

**NORFOLK BOARD OF FINANCE  
MINUTES OF MARCH 10, 2020 MEETING**

Members present were: M. Sconyers, G. Allyn, N. Ritson, J. Tarrant and D. Torrey.

Alternate members present were: S. Anderson; L. Battis and A. Bennett

Members absent: G. Mudge

L. Battis was appointed to fill in for G. Mudge.

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

Minutes of the February 11, 2020 meeting were approved on a motion by G. Allyn, second by J. Tarrant and unanimously approved.

Under correspondence, Bill Brown from the Economic Development Commission, together with his Co-Chair, Libby Borden, made a presentation that they are working with Northwest Connect and would like to be the first of 25 towns to establish a fiber optic network, which would include wiring the Town of Norfolk to provide extra broadband/high speed internet service. Mr. Brown talked about the substantial economic impact, as well as the costs to the Town for construction, "the hut" and ongoing maintenance costs, together with various ways to fund the project. The Board posed questions regarding the old wires, underground wires, whether or not the technology would become obsolete over the long-term cost.

The Treasurer reported that the town is doing really well, and has received 91% of tax collection as of the end of February. The Treasurer responded to questions from M. Sconyers inquiring of the amount contained in both the Positive Fund Balance and the Capital Reserve.

The First Selectman presented its preliminary budget together with several supporting spreadsheets. The mill rate assumption does not include the BOE budget, which was just received this evening.

The First Selectman reported that the Mountain Road bridge project is going out to bid at 2:00 on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. The Locip and Town Road Aid money has not yet been received from the State.

Under 2/3 vote, on Motion of M. Sconyers, second by G. Allyn and unanimously approved, the Board voted to reallocate Public Works expenses. On Motion of M. Sconyers, second by D. Torrey and unanimously approved, the Board voted to provide First Selectman Riiska a one-time \$7500 bonus for his direct work as Supervisor of Public Works during the time period that he filled in until a replacement could be hired.

There was nothing under public comment.

On Motion of G. Allyn, second by J. Tarrant and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M. Ryan, Secretary