

Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance
Special Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2022 at 7pm
Meeting held remotely

Board of Finance chair Rone Baldwin called the meeting to order at 6pm. Also in attendance were Board of Finance members Amy Gare, Dick Bochinski, Jeff Farr and Steve Ezzes; First Selectwoman Samantha Nestor, Board of Selectmen members Amy Jenner and Martin Mohabeer, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Finance Director Rick Darling and WPS Finance Director Phil Cross.

- 1. Discussion/Decision regarding a proposed list of projects to be funded through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding which would be the topic of a public hearing and ultimately approved via a machine ballot vote. Rone Baldwin, Board of Finance Chair & Sam Nestor, First Selectwoman.** Mr. Baldwin presented a list of projects to potentially be funded through ARPA, saying that the Town has been awarded \$3,034,000. He provided details on the reasoning for each project, budgeted amounts, time constraints/deadlines and restrictions on how the ARPA funds can be spent. First Selectwoman Nestor provided insight into timelines and details on a public hearing and machine ballot vote. Feedback and suggestions were heard from members of the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen. Selectman Mohabeer moved to set a public hearing to review the American Rescue Plan Act proposed project at 6pm on Thursday May 26th, 2022. The motion passed 2-1 with Selectwoman Jenner not in favor. Mr. Ezzes moved to set a public hearing to review the American Rescue Plan Act proposed project at 6pm on Thursday May 26th, 2022. Mr. Bochinski seconded this. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Imber and Mr. Zeppernick not in attendance.
- 2. Discussion/decision regarding the Tax Collector's Suspense list. Cathy Neblett, Tax Collector.** Mr. Darling provided a brief explanation on the suspense list highlighting that this required by state statute and is a yearly occurrence. The list reflects accounts that the Tax Collector has determined that they have exhausted all efforts to collect on and are now classified as uncollectible. Mr. Bochinski moved to approve the list of outstanding proposed bills to be transferred to suspense. Mr. Farr seconded this. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Imber and Mr. Zeppernick not in attendance.
- 3. Discussion regarding the financial report of the Board of Education. Phil Cross, Director of Finance and Operations.** WPS Finance Director, Phil Cross provided an update to the Board of Finance on the current financial report mentioning a surplus of \$894,383 to end the Fiscal Year. He went over budget changes that have occurred, including staffing, tuition, materials, fuel etc. He highlighted an additional \$40k needed for water supplies to the district. Mr. Cross asked that the Board of Finance consider the use of a non-lapsing account and reiterated the benefits of this.
- 4. Discussion regarding the Town financial update. Rick Darling, Finance Director:** Finance Director, Rick Darling provided an update highlighting a negative forecast in investment income due to retrenchment in the fixed income market. He mentioned that overall the numbers are still strong with tax revenue projections and building permit income. Mr. Darling went over expense deficits and surpluses in various areas and departments, and reminded the Board of Finance of the 27th pay period at the end of June, 2022. Overall, the fund balance forecast has increased nearly \$3 million since the last projection due to the additional surplus for the Board of Education, and the removal of the Dispatch Communications project for this year.
- 5. Discussion/decision regarding a supplemental appropriation request in the amount of \$22,000 for engineering services for slope restoration and stabilization at the Transfer Station. Jonathan Luiz, Town Administrator.** Mr. Luiz provided back ground into the appropriation request for engineering fees associated with this project. He said that Barton and Loguidice have an excellent recommendation-reputation in CT. Mr. Luiz and Mr. Darling are working with FEMA on this who will be reimbursing 75% of costs associated with damage from Hurricane Ida. Selectwoman Jenner moved to approve a supplemental appropriation in amount of \$22,000 for engineering

services for slope restoration and stabilization at the Transfer Station. Selectman Mohabeer seconded this. Mr. Luiz thanked Mr. Farr for his help and expertise on the project. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Bochinski moved to approve a supplemental appropriation in amount of \$22,000 in engineering services for slope restoration and stabilization at the Transfer Station. Mr. Farr seconded this. The motion carried 5 -0 with Mr. Zeppernick and Mr. Imber not in attendance.

- 6. Discussion/decision regarding a supplemental appropriation of \$250,000 for Road Repaving. Jonathan Luiz, Town Administrator:** Mr. Luiz provided back ground information into the need for additional funding for road paving, saying that the estimate received from Beta Group in February is 12% lower than the current lowest bid from American Paving. This is due to a number of different factors, notably the rising cost in diesel. There was extensive discussion between the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen members. Selectman Mohabeer moved to approve a supplemental appropriation for \$250,000 for road paving that will go into a Capital Account. Selectwoman Jenner seconded this. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Bochinski moved to a supplemental appropriation for \$250,000 that will go into a Capital Account for road repaving for the current fiscal year. Mr. Farr seconded this. The motion carried 5 -0 with Mr. Zeppernick and Mr. Imber not in attendance.
- 7. Adjourn:** Selectwoman Jenner moved to adjourn the Board of Selectmen at 8.09pm. Selectman Mohabeer seconded this. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Gare moved to adjourn the Board of Finance at 8.09pm. Mr. Bochinski seconded this. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by: Sara Beer, Executive Administrative Assistant