, and the Board assented, barring the abstentions of the Chair and Mr. Dalton. The Chair asked the Board to review and approve meeting minutes for the January 30, 2016 meeting. The Vice-Chair moved to approve, Mr. Mangino seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously. After brief discussion of the Board's general approval of this year's budget process, Mr. Dapkiewicz moved to adjourn, the Vice-Chair seconded the motion, and the Board approved unanimously.

Submitted respectfully,  
Thomas Dalton, *Secretary*