

Stoneham Finance & Advisory Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 11, 2022 - 7:00 pm
All Members Attending Remotely

Attendees:

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

Julieanne Bovat	Youlia Bowerman
Jen Gray	Ed Hurley
Sachin Joshi	Mike Memmolo
Wendy Smith	

Absent: Dave Tammaro

Guests:

Paul Demerjian, Water and Sewer Review Board
Jonathan Gray, Water and Sewer Review Board
Raymie Parker, Select Board Member

Agenda:

1. Meeting Minutes - Vote Required
2. Recommendations from Water and Sewer Subcommittee
3. 2021 Annual Report Discussion
4. FY23 Priorities
5. Updates
 - a. Capital
 - b. School Building Committee
 - c. Water and Sewer
 - d. Subcommittees
6. Other Business - Non Deliberative
7. Adjournment - Vote Required

Minutes:

The Finance & Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. A roll call vote was held with members noted above marked 'present'.

Mr. Waitkevitch opened the meeting with Agenda Item #1. Mr. Harmon indicated that there were no minutes for review.

Board Chair then moved discussion to Agenda Item #2. Mr. Memmolo relayed some of the history of what the Water & Sewer subcommittee has been working on over the past few months. He indicated that the subcommittee was prepared to share its recommendations. Mr. Memmolo commented that the Water & Sewer Review has not met since 2018 due to a lack of quorum. The subcommittee recommends that the functions of the Water and Sewer Review Board be absorbed by other Town bodies.

The subcommittee indicated that a vote would be needed at Town Meeting to dissolve the Water and Sewer Review Board. All billing and assessment disputes would be handled directly by the Town Administrator. The setting of water and sewer rates would also fall to the Town Administrator. The Administrator, however, would come before the Finance and Advisory Board to present the rates. This would create a space for public inquiry and debate. The Finance and Advisory Board would also review and make any inquiries into the use of the Water and Sewer Enterprise funds.

Ms. Smith reiterated that there continues to be no interest in filling in vacant spots on the current Water and Sewer Review Board. Mr. Demerjian also emphasized that if there are any potential volunteers watching the meeting, that they should contact him immediately. Mr. Waitkevitch and Ms. Gray asked whether it might be good for the Finance and Advisory Board to have an official role in helping to set rates. Mr. Memmolo explained that the Town Administrator already has the ability to set rates in the Town code. So giving the Finance Board an advisory capacity does not require any further changes beyond the current recommendation to dissolve the Water & Sewer Review Board.

Mr. Waitkevitch suggested a motion for the Finance Board to gauge whether the current Board is interested in assuming these responsibilities. Ms. Gray introduced a motion to support the recommendations of the subcommittee. Mr. Mashburn seconded; all in favor.

Discussion then moved to the ability to remove non-attending members from appointed Town boards. While no mechanism exists, the Board was in broad agreement that attendance is important. Mr. Waitkevitch even suggested posting attendance records to help keep accountability.

Board Chair then moved discussion to Agenda Item #3. Mr. Waitkevitch showed the draft 2021 Annual Report to the Board. He also indicated that the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary have suggested rolling the format forward. He mentioned that he would circulate the report to all members and ask for feedback in the next meeting.

Board Chair then moved discussion to Agenda Item #4. Mr. Waitkevitch asked for feedback on priorities the Board might be interested in pursuing for FY23. Mr. Memmolo suggested monitoring of the Water and Sewer Enterprise funds. Mr. Mashburn and Ms. Smith both emphasized the need for additional funds for the Health Department. There was a general

discussion about salaries for various Town departments and how the Town evaluates that information.

Mr. Joshi wanted to note that the Board should continue to emphasize moving departmental vehicle expenditures into the operating budgets rather than making those requests through the Capital Committee. Ms. Smith and Ms. Gray added Library maintenance to the priority list.

Mr. Waitkevitch then showed the Board the priorities mentioned above and asked for a vote. Ms. Gray introduced a motion to approve the priority list. Mr. Memmolo seconded; all in favor.

Board Chair then moved discussion to Agenda Item #5. Raymie Parker was introduced to provide an update on the School Building Committee. Ms. Parker indicated that there was an overage in the cost estimates by \$3M. She added that there would be a subcommittee formed to review the overages and make recommendations. Mr. Mashburn then provided an update on the Capital Committee. He stated that the Committee has so far received \$4.5M in requests. The Committee has \$1M to allocate for the upcoming budget cycle. So the Committee will begin the process of making decisions on which requests are granted. There were no subcommittee updates from any Board members.

Board Chair then moved discussion to non-deliberative matters. Mr. Waitkevitch suggested dates for the next meeting. It was decided on February 10th. Mr. Memmolo introduced a motion to adjourn. Ms. Smith seconded; all in favor.