

Stoneham Finance & Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, October 8, 2020 - 7:00 pm
All Members Attending Remotely

Attendees:

Tim Waitkevitch, Chair
Cory Mashburn, Vice Chair

Julieanne Bovat	Youlia Bowerman
Jeremy Doyle	Jen Gray
Ed Hurley	Wendy Smith
Dave Tammaro	

Absent: Andrew Harmon, Mike Memmolo

Guests:

None

Agenda:

1. Meeting Minutes
2. FY22 Budget Process and Calendar
3. Discussion of Water & Sewer Collections/Rate Review Board
4. Review of FAB Department and Subcommittee Assignments/Updates
5. Identification of Additional FY21 FAB Action Items
6. Updates
 - a. Capital Committee
 - b. School Building Committee
7. Other Business - Non Deliberative
8. Adjournment

Minutes:

The Finance & Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Mr. Waitkevitch opened the meeting with Agenda Item #1. The Board was asked to review the minutes for 9/10/2020. Mr. Mashburn introduced a motion to accept the 9/10/2020 minutes as written. Ms. Gray seconded. 7 members in favor; 2 abstentions (Doyle, Hurley).

Board Chair then moved discussion to Agenda Item #2. Mr. Waitkevitch began by telling the Board that it was decided that there would not be departmental presentations in front of the Tri-Board in this fiscal year. He suggested that the Finance Board subcommittees still meet with departments in early December and bring information back to the larger Board. Ms. Gray asked whether the Board would be interested in having certain department heads in front of the entire

Board. Mr. Waitkevitch noted the anticipated need for more meetings under that plan. He then opened the discussion to the Board. There was a general consensus that continuing to meet with departments in subcommittee was beneficial to the Board and the process.

Board Chair then moved discussion to Agenda Item #3. Mr. Waitkevitch asked the Board to discuss and develop an action item to deal with issues surrounding collections and the Review Board. Ms. Smith suggested that the Board really keep an eye on the collection rate. She noted that the Town Accountant has previously noted that the collection rate in Town is low. She further volunteered to follow up with the Accountant on current collection rates. Mr. Hurley added that the Board should ask to clarify the collections rates between commercial and residential customers.

Mr. Waitkevitch then reviewed the functions and composition of the Rate Review Board. He and Ms. Smith agreed that it would be good to check in with the Review Board for a current status on the ability to gain a quorum. Ms. Gray added that the Finance Board should seek out good solutions to the collections problem, but delay implementing any plan until the COVID crisis has passed. Ms. Bowerman added that any solution should go beyond boosting collections rates and explore other cost-savings opportunities. Mr. Waitkevitch also suggested that the Board explore the status of the Water and Sewer reserves. Ms. Gray mentioned that there may be options surrounding water conservation. Ms. Smith affirmed that she would incorporate these notes and also ask about MWRA rate-setting.

Board Chair then moved discussion to Agenda Item #4. Mr. Waitkevitch asked for any updates or changes to the latest departmental and goal subcommittee assignments. Ms. Gray noted that she had volunteered to be added to the Pension Subcommittee. Ms. Smith reminded everyone that the subcommittees should designate a lead amongst themselves.

Board Chair then moved discussion to Agenda Item #5. Mr. Waitkevitch asked for additional feedback on goals for the current fiscal year. Mr. Doyle noted that goals would be difficult to establish in light of current events. He suggested that knowing the Town's posture/approach to the ongoing crisis could help shape those goals.

Board Chair then moved discussion to Agenda Item #6. Mr. Waitkevitch gave the floor to Mr. Mashburn to provide updates on both the Capital Committee and the School Building Committee. Mr. Mashburn first mentioned that the Capital Article recently passed at Town Meeting. For the School Building Committee, Mr. Mashburn explained that the Committee had recently voted on site designs for the building project. The Committee has also filed its application to the State with the approved site designs.

Ms. Smith asked whether the entire campus (fields, parking, etc) would be considered in the renovation option that the Committee approved. He affirmed that the renovation contemplates the entire campus. Ms. Bowerman asked whether there are any comparable schools that could

be viewed based on the approved plans. Mr. Mashburn said that Billerica High School was designed by the same architects on the Stoneham project.

Board Chair then moved discussion to Agenda Item #7. Mr. Waitkevitch mentioned that the ATFC has released their schedule for the Annual Meeting. It will consist of three webinars of differing subjects. He then went over the upcoming schedule. He noted the Tri-Board Meeting next week (10/15/2020). And reiterated the next scheduled meeting (11/2/2020).

Mr. Mashburn introduced a motion to adjourn. Ms. Smith seconded; all in favor.