

Stoneham Finance and Advisory Board
Wednesday, October 12, 2016—7:30pm
Stoneham Town Hall Hearing Room

ATTENDEES:

Patricia Walsh, *Chair*
Thomas Dalton, *Secretary*

Stephen Dapkiewicz Angelo Mangino
Stephanie Hayes Robert Verner

AGENDA:

1. Review, Discuss and Vote on revised and additional Warrant Articles for Town Meeting, October 17, 2016
2. Approval of October 3, 2016 Meeting Minutes
3. Miscellaneous

MINUTES:

At 7:32pm, the Chair called the meeting to order, directing the Board to Agenda Item #1. The Chair raised the topic of Warrant Article #1, relative to changing funding sources for Police Department uniforms and increasing the reserve fund for the Finance and Advisory Board. Mr. Dapkiewicz moved to view the article favorably, Mr. Mangino seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

After the Board assented generally to postponing the discussion of Articles 2 and 3, the Chair directed discussion to Article 5. The pre-revision article had allocated sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) for an HVAC study for the Police Station, but after a recent study was unearthed, rendering that allocation unnecessary, Superintendent of Schools Les Olson and the Board of Selectmen recommended that the sixty thousand dollars be appropriated to purchase technology upgrades for the Stoneham Public Schools. Mr. Dalton moved to view the article favorably, Ms. Hayes seconded the motion, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair directed the Board to consider Article 7, regarding legal costs, which had changed since the Board's last meeting, from an earlier appropriation of two hundred and twenty-seven thousand dollars (\$227,000) to three hundred and twenty-three thousand dollars (\$323,000). The Chair further expressed her view that these substantial costs demonstrate the need for a single Legal Account for the Town to pay for legal affairs. Mr. Verner asked if the Board had received a breakdown of the costs from Town Counsel, and the Chair remarked that appropriation had been revised because of an additional ninety six thousand dollar (\$96,000) cost from Eversource litigation. Mr. Dapkiewicz moved that the Board view the article favorably, Mr. Verner seconded, and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair redirected the Board to consider Articles 2 and 3, which related to free cash allocations into the General and Capital Stabilization Funds. Mr. Verner moved to view Article 2 favorably, Mr. Dapkiewicz seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously voted to view the

article favorably. Mr. Mangino moved to view Article 3 favorably, Mr. Dapkiewicz seconded the motion, and the Board again voted unanimously in assent.

The Chair directed the Board to Agenda Item #2, the approval of the previous meeting's minutes. Mr. Dapkiewicz moved to accept the minutes, Mr. Mangino seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes as submitted.

Ms. Hayes pointed out that there were additional articles to discuss, and the Chair instructed the Board to return to Agenda Item #1. First, she directed the Board to Article 15, which would add the Town Accountant as a full voting member of the Town's Capital Committee.

The Chair raised her concerns about the representation of the Finance and Advisory Board on the Capital Committee because of the impending long-term medical absence of Mr. Caggiano, the Board's representative on the Capital Committee. After general discussion, the Chair recommended an amendment to include language with respect to Capital Committee substitutions of similarly qualified members in the case of long-term absences of members. Mr. Mangino moved to view the article favorably with the proposed amendment. Mr. Verner seconded the motion and the Board assented unanimously.

The Chair raised the topic of Article 16, which would raise the penalties for illegal parking in handicapped parking spots. Mr. Verner expressed concern with the increase, but the Chair expressed her view that a higher fee could act as a meaningful deterrent to would-be violators. Mr. Dapkiewicz moved that the Board view the article favorably, Ms. Hayes seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Next, the Chair raised the topic of Article 17, regarding a roadway easement. Mr. Verner moved to view the article favorably, Mr. Mangino seconded the motion, and the Board approved unanimously.

Finally, the Chair addressed Article 18, regarding the lease of Town lands to the MWRA as a construction staging area. Mr. Verner voiced his position that he would resist voting on the measure until the Town could confirm the specific location of the leased land. The Chair and Mr. Dapkiewicz both expressed similar unease with the broadness of the proposal, and Mr. Dapkiewicz moved that the Board view the article unfavorably. Mr. Mangino seconded the motion and the Board assented unanimously, viewing Article 18 unfavorably.

Mr. Dapkiewicz moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Verner seconded the motion, and Board unanimously supported the motion.

Respectfully,

Thomas Dalton
Secretary