

Stoneham Finance & Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, April 8, 2019 - 7:00 pm
Stoneham Town Hall Hearing Room

Attendees:

Tim Waitkevitch, Chair
Andrew Harmon, Secretary

Jeremy Doyle Ed Hurley
Cory Mashburn Wendy Smith
Chris Waszak

Absent: Devin Desmarais, Susan Lippman, Domenic Martignetti

Guests:

None

Agenda:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. FY20 Warrant Article Review and Recommendations
3. Other Business - Non Deliberative

Minutes:

Finance & Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Mr. Waitkevitch opened the meeting with Agenda Item #1. All members in attendance rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Chair then moved onto Agenda Item #2. Mr. Waitkevitch began by presenting Warrant Article #1. Mr. Waszak introduced a motion for recommendation of favorable action. Mr. Mashburn noted that the Article actually has no financial impact on the Town. Mr. Waszak agreed and withdrew his motion. Mr. Harmon introduced a motion to recommend no financial impact. Mr. Waszak seconded; all in favor.

Mr. Doyle then made a motion to recommend no financial impact on Article #2. Mr. Hurley seconded; all in favor

Mr. Doyle then made a motion to recommend no financial impact on Article #3. Mr. Waszak seconded; all in favor.

Mr. Waszak made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article #4. Ms. Smith seconded; all in favor.

Mr. Waitkevitch then went on to explain the breakdown of how Capital improvements outlined in Article #5 would be paid for (available funds vs. bonding). Ms. Smith asked whether the bonding for the playground improvements would be affected by potential grant money (for which the Town has applied). Mr. Waitkevitch replied that the status of the grant would be known prior to the bonding. Ms. Smith asked whether this bonding request could be applied to another playground (other than Clara Steele) if the Town received the grant money. No one on the Board had a definitive answer to that question. Mr. Harmon then introduced a motion for recommendation of favorable action. Mr. Mashburn seconded; all in favor.

Mr. Waitkevitch then confirmed that the cost associated with Article #6 is \$750K. Mr. Harmon asked why the Article does not list the cost. Mr. Waitkevitch explained that the motion associated with the Article at Town Meeting will list the specific dollar amount. He also explained why this capital request was separated from Article #5. The School Committee wanted this voted on as a separate Article.

Mr. Waszak asked how long it would be (upon ratification of Article #6 at Town Meeting) for the Study to be used. Ms. Smith noted that this Article is being done on a schedule to keep the project moving forward. She then made a motion to recommend favorable action. Mr. Harmon seconded; all in favor.

The Board moved onto Article #8, as Article #7 was the FY20 Town budget discussed at length in the April 1, 2019 Finance and Advisory Board meeting. Mr. Waszak introduced a motion for recommendation of favorable action on both Article #8. Ms. Smith seconded; all in favor. Mr. Harmon immediately made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article #9. Ms. Smith seconded; all in favor.

Mr. Waitkevitch then explained the nature of Article #10. The Council on Aging had collected more revenue in FY19 than they had the authority to spend. The Article allows an increase in the revolving fund to allow the Council to spend the revenue. Mr. Harmon made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article #10. Mr. Mashburn seconded; all in favor.

Mr. Doyle asked for clarification on Article #11 as to why the Council on Aging revolving fund is increasing to \$85K in Article #10 and staying at \$85K in Article #11. Mr. Harmon indicated that the revolving funds need to be reauthorized every year and the FY20 authorization is maintaining the recommended FY19 increase. Mr. Mashburn noted that the revolving funds are not included in the proposed FY20 budget. Mr. Waitkevitch replied that the FY20 budget is the *general* fund budget. The programs draw from different sources. There was then a general discussion about the purpose of revolving funds and revolving fund spending caps. Mr. Harmon recommended that the Board may consider a sheet to distribute at Town Meeting that explains what a revolving fund is. Mr. Waitkevitch added to that idea and proposed recommendations that incorporate common language explanations of the Article concepts. Mr. Mashburn suggested some of these recurring concepts could be incorporated into the Board's Resource Center. Ms. Smith further recommended a display that followed the course of a citizen's

expenditure through the revolving funds (using the Farmer's Market as an example). Mr. Waszak then introduced a motion for recommending favorable action on Article #11. Mr. Hurley seconded; all in favor.

Mr. Waszak made a motion to recommend no financial impact on Article #12. Mr. Doyle seconded; all in favor. Mr. Doyle then immediately made a motion for recommending no financial impact on Article #13. Mr. Hurley seconded; all in favor.

The Board began a discussion on Article #14 as to whether a zoning change constitutes financial impact on the Town. Ms. Smith declared her intent to abstain from the vote on this Article. She stated concerns that she lived very close to the proposed site. Mr. Mashburn submitted that the development would be condominiums and that additional condos would mean revenue for the Town. Mr. Hurley stated that new development also brings a need for additional Town services. Mr. Waszak noted that the new units would bring additional tax revenue through salaries of the occupants and Mr. Harmon followed that with the idea that the occupants would be driving cars subject to excise tax.

