

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:28 p.m. by M. Sconyers.

K. Hester was appointed to fill in for S. Anderson.

The August 8, 2023 minutes were approved on Motion of G. Allyn, second by J. Torrant and unanimously approved.

Under correspondence, the Tax Collector's requests for reimbursements were approved on Motion of J. Torrant, second by N. Ritson and unanimously approved.

Chairman Sconyers stated that the Tax Collector is doing a great job.

The 2024 Meeting Schedule was set and approved on Motion of G. Allyn, second by J. Torrant and unanimously approved.

The Board took a brief recess at 7:34 p.m. and came back on the record at 7:35.

The First Selectman reported all flood expenses have been tallied. The Town did not hit the threshold for the State which means no FEMA money. Currently, without adding any expenses for Town individuals, equipment and some materials, the total flood damage amount is approximately \$567,290.69. The First Selectman referenced the two bridges valued at \$5.8 million, a culvert for \$151,000 which has not yet been completed and another culvert at \$70,000, which was repaired well enough to get through winter. The Town had \$209,000 in the LoCip account, which is held by the State, the Town received \$34,000 LoCip funds this year. The First Selectman applied to the State of Connecticut for \$209,275 of LoCip funds, which results in a shortage of approximately \$358,015.69 for the flood damage. The First Selectman is working with the Treasurer inquiring about the balance remaining in Capital Reserve, which he believes to contain approximately \$650,000.00.

The Town started some projects before the flood, a number of paving projects, tree work at Doolittle Lake and chip sealing but has managed to not spend an estimated \$143,369.62 on road materials, etc. There will be general maintenance required after the spring thaw. The First Selectman is exploring other funding options, having talked to Maria Horn and Richard Blumenthal. The First Selectman discussed how Estey Road was devastated, that there was so much water that culverts were ripped out of the ground. FEMA is not covering the flood expenses as there is a \$6.8 million threshold for the State and because two of the bridges already qualify for replacement.

Regarding fire truck access to Smith Road and Old Goshen Road, the residents on Smith Road and Old Goshen Road are concerned over the amount of time it would take fire trucks to get to their homes, especially on Old Goshen Road. The First Selectman is exploring temporary bridges. The State has indicated, and the First Selectman has signed, that the Town will complete both bridges at the estimated \$5.8 million, of which the State is paying for all of the engineering and construction. The Town is responsible for inspection and other costs while the bridges are being built. However, these bridges will not be built for another 3 to 4 years. Until they are in place, the First Selectman is exploring temporary bridges. He has spoken to Cardinal Engineering and has a proposal for a temporary bridge built by ACROW. The Cost is \$217,800 for a temporary one-lane bridge, not including installation, which would last approximately 5-10 years. The total would be

approximately \$444,000 after engineering and other associated costs; however the First Selectman is still researching to ensure the figures are accurate. There is a very good opportunity the temporary bridge could be sold. There was a brief discussion of some type of supplemental tax or obtaining a loan.

The First Selectman has instructed Public Works to keep any spending on hold unless absolutely necessary, though the Town has to keep vehicles going and prepared for winter.

Regarding the firehouse, a funding request was put in to the Bond Commission for \$3,000,000, \$2.5 million has been agreed to and earmarked for the firehouse. Another individual and the Firehouse Committee are working on a campaign to raise more funds. The First Selectman is working with a representative from the CT Conference of Municipalities to pursue any funds through Senators Murphy and Blumenthal and Rep. Jahana Hayes' office to find any money to get this project underway. The total preliminary estimated cost is targeted at \$5 million. There may be funding specific to particular items in the building. The Town is working with Silver Petrucelli, a firm that does a lot of emergency municipal buildings.

Regarding the gas spill, the First Selectman has submitted two claims to Federated Insurance, both have been paid, one for \$168,000 another for approximately \$99,000. There are still additional expenses he will be submitting in the next couple of weeks. The clean-up is almost done. There are still two families that are not in their homes yet. There will be work on Route 44 at the end of this week due to test pits and test wells showing elevated readings. Federated Insurance is good about paying, albeit slowly.

The Town did start the continuation of work on the new storm drainage system and walks; Maple Avenue will be open for Halloween.

There was nothing under 2/3 vote.

There was no Public Comment.

On Motion of J. Tarrant, second by K. Hester and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M. Ryan, Secretary

NORFOLK BOARD OF FINANCE

2024 MEETING DATES

Norfolk Town Hall at 7:30

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 (previously approved with 2023 dates)

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Tuesday, January 14, 2025