

Board of Finance Special Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2022 06:00 PM

Call to order: Board of Finance Chair Steve Ezzes called the meeting to order at 6.04pm. Also in attendance were Board of Finance members Amy Gare, Jeff Farr, Rone Baldwin, Michael Imber, Jamie Zeppernick, Finance Director, Rick Darling, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Leslie Zoll from CliftonLarsenAllen and DPW Director, John Conte.

- 1. Discussion/decision regarding appointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board of Finance:**
Mr. Farr nominated Rone Baldwin for Chairman, Mr. Bochinski seconded this. Ms. Gare asked if Mr. Baldwin would continue to work in a bipartisan manner with everyone on the Board. Mr. Baldwin explained that he feels the leader should continue to run the Board in the way that it had been run in a collaborative style, and in a non- partisan fashion and work towards what is best for Weston. The nomination passed (7-0).
Mr. Bochinski nominated Mr. Ezzes for Vice Chairman. Mr. Farr seconded this. Ms. Gare nominated Mr. Imber. Ms. Gare gave background into Mr. Imber's background and many qualifications for the Vice Chair position. The nomination was not seconded. The nomination to appoint Mr. Ezzes as Vice-Chair carried (5-2) with Ms. Gare and Mr. Imber not in favor.
- 2. Discussion/decision regarding the adoption of the calendar 2022 meeting schedule.** Mr. Baldwin mentioned continuing on with Zoom meetings as well as moving the meetings to 6pm. Mr. Ezzes asked Mr. Luiz for clarification on the Governor's Executive orders on meetings. Mr. Luiz said that the Governor's orders change regularly as the deadlines approach, Mr. Luiz will keep the Board updated on this. There was overall support from the Board members for the zoom format. Mr. Bochinski moved to accept the calendar for 2022 as submitted and to change the start time of the regular meetings to 6pm. Mr. Farr seconded this. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3. Presentation of the fiscal year 2020-21 audited financial statements. Leslie Zoll, Partner, CliftonLarsenAllen (CLA).** Mr. Baldwin introduced Leslie Zoll from CLA who joined the meeting and presented a PowerPoint Presentation and went over the Executive Summary as well as the financial highlights and GASB Standards. Mr. Farr asked about management letter comments – things to pay attention to etc. Ms. Zoll said that there was not anything significant that warranted being brought before the Board of Finance. Mr. Baldwin congratulated Mr. Darling and Mr. Luiz on a particularly clean audit.
- 4. Discussion/decision regarding a supplemental appropriation request in the amount of \$283,015 for remediation of land erosion along Newtown Turnpike and Valley Forge Road. Jonathan Luiz, Town Administrator; John Conte, Public Works Director:** Mr. Luiz mentioned that the Board of Selectmen have approved the supplemental appropriation already, he also mentioned that Mr. Farr has been a part of these discussions for a few weeks. Mr. Luiz introduced Mr. Conte, Public Works Director to provide further background into the erosion these roads are experiencing; Mr. Conte provided insight into the measures that will be implemented to fix these erosion issues. He went into detail on the proposed fixes needed on Valley Forge and Newtown Turnpike and answered questions from the Board of Finance members. Mr. Bochinski asked Mr. Farr how he felt about the proposed work. Mr. Farr said that he supported the proposed work and provided his reasoning. Mr. Imber moved to approve a supplemental appropriation request in the amount of \$283,015 for remediation of land erosion along Newtown Turnpike and Valley

Forge Road subject to confirmation of current references and diligence on any outstanding litigation or state regulatory violations, plus penalties if it is not beyond a reasonable time for completion. Mr. Zeppernick seconded this. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **Discussion regarding an update on the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Jonathan Luiz, Town Administrator; Rick Darling, Finance Director:** Mr. Luiz gave a brief recap on the updated funding parameters and mentioned sending the Board of Finance members the summary documents once he receives them. Mr. Luiz recommended the Chair and Vice Chair speak with the First Selectwoman on a path forward about how to spend this money in the community and should be treated as supplemental appropriations, which would require Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance approval. Mr. Farr proposed two caveats – not to cover any recurring expenditures nor create any future expenditures. Mr. Imber said that this would be a good resource to use for infrastructure. Mr. Darling said funding would need to be committed by Dec 2024 and spent by Dec 2026. Mr. Bochinski said that he was in favor of a “working group” to come up with a plan before going to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. Additional discussion took place on various issues Ms. Gare was in support of the working group. Mr. Baldwin said he would work with the First Selectwoman to determine a timeline. Mr. Luiz mentioned that we had received half of the allotment already, and will receive the second allotment in June 2022.
6. **Discussion/decision regarding approval of the December 9, 2021 meeting minutes:** Mr. Bochinski moved to approve the minutes from the meeting on December 9, 2021 as presented. Mr. Imber seconded this. The motion carried unanimously.
7. **Adjourn:** Mr. Bochinski moved to adjourn the meeting at 7.23pm. Ms. Gare seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by: Sara Beer, Executive Administrative Assistant.