

## **Finance Board Meeting Minutes: April 7th, 2014**

*Attendees: George McCormack, Bill Previdi, Rachel Meredith-Warren, Russ Wilson, Dava Kilbride, Caroline Colarusso, Julie Desimone, Ben Caggiano; Stephen Dapkiewicz, Devon Manchester, George Georgountzon*

Mr. Georgountzos called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM

Mr. Georgountzos invited Bob Grover the head of the DPW to speak on DPW's budgetary needs and address board member concerns. Mr. Grover started by requesting Mr. Georgountzos to read to viewers when the DPW would be picking up lawn bags. Dialogue then progressed to the trash bidding process. Mr. Grover explained that bids had gone out for the second time. Mr. Wilson asked if an RFI had been submitted prior to and RFP, Mr. Grover said that and RFP's had been submitted. Mr. Caggiano followed with a question to see if the price and contract would affect the trash fee set by the BOS. Mr. Grover could not comment and said it was a question for the BOS. Mr. Grover brought in printed information on the trash and gave a brief history of the previous contracts.

Mr. Georgountzos asked the board members to go around and ask any questions of Mr. Grover they saw fit. Questioning started with Ms. Colarusso who questioned the overtime budget and the process behind it at the DPW. She stated several times that it was high and there were problems with vacation scheduling especially in the summer months. She also stated her experience as a manager and the difficulty Mr. Grover must be facing. Ms. Colarusso drew specific references to the guaranteed overtime DPW workers have. Furthermore, she asked if college students could help like they had in other years and Mr. Grover confirmed they could. Mr. Grover explained that a contract had recently been inked with the DPW union so it is rather difficult to change anything immediately.

Ms. Feltch asked about the maintenance of school grounds, the DPW does help out with plowing and other services but the schools have their own workers. Mr. Wilson followed by asking about what number of employees would Mr. Grover request if he had the ability and the number was roughly 30% higher than the current force. Mr. Grover showed examples in his documentation that the DPW had a much larger staff 20 years ago and has slowly been decreased. Ms. Colarusso brought up that the fact that the future is contracting out for jobs rather than using in house staff, Mr. Grover agreed. Mr. Wilson asked about road paving and Mr. Grover explained that Chapter 90 money would go towards paving roads and that the town has 70 miles of public road ways.

Ms. Meredith-Warren asked Mr. Grover about his long term concerns and he stated that the infrastructure with so many housing developments coming online is a big concern. More specifically it includes the pumping station on Fallon Rd and concerns with the Weiss Farm potential development. Mr. McCormack asked what concerns if any were there with digging up roads by residents to lay natural gas piping. Mr. Grover said that anytime a road is dug up it becomes weaker and that it's a personal preference to get natural gas.

Mr. Dapkeiwicz mentioned that he had difficulty adding up the OT on the MUNIS files he receiving, Mr. Grover said that the numbers are probably not separating the snow and ice removal which makes up a large piece of the OT budget but would need to see the file Mr. Dapkeiwicz had. Mr. Dapkeiwicz was able to work through where the discrepancy was and agreed the numbers did add up.

Ms. Desimone made a comment that the parks are important to the town and they need to be kept up. Mr. Grover agreed that the islands and parks are the face of the town and he would like to have more employees to get to everything but he has a priority list.

Jim Sullivan from the audience through Mr. Georgountzos asked Mr. Grover if it would make sense to try and work with surrounding towns DPW employees to fill the voids. Mr. McCormack responded that he doubted the union would be okay with Stoneham hiring Reading's or Wakefield's DPW employees to do work that Stoneham employees should be doing. Mr. Grover agreed it was highly unlikely that the union would agree to terms such as what Mr. Sullivan had suggested.

Larry Means from the audience questioned Mr. Grover through the Chair about the golf courses and their new contract. Mr. Grover stated that 2 new DPW employees had been hired to do the work of the former groundskeepers at the golf courses. Mr. Grover was thanked by the board and stepped away.

The board moved into voting on remaining articles.

Article 25: To see if the town will appropriate \$400,000 to defray costs of constructing water mains and other water equipment. Mr. Caggiano made motion to recommend favorable action, Ms. Feltch seconded. The vote was unanimous

Article 26: To see if the town will appropriate \$400,000 to defray costs for sewer mains and other street repairs. Mr. Caggiano made a motion to recommend favorable action, Mr. Manchester seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Article 27: To move \$11,250 remaining from the DPW roof repair budget to the DPW garage doors. Mr. Caggiano made a motion to recommend favorable action, Mr. Manchester seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Article 14: To allow a "Wireless Services Facility Overlay District" at the Senior Center. Dave Ragucci said that the town would be looking to receive about \$10,000 from leased space and that money would be for the Senior Center. Ms. Desimone brought up the fact that it could be dangerous. Mr. Ragucci commented that information he had received was it was not dangerous.

Mr. Previdi made a motion to recommend favorable action, Mr. Manchester seconded. A vote was taken and it was 9 FOR , with Ms. Meredith-Warren ABSTAINING, and Ms. Desimone AGAINST.

Article 15: To authorize the use of a wireless facility on the Senior Center barn in the cupola.  
9 FOR , with Ms. Meredith-Warren ABSTAINING, and Ms. Desimone AGAINST.

Article 17: This article pertains to the authorization and plans for zoning a Marijauna distribution and cultivation facility. A discussion ensued to determine if the FAB had authority and several members were interested in deferring the article to the Planning Board, while others felt it was important to vote. A vote was not taken.

Article 18: Authorizing the town to move forward with additional means to capture dollars from the park next to JJ Grimsby's. JJ Grimsby's has not paid for services rendered from the town. The DCR has the deed. Mr. Manchester made a motion to recommend favorable action, Ms. Meredith Warren seconded. The vote was unanimous

Article 24: To authorize a revolving fund of not more than \$50,000 to address any issues with the Bike Path/ Greenway that may arise including engineering expenses. Mr. Wilson made a motion to recommend favorable action, Mr. Manchester seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Article 28: To see if the town will authorize the payment of \$37,000 for Microsoft Office upgrade. The current version is no longer supported.  
Mr. Wilson made a motion to recommend favorable action, Mr. Manchester seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 PM

Respectfully,

George McCormack