

**NORFOLK BOARD OF FINANCE
MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2022 MEETING**

Members present were: M. Sconyers, G. Allyn, G. Mudge, N. Ritson and J. Torrant.

Alternate member present was: A. Bennett.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by M. Sconyers.

The February 8, 2022 minutes were approved on Motion of G. Mudge, second by N. Ritson, and unanimously approved.

Under Correspondence, the tax collector's requests for reimbursements were approved on Motion of N. Ritson, second by G. Mudge, and unanimously approved.

Selectman's Report: At the Town meeting on February 17th the Mountain Road and River Place bridge spending was approved. Work on Mountain Road is estimated to start in early April; River Place will start pretty quickly after that. The First Selectman received a letter from Department of Housing regarding funds for Norfolk Living, including funding of approximately \$1,297,193. The First Selectman will work with the Norfolk Living foundation for Haystack Woods for acquisition of land and to do site work.

Budget presentation – in regard to the loan, there is an item called Debt Service under the Budget Summary. Debt Service encompasses work on windows at the school, bridge repair loan for the next 10 years (\$114,000 per year). The new tanker truck loan was approved for purchase for the Fire Department. The down-payment on the truck is 10% of the chase figure (\$112,000), the down payment was approximately \$11-\$12,000. The Town will owe the balance in May and discussed using Capital money for that. The total owed on the truck is approximately \$212,000. The Selectman will work with the Fire Department on financing, loans, and the Fire Department is working on a campaign for funding. The new truck loan of \$13,500 is half of what the yearly payment would be. On the bottom of the summary page, there are 3 capital items: to refurbish the tennis courts, to convert the tanker truck to a plow truck (estimated at \$120,000), purchase a new plow truck for approximately \$110,000 from Litchfield Ford. All of the wage lines in this budget proposal reflect a 2.5% increase, similar to what teachers and other union workers (Dept. of Public Works) receive. Included within the budget are funds for the final coat of asphalt on North Colebrook Road, Lover's Lane (estimated at \$60,000), sidewalks from Station Place to the Frog (estimated at \$12,000), 3 areas on Station Walk (approximately \$40,000), Doolittle Drive (\$57,000) for extensive tree cutting.

There was a brief adjournment from 7:51-7:56.

Chairman Sconyers would like the Board of Finance to review with the Board of Education its proposed budget at the next meeting on April 12, 2022.

Chairman Sconyers would like a meeting with the Board of Selectman on or about April 19th to review the Town 2022-2023 budget.

Updated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) committee report regarding slide repairs: At the request of the ARPA advisory group, it was decided the Town would spend \$78,800 on the slide. The First Selectman continues to look for other quotes, but to date has not received any. The First Selectman indicated to move forward on this, as of the last quote on February 15th, the slide company relayed it would take 6-7 months to get the components in. This company has worked on the slide in the past, in 2017 for some repairs, and the Town ordered components at the end of 2020. The company is looking for 1/3 down, 1/3 once components are delivered, and 1/3 once assembled, each 1/3 approximately \$26,333. The First Selectman asked the BOF to approve the slide expenditure utilizing the ARPA funds. Chairman Sconyers moved for this approval, second

by G. Allyn. There was a question from one member regarding insurance coverage. The First Selectman has reached out to CIRMA and continues following up, though the insurer does not believe it would be covered. Chairman Sconyers is very much in favor of fundraising. Members of the public questioned if there is a plan in place to protect the slide from vandalism in the future. It has been suggested to put up more cameras, have more lighting, warning signs. Chairman Sconyers moved for approval of allocating funds from the ARPA for the slide, second by G. Allyn, the Motion was unanimously approved for the slide.

The ARPA group will be getting back together about what the funds can be used for in the future. The Group hopes to put money aside for businesses affected and those individuals that might have a business idea to assist in getting established in Norfolk. Approximately \$152,820 has been spent on the sewer plant generator and slide, with about \$88,400 left for this year. Another portion is expected in July for \$242,000. The First Selectman stated the need to be careful on how the funds are spent as there are numerous large capital projects that need to be worked on.

The Treasurer reported that collections are where they should be. There was a question from one board member regarding the amount of the sale of the old trailer that was estimated to be sold for \$2,000. The old trailer was actually sold for \$1,000.00. The new trailer was purchased for \$8,000, only \$6,000 was moved from the Capital Reserve to the General Fund as approved by the BOF, and the \$1,000 shortfall was resolved by the Selectman's Office using a budgeted equipment line.

There was nothing under 2/3 vote.

Under Public Comment, Jenna Brown and Janet Byrne said Thank You for doing this for the school and for the kids. Jenna Brown is pretty sure the PTO will follow suit to help fundraise in the future to make sure they can keep up with maintaining the slide so it doesn't get to this point again.

One board member inquired if the proposed budget will result in a 1.75 mill rate increase. The First Selectman indicated that is correct, but not what will be brought to the public hearing. The First Selectman encourages everyone to bring any comments to him, he would appreciate any input. Chairman Sconyers indicated the Town has yet to hear from Region 7 with its budget.

One board member would like the BOF agenda modified to include Public Comment at the beginning of the meeting prior to voting.

On Motion of J. Tarrant, second by N. Ritson, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M. Ryan, Secretary