

**NORFOLK BOARD OF FINANCE
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2022 MEETING**

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

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

J. Bickford was appointed to fill in for J. Torrant

The September 13, 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 N. Ritson, second by S. Anderson and unanimously approved.

The Board set the 2023 Meeting Schedule on Motion of M. Sconyers, second by J. Bickford and unanimously approved.

The First Selectman reported there is legislation coming out that would increase the EMS volunteer incentive program from a maximum of \$1,000 per year to \$2,000. The Town has budgeted \$37,500 this year for this incentive package. The Town ordinance allows for either abating taxes by the \$1,000, which will next year double to \$2,000 or provide a check. The First Selectman has requested a list from the ambulance and fire department as to how much it will cost next year (doubled would be \$70,000). There would need to be a vote at a Town Meeting; this is a way to retain people who are currently serving and to recruit new people for both services.

In this year's budget the purchase of a new plow truck for Public Works was approved. It was budgeted at \$120,000 and purchased for \$110,000. The First Selectman would like to take some long-term debt out of next year's budget, by paying towards 2 plow trucks and 1 fire truck. The payment is \$93,000 this year and would be \$91,000 next year. The Selectmen will be asking the BOF to make the payment in this year's budget and pay next year's early to remove this debt from the 2023-2024 budget year. There is approximately \$747,000 in Capital Reserve, the Selectmen would like to take \$91,000 from Capital Reserve closer to budget time to pay the debt off.

The Maple Avenue project to refurbish Maple Avenue, including sidewalks, is going out to bid in December. The Town did receive a \$500,000 STEEP grant. The First Selectman met with the USDA regarding any grants or low interest loans (3.25% is the current rate) and is in the process of completing applications. The Selectmen would like to get this project more fully in process next Fiscal Year after a Town Meeting. There is a TRIP grant that the state of CT grants for any roads in a rural community of approximately \$250,000 - \$300,000. The overall project estimate is \$2.3 million.

The new tanker truck will be ready one month early, in December. The ARPA funds in the amount of \$212,000 were held back to pay for this new tanker truck.

There has been a lot of discussion regarding the State not funding municipalities for State Troopers, the Town will be solely responsible.

The First Selectman discussed current events of the gasoline spill and that the Town is going to incur costs related to that, including overtime and straight time for Town Public Works employees working on it (but not for any of the contractors). Federated Insurance is the insurer for the trucking company. The Town will be keeping track of the expenditures and a command room has been set up. Ashley Allyn and John Barbagallo have been working 12 hours per day documenting and collecting information and will need to be reimbursed. The Town will eventually get reimbursed. M. Sconyers would like a separate line item in the budget for the remediation.

Mountain Road bridge is complete. The First Selectman met with a DOT representative about closing that out, and still has one bill to pay to the Engineer company. The Town's Debt is \$625,000.

The River Place bridge has been delayed to July 1st of next year due to issues with footing of ringwalls. The Town has incurred approximately \$950,000 in debt.

There was discussion with the Treasurer regarding the expenses related to the gas spill to track everything coming in, and expenses coming out and it was decided that a separate account will be established.

Under the Botelle Board of Education Report, M. Sconyers mentioned the need to sign the Extension of the Non-Lapsing Fund Agreement. Negotiations for teachers' contract at Region 7 are ongoing. The education portion of the Town budget is 2/3 of the Town's overall budget.

There was nothing under 2/3 vote.

There was no Public Comment.

On Motion of G. Allyn second by S. Anderson and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M. Ryan, Secretary

NORFOLK BOARD OF FINANCE

2023 MEETING DATES

Norfolk Town Hall at 7:30

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 (previously approved with 2022 dates)

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Tuesday, January 9, 2024