

**Minutes
Bi-Board
Select Board/Finance and Advisory Board
Stoneham Central Middle School
Hybrid Meeting
Tuesday, March 1, 2022
7:00 p.m.**

Select Board Members Present: Chair Heidi Bilbo, Vice-Chair George Seibold, Clerk David Pignone, Shelly MacNeill, Raymie Parker

Finance and Advisory Board Members Present: Chair Tim Waitkevich, Cory Mashburn, Julieanne Bovat, Sachin Joshi, Ed Hurley, Jennifer Gray, Wendy Smith, David Tamaro

Also Present: Town Administrator Dennis Sheehan, Town Accountant Eric Duffy

Agenda Item 1: Open Meeting The boards opened their meetings with unanimous votes.

Agenda Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance

Bilbo took a moment of personal privilege to recognize the war in Ukraine stating that the Town stands with the people of Ukraine against the terrorist attacks by Russia in violation of international law.

Agenda Item 3: Common Victualler License: Jersey Mike's Kilbride stated that all insurance requirements have been met and that she received no objections from the Police, Fire, Health, or Building Departments. Seibold moved to approve the common victualler license for Jersey Mike's. MacNeill seconded the motion. Voted unanimously.

Chair of the Capital Committee, Tom Barry, could not be heard over GoTo meeting. Parker moved to hear agenda item 5. Seibold seconded the motion. Voted unanimously.

Agenda Item 5: 2023 Town Administrator's Budget Discussion Duffy thanked Sheehan, the Select Board, the Finance and Advisory Board, the School Committee and Superintendent, department heads, staff, and Kate Finnegan for their assistance with preparing the FY23 proposed operating budget. Duffy stated that the revenue expected for FY2 is \$83.9 million dollars. He stated that there are a number of budget drivers including health insurance, projected to increase 5.7%, costs related to the Northeast Vocational High School project, and the pension funding schedule. Duffy discussed local receipts and his concern about motor vehicle excise tax given the decreased supply coupled with unwillingness to buy new vehicles.

Duffy announced that the town side budget would be increasing by 5.2% for FY23 with the following goals: transitioning staff from grants to payroll; adding funds to the Conservation Commission budget; adding a police officer and a facilities staff member. Duffy stated that the

school side budget would be increasing by 3.67% with the following drivers: increased expenses for special education; increased ESP's in kindergarten classes; 4 year technology replacement cycles; and hiring a school district human resources director.

Bilbo thanked Duffy, Sheehan, Finnegan, and all department heads for their efforts on the budget. Seibold stated that he would like the town to look at alternative health insurance vendors because insurance costs keep increasing. MacNeill stated that Retirement's willingness to push pension funding out to 2025 made a huge difference to the town during COVID.

Parker moved to return to agenda item 4. MacNeill seconded the motion. Voted unanimously.

Agenda Item 4: Capital Committee Update Berry stated that the Capital Committee received \$5 million dollars in requests this year and had just over \$1 million to spend. This year's list of capital expenditures comes to just over \$1 million dollars all of which will come from bonding. The list of approved capital expenditures include \$100,000 for streets and sidewalks, \$198,000 for a dump truck with a plow; \$55,000 for a one-ton dump truck; \$359,700 for town roof restoration; \$50,000 in ADA improvements; \$35,000 for 4 portable radios; \$60,000 for fire vehicle replacement; \$38,000 for drainage repair on the golf course; \$30,000 for library windows; \$70,000 for a marked police vehicle; \$50,000 in South School site rehabilitation and lot design; and \$830,000 for water construction projects that will come from an interest free MWRA loan.

Parker asked if the money for ADA improvements or for a study. Sheehan stated that the money will go into an account to start implementing the recommendations from the recently completed study. Smith asked why the fire radios are not being fully funded. Sheehan stated that the fire department is again applying for a grant and this money will buy 4 radios. Gray asked about how many windows the money for the library will buy. Sheehan replied that the money is to replace the historic windows and that he will supply the facilities audit to the boards.

Agenda Item 5: 2023 Town Administrator's Budget Discussion – continued Waitkevich stated that he enjoyed the budget book and felt satisfaction to see that the Town is chipping away at projects. He asked whether the local receipts number was conservative. Sheehan stated that over the last year they have tried to capture a base line, but the number is conservative which could give us a bit of an upside. Smith asked if the district wide human resources coordinator was a new position. Duffy stated that it is a new position and statutorily required. Pignone asked if the technology replacement cycle would be obsolete with the new high school. Sheehan stated that there is a difference between fixtures and Chrome Book replacement and that we would still need to replace Chrome Books.

MacNeill moved to approve the FY23 budget as presented. Parker seconded the motion. Unanimously voted. Sheehan stated that the budget is now in the hands of the Finance and Advisory Board. Waitkevich stated that the FAB's recommendation is due on 4/7.

Agenda Item 6: Town Meeting Update Kilbride stated that we continue to work toward the warrant closing on 3/7 and the Select Board will likely be voting to accept the articles and sign

the warrant on 3/15. She stated that she will forward the final draft to all boards when it is signed.

Agenda Item 7: Adjourn Meeting The boards adjourned their meeting with unanimous votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Dava Feltch Kilbride, Office Manager