

**NORFOLK BOARD OF FINANCE  
MINUTES OF APRIL 11, 2023 MEETING**

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

J. Bickford was appointed to fill in for J. Tarrant. J. Tarrant later joined the meeting.

The February 14, 2023, March 21, 2023 and the April 4, 2023 minutes were approved on Motion of M. Sconyers, second by S. Anderson and unanimously approved.

Under correspondence, the Tax Collector's requests for reimbursement were approved on motion of M. Sconyers, second by S. Anderson and unanimously approved.

Under correspondence, the Tax Collector's suspense list was approved on motion of M. Sconyers, second by N. Ritson and unanimously approved.

The First Selectman reported that there are funds in the budget to go out for bonding or a direct loan through a bank for the school roof and Maple Avenue renovations. The Board of Finance can vote on a resolution to allow the Town to do this, which does not mean the money can be spent; the vote would just set things in motion to go and look for the money after a similar resolution with the Board of Selectmen. The First Selectman distributed the resolutions for review and asked that they be added to the agenda, to allow consideration, on motion of N. Ritson, second by G. Mudge and unanimously approved.

The First Selectman reported that the school roof replacement project has been in process for approximately three (3) years. The low bid is \$1.9 million. The Town received three (3) estimates. The overall price may come in a little below at \$1.8 million. The roof is over 30 years old and there are signs of fatigue. The roof would be replaced with a standing seam metal roof, wind rated and can hold solar panels. There is a figure in the budget to cover the expense if this goes forward. This is a preliminary step of four (4) steps before getting to the Town Meeting in May.

The big issue with the Maple Avenue project is having to do remediation at the intersection of Pettibone Lane and Maple Avenue; the excavation work that has to occur is pretty extensive. Remediation has started on Greenwoods Road East.

The Maple Avenue project did go out to bid. The Town had the right to reject all bids which it did because it is unknown when the project can start given the need for remediation work. Guerrera Construction is handling the remediation, which opens the opportunity to have Guerrera Construction do the entire job. There is \$2.5 million funding in the budget, and the Town has a \$500,000 STEAP grant. The First Selectman is in discussions with Maria Horn for state help, as a result of the spill. The remediation work as a result of the gas spill is not included in the bid.

On Motion of N. Ritson, second by S. Anderson, the board voted unanimously to approve the resolution for the first of four steps regarding the roof at Botelle School.

On Motion of S. Anderson, second by J. Tarrant and unanimously approved, the board voted to approve the resolution for the introductory steps for the Maple Avenue project.

The First Selectman reported that the Town did receive funds from the insurance company in the amount of \$168,772.18 to reimburse expenses of the gas spill remediation.

The Treasurer has confirmed the amount of \$40,626.10 in the non-lapsing account. The board voted to approve payment of \$1,800 representing the overage charge for the trophy cabinet at Botelle School from the non-lapsing fund, on motion by M. Sconyers, second by S. Anderson, and unanimously approved.

The First Selectman provided a Budget Summary and Income Summary as part of the final review of the Board of Selectmen's budget proposal for 2023-2024. The mill rate for next year will be 27.79, which is less than last year. Chairman Sconyers complimented the Board of Selectmen and the First Selectman for coming in with a lower mill rate.

The First Selectman has not received any information from Frontier regarding fiber installation. There is a placeholder in the budget for the fiber. Frontier has not provided a contract, or details on what the contract entails and what portions of the Town are included and at what price.

The Board of Finance voted to submit the Board of Selectman's budget to a Town Meeting on motion of N. Ritson, second by G. Mudge, and unanimously approved.

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 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M. Ryan, Secretary