

Stoneham Finance and Advisory Board (FAB)

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| Date: | April 29, 2024 |
| Time: | 7p |
| Location: | Stoneham Town Hall Hearing Room |
| Present: | Mike Memmolo – Chair Jen Gray – Vice Chair Cory Mashburn – Secretary Andrew Harmon, Ed Hurley, Adam Jacobs, Joe Joffe, Wendy Smith, Jim Wilson |
| Absent: | John Lane, Jeff Moyer |
| Guests: | Dennis Sheehan, Town Administrator |

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| | <p><u>AGENDA</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water and Sewer Public Hearing 2. Meeting Minutes – Vote Required 3. May 6, 2024 Town Meeting Warrant Articles – Vote Required 4. Updates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Capital b. School Building Committee c. Subcommittees d. Association of Town Finance Committees (ATFC) update 5. Other business – Non-deliberative: Open Meeting and Ethics Reminder 6. Adjournment - Vote required |
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| 1. | <p>Water and Sewer Public Hearing</p> <p>For sewer, the Town is seeing a 2.18% assessment increase and a 11.22% increase in all other expenses. For water, the assessment is increasing 1.73% and all other expenses are decreasing by 2.85%. Mr. Sheehan then played a video on how the MWRA assesses towns on their water and sewer use. He then explained that, when factored together, the Town is faced with a 3.2% net increase in rates. In many other years, the Town would use Retained Earnings to offset the increase and keep the rates stable. There is a reluctance to do that this year</p> | No votes needed |
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| | <p>because using retained earnings in that way would drop the Town below 20% of expenses held as Retained Earnings. This is a key benchmark in the Town’s fiscal guidelines.</p> | |
| <p>2.</p> | <p>Meeting Minutes – Vote Required</p> <p>No meetings minutes to vote on</p> | <p>No votes needed</p> |
| <p>3.</p> | <p>May 6, 2024 Town Meeting Warrant Articles – Vote Required --- Town Meeting book will be at the Town Meeting on May 6th. The committee discussed the following articles and made the proper votes when needed.</p> <p>Article 5 Move Article 5 as set forth in the April 22, 2024 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.</p> <p>The committee wrote the below recommendation to be read for Article 5 on Town Meeting on May 6, 2024. Recommendation: The Finance and Advisory Board voted 8-0 favorable action on Article 5. Description: The article puts uniform zoning (Residence B) on a single piece of property that is currently split between Residence A and Residence B. This change may result in additional tax revenue as it changes this parcel from single family to multi family.</p> <p>Article 6 Move Article 5 as set forth in the April 22, 2024 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.</p> <p>The committee wrote the below recommendation to be read for Article 6 on Town Meeting on May 6, 2024. Recommendation: The Finance and Advisory Board voted 8-0 favorable action on Article 6. Description: The article changes the current zoning as Residence A with a non-conforming use to Residence B. This change may result in additional tax revenue as it changes this parcel from single family to multi family.</p> | <p>Ms. Gray introduced a motion of favorable action on Article 5. Mr. Joffe seconded; All in favor</p> <p>Ms. Gray introduced a motion of favorable action on Article 6. Mr. Harmon seconded; All in favor</p> |

Article 8

Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,152,000 for the capital projects set forth in the following chart, and to meet this appropriation that the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, be authorized to borrow all or a portion of said sum under the applicable provisions of M.G.L. c. 44 or any other enabling authority to cover said costs, including all incidental and related costs; and further, that any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G.L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

The committee wrote the below recommendation to be read for Article 8 on Town Meeting on May 6, 2024.

Recommendation:

The Finance and Advisory Board voted 8-0 favorable action on Article 8.

Description:

After discussions with town leaders, department heads, through board meetings, tri board meetings, and public comment, the Finance & Advisory Board recommends favorable action from Town Meeting on Article 7.

We acknowledge that this is not an ideal budget and many hard decisions had to be made by numerous departments in order to reach a balanced budget. Priority lists were put together after many meetings, and decisions were made to meet as many of the town’s needs as possible. Expenses continue to grow at a rate that exceeds our revenue growth. It is a trend that we have seen year after year and this budget represents a compromise based on our current revenue.

Article 15

Move that the Town vote to appropriate up to the sum of \$213,101 for the purpose of funding payments due from prior fiscal years to Clearway Community Solar LLC under existing agreements and to meet this appropriation, transfer said sum from Free Cash with said funds being expended under the direction of the Town Administrator.

The committee wrote the below recommendation to be read for Article 15 on Town Meeting on May 6, 2024.

Recommendation:

The Finance and Advisory Board voted 8-0 favorable action on Article 15.

Description:

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 13E, or do anything in relation thereto.

Ms. Gray introduced a motion of favorable action on Article 8. Mr. Joffe seconded; All in favor

Ms. Gray introduced a motion of favorable action on Article 15. Mr. Jacobs seconded; All in favor

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| | <p>Article 17 Move Article 17 authorizing the Select Board to submit special legislation to waive the maximum age for original appointment to the Stoneham Police Department as set forth in Article 17 of the May 6, 2024 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.</p> <p>The committee wrote the below recommendation to be read for Article 17 on Town Meeting on May 6, 2024. Recommendation: The Finance and Advisory Board voted 8-0 favorable action on Article 17. Description: The article provides the Stoneham Police Department more flexibility when hiring by broadening the applicant pool. The current age cap is 31 years old.</p> <p>Article 18 Move Article 18 amending the Stoneham Town Code provisions allowing certain limited alcoholic beverage licensure of town property to as set forth in the Article 18 of the May 6, 2024 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.</p> <p>The committee wrote the below recommendation to be read for Article 18 on Town Meeting on May 6, 2024. Recommendation: The Finance and Advisory Board voted 8-0 favorable action on Article 18. Description: This article clarifies the town code and increases the Select Board’s liquor license powers. It extends their ability to offer one-day event licenses on public lands as opposed to just private land.</p> | <p>Ms. Gray introduced a motion of favorable action on Article 17. Mr. Joffe seconded; All in favor</p> <p>Ms. Gray introduced a motion of favorable action on Article 18. Mr. Joffe seconded; All in favor</p> |
| 4. | <p>Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Capital b. School Building Committee c. Subcommittees d. Association of Town Finance Committees (ATFC) Update <p>No big updates</p> | <p>No votes needed</p> |
| 5. | <p>Other Business – Non deliberative</p> | <p>No votes needed</p> |

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| 6. | Adjournment | Ms. Gray then introduced a motion to adjourn; Mr. Joffe seconded; all in favor. |