

**NORFOLK BOARD OF FINANCE
MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2023 MEETING**

Members present were: M. Sconyers, G. Allyn, S. Anderson, N. Ritson, J. Torrant and alternates L. Battis, J. Bickford and K. Hester.

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

K. Hester was appointed to fill in for G. Mudge.

The December 13, 2022 minutes were approved on Motion of G. Allyn, second by S. Anderson, and unanimously approved.

There was nothing under correspondence.

The First Selectman reported that the Town is pretty much on target with 50% of the year completed and has been very fortunate in the number of storm events regarding overtime and amount of salt used, though there are still truck breakdowns which need to be repaired to ensure they are ready for the next snowstorm. The First Selectman has been working with the State on the two (2) bridge reimbursements. The Mountain Road bridge was budgeted at \$1,400,000.00. The Town has spent approximately \$1,375,000.00 and there are still outstanding invoices, including repair of the wall at the Battell Stoeckel estate. The River Street bridge reimbursement will arrive in one lump sum and is needed by the middle of March to avoid interest payments. The River Place bridge is far from being completed, with an extension given to June 1st. The bridge is more deteriorated than planned. The First Selectman has sent documents to the Department of Transportation for reimbursement. The Town has spent approximately \$900,000.00 in construction fees and has thus far only received \$95,000 as reimbursement. The Town has incurred engineering fees of \$179,000, of which it has received \$150,000 back. The River Place bridge project will probably get pushed back to early Fall.

Regarding the gas spill, the First Selectman continues working with Federated Insurance, copying the Town's lawyers. The expenses are approximately \$170,000 to date. Reimbursements are very slow and the company is not answering questions as quickly as it should. Another large expense as a result of the flow of the gas spill is that a significant amount of road material needs to be pulled up. The excavation work needs to be ten feet deep. The First Selectman is sending out a bid package for Maple Avenue and is getting a quote for the entire project as well as a separate quote for the area impacted by the gas spill, which he will send to the insurance company for reimbursement.

The Treasurer reported that the Tax Collector has brought in more than 50% of taxes due by December 31, 2022.

The Botelle BOE was invited to set dates to meet with the Board of Finance. The BOE indicated they are in the early stages of putting together their budget. The Superintendent is working on balancing. Chairman Sconyers asked for a realistic date. The BOE reports they should be ready by the Board of Finance's March 14th meeting. M. Sconyers requested that the signed non-lapsing agreement be returned to the BOF. The Treasurer relayed that \$2,000 has been issued as a start-up payment as part of the non-lapsing agreement to build a cabinet in the hall of flags.

Under 2/3 vote, M. Sconyers moved to discuss a timetable for the Board of Selectmen's budget presentation, second by S. Anderson and unanimously approved. Chairman Sconyers moved that the BOS present its proposed budget at the Board of Finance's March 14th meeting.

There was no Public Comment.

On Motion of J. Tarrant, second by G. Allyn and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M. Ryan, Secretary

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