Mr. Harmon introduced a motion to recommend favorable action on Article #14. Mr. Waszak seconded; 4 members in favor (Mashburn, Waszak, Waitkevitch, Harmon), 1 opposed (Hurley), 2 abstentions (Smith, Doyle). Motion passes.

Mr. Waszak then immediately introduced a motion to recommend favorable action on Article #15. Mr. Harmon seconded; 4 members in favor (Mashburn, Waszak, Waitkevitch, Harmon), 1 opposed (Hurley), 2 abstentions (Smith, Doyle). Motion passes.

Mr. Mashburn observed that Article #16 was just a wording change. He then introduced a motion to recommend no financial impact. Mr. Doyle seconded; all in favor.

Mr. Waitkevitch then noted that he thought the ideas introduced in Articles #17 and #18 (solar panels on the roof of Stoneham Arena) were great for the Town. Mr. Mashburn made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article #17. Mr. Hurley seconded; all in favor. Mr. Mashburn then immediately made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article #18. Mr. Waszak seconded; all in favor.

Mr. Mashburn explained the premise behind Article #19. He mentioned that the Town would offset some tax liability for veteran's who volunteer for the Town. Mr. Harmon then introduced a motion to recommend favorable action on Article #19. Ms. Smith seconded; all in favor.

Mr. Mashburn clarified that Article #20 was simply making the social host ordinance a Town by-law. He then made a motion to recommend no financial impact. Mr. Doyle seconded; all in favor.

Mr. Waszak introduced a motion to recommend favorable action on Article #21. Mr. Mashburn seconded; all in favor.

Mr. Hurley asked some questions to the Board about whether Article #22 affects the cable surcharges paid for public access television. Mr. Waitkevitch replied that he believed this only related to how charges were collected and distributed. He then indicated that there was an intent to change the wording of this Article. Because of that, he suggested that the Board not take a vote until the new wording is presented at Town Meeting. Mr. Doyle introduced a motion to have the Board not recommend action on Article #22. Mr. Waszak seconded; all in favor.

Mr. Mashburn indicated that he had spoken to the Town Clerk about Article #23. He confirmed with the Clerk that a special election costs the Town about \$10K. To clarify the impact of the Article, Mr. Harmon asked if the 100 vote petition would trigger a \$10K recall election. Mr. Mashburn confirmed that interpretation. Ms. Smith then indicated that she was one of the petitioners for this Article. She went on to explain that the petitioners were considering a modification to the language of the Article. Mr. Mashburn suggested a 1,000 signature threshold.

The Board then had a general discussion of the mechanics of the Article as written. Mr. Doyle then made a motion to recommend unfavorable action on Article #23. Mr. Waszak seconded; 6 in favor, 1 abstention (Smith).

Mr. Waitkevitch then briefly explained the contents of Article #24 (reduction of Select Board terms and establishment of term limits). Mr. Hurley indicated that both the reduction and the term limit combined was excessive. There was then a general discussion regarding the importance of allowing elected officials time to get used to their positions, as well as why the petitioners would seek to limit those willing to serve the Town. Ms. Smith added that our current officials make great effort to stay within ethics requirements and State Conflict of Interest laws. Mr. Doyle pointed out that as long as there are appropriate controls in place, municipal employees should be allowed to serve on the Select Board. Mr. Waszak then introduced a motion to recommend unfavorable action on Article #24. Mr. Harmon seconded; all in favor.

Board Chair then moved onto Agenda Item #3. Mr. Waitkevitch called out the open position on the Finance Board and encouraged the public to apply to the Moderator. Mr. Mashburn then encouraged current members to seek re-appointment with the Moderator.

The Board then moved back to Agenda Item #2 in order to designate speakers at Town Meeting. It was noted that Ms. Lippman, Mr. Martignetti and Mr. Desmarais were absent from the meeting but would be assigned speaking roles. The Board then briefly discussed the mechanics of Town Meeting and the Finance Board's role. It was also determined that the Board would compose its write-ups in this meeting ahead of Town Meeting. Mr. Mashburn suggested that the Articles with no financial impact did not need actual write-ups.

The speaking assignments were given as follows:

Article #1 - Doyle

Article #2 - Smith

Article #3 - Waitkevitch

Article #4 - Lippman

Article #5 - Hurley

Article #6 - Demarais

Article #7 - Mashburn

Article #8 - Harmon

Article #9 - Harmon

Article #10 - Waitkevitch

Article #11 - Waitkevitch

Article #12 - Martignetti

Article #13 - Martignetti

Article #14 - Waszak

Article #15 - Waszak

Article #16 - Doyle

Article #17 - Doyle

Article #18 - Doyle

Article #19 - Mashburn

Article #20 - Mashburn

Article #21 - Smith

Article #22 - Not Assigned

Article #23 - Hurley

Article #24 - Lippman

Mr. Waszak then made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Hurley seconded; all in favor.