

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

Attendees:

Tim Waitkevitch, Chair
Cory Mashburn, Vice-Chair
Andrew Harmon, Secretary

Jeremy Doyle Jen Gray
Mike Memmelo

Absent: Jennifer Goldenberg, Ed Hurley, Carol O'Loughlin, Wendy Smith, Chris Waszak

Guests:

None

Agenda:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Meeting Minutes
3. Special Town Meeting Article Recommendations 10/21 @ 7pm
4. Department Meeting Check-In
5. 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 on to Agenda Item #2. The Board was asked to review the Meeting Minutes from 09/03/2019. Mr. Doyle introduced a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ms. Gray seconded; all in favor.

Board Chair then moved on to Agenda Item #3. Mr. Waitkevitch asked that the Board review Article #1. Mr. Mashburn mentioned that this Article (as well as Article #2) were originally introduced, and then postponed at Town Meeting in May 2019. Mr. Mashburn then noted that the Select Board did not make a recommendation on the current Article, but that the Finance Board should address it with a recommendation. Mr. Harmon reminded the Board that there was a previous discussion about the merits of this Article and there was a recommendation for favorable action at that time. Mr. Mashburn asked if it was unanimous and Mr. Harmon confirmed that it was not.

Ms. Gray asked what the Board thought the financial impact of the zoning change might be. She noted that the zoning will remain residential so it may be best left to residents in those neighborhoods to decide. Mr. Harmon recollected the previous Board discussion emphasizing the favorable action came from the potential increase in tax revenue. But that some members did express concerns about the costs to the Town of additional residents. He then introduced a motion to recommend favorable action on Article #1. Mr. Waitkevitch seconded; all in favor.

The Board moved to Article #2. Ms. Gray (based on previous discussion) immediately introduced a motion for favorable action on this Article. Mr. Harmon seconded; all in favor.

Discussion moved to Article #3. Mr. Waitkevitch indicated that he did not have any additional details on the nature of the land in question or the reason for the Select Board requesting authorization over it. He recommended that the Board wait on issuing a recommendation until Town Meeting where more details would be available. The Board was in agreement.

The Board then took up discussion on Article #4. Ms. Gray asked for clarification on whether receipt of the PARC grant saved the Town from spending the entire Capital amount for parks appropriated at Town Meeting. Mr. Harmon remembered that the PARC grant would defer the costs appropriated upfront. Mr. Waitkevitch agreed and added that the Town intends to then roll the Capital expenditure into additional park upgrades. Mr. Doyle introduced a motion to recommend favorable action on Article #4. Mr. Harmon seconded; all in favor.

Discussion then moved to Article #5. As representative to the Capital Committee, Mr. Mashburn walked the Board through the Capital requests. He noted that the Facilities department would need vehicles as well as funds to begin projects right away (upon hiring of the Director). Mr. Doyle asked why these funds were not incorporated into the FY20 budget. Consensus was that the Facilities funding should be part of future budgets, but because the department was just created at Town Meeting, budgeting this Capital amount would have been difficult.

Mr. Mashburn then walked through the funding for a new police cruiser. He noted that this is part of the Police department's replacement cycle. Mr. Harmon asked whether there would be a request for cruisers each October Town Meeting. The Board was unclear, but Mr. Doyle and Mr. Mashburn believed this was a 'catch-up' to get the fleet up to current. Mr. Mashburn then explained about the funding for drainage and paving. Mr. Memmolo asked about the pavement study and whether he could get a copy. Mr. Harmon then introduced a motion for favorable action on Article #5. Mr. Memmolo seconded; all in favor.

The Board then began discussion on Article #6. Mr. Harmon asked why the Article requests a specific dollar amount. Ms. Gray suggested that the number is a close estimate to what the Town already receives in PEG fees. Mr. Mashburn introduced a motion for favorable action on the Article. Mr. Harmon seconded; all in favor.

Discussion then moved to Article #7. Mr. Doyle made a motion to recommend favorable action. Ms. Gray seconded; all in favor.

Mr. Mashburn then introduced Article #8 to the Board (as he is one of the citizen petitioners). He began by noting his abstention from the vote. Mr. Harmon asked how the language was modeled. Mr. Mashburn replied that it is based largely on Burlington's plastic bag ban, which has been in effect for about a year. Mr. Memmolo commended the Article on its language helping smaller businesses comply. He then introduced a motion to recommend favorable action on the Article. Mr. Doyle seconded; five in favor, one abstention (Mashburn).

Board Chair then moved discussion to Agenda Item #4. Ms. Gray asked who she should reach out to for Recreation. Mr. Mashburn replied that it would be Stephen Angelo. Mr. Waitkevitch reminded the Board of the next Tri-Board meeting on October 16th. He then also alerted the Board to the Association of Town Finance Committees annual conference on October 26th in Bridgewater. The Board then scheduled the next meeting for Tuesday, November 5th.

Board Chair then moved discussion to Agenda Item #5. Mr. Harmon then asked if the Board wanted to designate speakers for the Warrant Articles at Town Meeting. Volunteers were assigned as noted below:

Article 1 - Hamon
Article 2 - Doyle
Article 3 - Gray
Article 4 - Memmolo
Article 5 - Mashburn
Article 6 - Harmon
Article 7 - Waitkevitch
Article 8 - Waitkevitch

Mr. Harmon made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Mashburn seconded; all in favor.