

**NORFOLK BOARD OF FINANCE
MINUTES OF AUGUST 16, 2022 SPECIAL MEETING**

Members present were: M. Sconyers, G. Allyn, S. Anderson, G. Mudge, N. Ritson and J. Tarrant.

Alternate member present was: K. Hester.

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

The first order of business was nomination of a new alternate member Jeremiah Bickford. M. Sconyers moved to nominate Jeremiah Bickford, second by G. Allyn and unanimously approved.

The June 14, 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 G. Mudge, second by N. Ritson and unanimously approved.

Under correspondence, the board discussed the letter from the Selectmen to the BOF regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The ARPA funds committee sent out 172 letters to businesses in Norfolk, received 17 responses, and only 3 were not deemed appropriate. The committee recommended that \$90,580 be allocated towards business assistance (ranging from \$3900 up to \$15,000); \$379,820 was allocated towards non-profit assistance (including but not limited to: \$5,000 to Northwest Transit, \$10,000 towards Norfolk Ambulance, \$74,000 previously approved to Norfolk Sewer District for the new generator that has already been installed, \$78,820 for the slide at Botelle School (of which approximately \$26,283 has been expensed thus far). The Committee is holding back \$212,000 to pay the balance of the fire department tanker truck to be delivered in January or February. The balance of \$11,999.44 of the total amount of ARPA funds the First Selectman would like to use for fuel and utility assistance. Board members questioned the process the committee used in determining the amounts granted and inquired of the state requirements for reporting on the usage of the ARPA funds.

The Board voted to approve the distribution of the ARPA funds on Motion of N. Ritson second by J. Tarrant, with one abstention, and one denial, the motion was approved 5-1.

The First Selectman reported as a reminder the BOF previously voted regarding the tanker truck for the Fire Department. The down payment for the chase cost was \$11,607, the fire department contributed \$60,000, the balance of \$48,393 was sent to the Fire Truck builder. The First Selectman is requesting \$56,069 be moved from Capital Reserve to pay the balance for the chase. The balance on the truck is the \$212,000 to be used from the ARPA funds. The Board approved the request from the First Selectman to move \$56,069 from Capital Reserve on Motion of G. Allyn, second by S. Anderson and unanimously approved.

The Town has received a \$1.3 million dollar community development block grant from the State which is going to the Foundation of Norfolk Living; a bill has been submitted for \$350,000 to the State for land development, the balance to be utilized for site development.

The First Selectman applied for a STEEP grant to help with transportation and economic development. The funds, if received, would be earmarked for the Maple Avenue project. M. Riiska will not know the outcome until September.

The two bridges are coming along. Money is starting to trickle in from the state for the River Place bridge. The River Place bridge project is now expected to be under construction until July 2023, rather than November 30, 2022 due to coordination with utility companies, etc. The Mountain Road bridge is moving along quite well and is on target to finish in September. The bridge itself is in; the Town must rebuild a wall on the Battell-Stoekel property. Aquarion is paying for paving from Route 272 all the way up Mountain Road.

M. Sconyers invited the BOE to discuss the non-lapsing fund, but the BOE was unavailable so there is nothing to discuss tonight.

There was nothing under 2/3 vote.

There was one question from the Public as to the cost to fix the wall on the Stoeckel estate, it will cost approximately \$56,000. The Town would get 50% reimbursement, the bridge is reimbursed at 50% with the DOT.

On Motion of J. Tarrant, second by G. Allyn and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M. Ryan, Secretary