

**NORFOLK BOARD OF FINANCE
MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2021 MEETING**

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

Member absent: None.

Alternate members present were: S. Anderson and A. Bennett.

Alternate member absent: L. Battis.

S. Anderson and A. Bennett were appointed to fill in until members later joined the meeting.

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

Minutes of the November 10, 2020 meeting were approved on a motion by D. Torrey, second by S. Anderson and unanimously approved.

Under correspondence, the Tax Collector's request to issue a number of refunds (attached) was approved on a Motion by M. Sconyers, second by N. Ritson and unanimously approved.

The First Selectman reported that the Town is on target with the majority of spending at 50% for the year. The only thing he can report are a few issues with the Public Works Department for maintenance and repairs. He will maintain the budget with not doing other things and indicated the Town is ok. He has been working on the 2021-2022 budget and will have it for next month. He reminded the Board that a mill was taken off of the budget last year, there are some things that will need to be done next year, including regular maintenance and road maintenance and not to be surprised if there is going to be an increase. The First Selectman mentioned Capital improvements, Bridge work, Maple Avenue, a new roof at the school, the oil tank and by next month the whole process can be reviewed.

Treasurer's Report: M. Sconyers will meet with the Treasurer within the next week.

Fiber Optics Committee Report: N. Ritson reported that the Committee has been productive since the last meeting. The Committee got surveys out and returned. Of those, there were 169 total responses, 41% added comments indicating an unusually high community engagement. The responses showed that 32% of responders expressed favorability towards fiber optics; slightly higher do not want it. People are extremely interested but need more information and the Committee needs to work harder to get information to the townspeople. The Committee reviewed the GIS data and were able to figure out of the 834 homes, 166 homes (or 20%) are more than 200 feet from the road, with an average distance of over 600 feet. This would result in additional costs. The Committee wants to hear from people by email, phone and in-person. The next meeting is January 14th at 6:00. M. Sconyers said Maria Horn is aware as are more of the surrounding towns in the Northwest Corner. M. Sconyers asked when the study group will be in a position to make a recommendation to the BOF; N. Ritson indicated the Committee is hopeful for the February meeting, that the request will come from the Chairman. N. Ritson will know more following the January 14th meeting, but believes the Fiber Optics Committee is hoping to be prepared for a May vote as part of the annual Town Meeting.

M. Sconyers said the Town budget is in the range, where the Town should be for the end of December.

Under 2/3 vote, on a Motion by M. Sconyers, second by D. Torrey, the Board of Finance inquired of the Board of Education whether they have a date they will be prepared to present their budget to the BOF. J. DeShazo indicated the BOE should be able to provide a budget well ahead of the next meeting.

M. Sconyers indicated he prefers to not have both the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen's Budget presentations at the same time.

Under Public Comment, Jenna Brown spoke stating she is a full-time resident of Norfolk and represents the Town's young families. She and her husband both work in town and have 3 young children who attend or will attend Botelle. They want their children's elementary education to be the best it can be and believe what will bring more young families to Town is a well-funded and well-supported school – where townspeople treat the school community as an asset and not a burden. She knows it will be a challenging year – but hopes the focus can be on the positive and vital impact of a well-funded school. M. Sconyers thanked Ms. Brown for her comments and stated he is delighted people are attending the BOF meetings.

M. Sconyers is interested to see reports from the Tax Collector and Treasurer in February and March regarding tax collection, as a result of the pandemic.

On Motion of D. Torrey, second by J. Tarrant and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer M. Ryan, Secretary

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January 6, 2021

Board of Finance
Norfolk, CT 06058

The following is a list of refunds.

The below refunds are for an adjustment on motor vehicle taxes, which were paid.

2019-03-0051330	NACEY, William	refund- \$23.72
2019-03-0051837	VCFS AUTO LEASING	refund- \$120.03
2019-03-0050343	FORD CREDIT(CAB East)	refund- \$48.77
2019-03-0050402	CHILDS, John	refund- \$75.55
2018-04-008308	VW CREDIT	refund- \$336.50
2019-03-0051950	WOOD, Willard	refund- \$6.00
2019-03-0051173	MATHEWSON, Anita	refund- \$155.49

Respectfully,



Sarah Brusco, CCMC
Tax Collector

Approved
Jan 17, 2021

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Chair Bo F