

**NORFOLK BOARD OF FINANCE
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 MEETING**

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

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

J. Bickford was appointed to fill in for G. Mudge.

The August 16, 2022 minutes were approved on Motion of G. Allyn, second by S. Anderson, and unanimously approved.

Under correspondence, the Tax Collector's requests for refunds were approved on Motion of M. Sconyers, second by N. Ritson and unanimously approved.

The First Selectman reported the Town Budget is on target percentage wise. There has been a lot of road work, patching, tree cutting. The Mountain Road bridge is to be completed by the end of the month with only replacement of a manhole and paving to be completed. The First Selectman has not yet received reimbursements for the bridges. The Town has spent less than the \$1,400,000 thus far budgeted for Mountain Road Bridge and should receive a 50% reimbursement of the \$1.4 million. The other bridge has been delayed. The total cost is estimated at \$2,600,000 to \$2,700,000 of which the Town's portion is \$606,000.

The First Selectman reported good news that the DOT will pay for all of the engineering work for the bridge at the other end of Mountain Road. The Town would have been responsible for 20%, but because it is a federal bridge, The Town will not have to pay anything. The design is being worked on. The actual bridge will not be worked on until 2025. The Town has put on hold purchasing a Ford F600 as it would not arrive until next March. The First Selectmen is researching purchasing a used truck instead. The Town will be in good shape for winter, all trucks have been serviced and inspected.

The Treasurer reported that collections are fine and right on target.

Under the Town Budget Review, the First Selectman mentioned that he budgeted \$400,000 this year for road work, a \$50,000 reduction from the previous year. A lot of roadwork has been accomplished, as well as tree work at Doolittle. Lovers Lane has been paved, and a finish coat applied on North Colebrook Road. Therefore, the funds that were budgeted for roadwork have almost all been spent. The sidewalk in front of the market is to be broken up and new cement put down.

Under the Board of Education non-lapsing fund, A. DeCerbo indicated the BOE would definitely like to renew the non-lapsing agreement. There was discussion between the BOF and BOE representatives, that the statute allows for 2% but the boards agreed upon 1%, otherwise the funds return to the General Fund. The sole purpose of the funds in the non-lapsing agreement is for capital improvements to the building. On Motion of M. Sconyers, second by N. Ritson, and unanimously approved, the Board of Finance will renew the non-lapsing agreement with the Board of Education for the current fiscal year and FY 2021-2022.

The Boards had a brief discussion regarding declining population, losing 16 6th grade students next school year, resulting in an estimated total student population at Botelle below 55 and the need to really explore options and parameters. M. Sconyers will explore options with the State BOE and asks N. Ritson to work with him on the project.

There was nothing under 2/3 vote.

Under Public Comment, there was a question as to whether or not the ARPA funds have come in. The Town has only received \$82,000 of the funds so far.

On Motion of J. Tarrant, second by S. Anderson and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M. Ryan, Secretary