



**NORFOLK BOARD OF FINANCE
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2024 MEETING**

Members present were: M. Sconyers, S. Anderson, M. Kwast, G. Mudge, J. Tarrant and alternates L. Battis, M. Klimkosky and R. Miller.

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

L. Battis was appointed to fill in for J. Bickford.

The August 13, 2024 minutes were approved on Motion of J. Tarrant, second by S Anderson and unanimously approved.

The Tax Collector's request for refunds were approved on Motion of G. Mudge, second by S. Anderson, J. Tarrant abstained and were unanimously approved.

The First Selectman reported that the Maple Avenue project is now complete, aside from a couple of minor landscaping issues. M. Riiska had applied for a STEAP grant and has received confirmation this week that the Town will receive a check for \$500,000. The First Selectman is seeking reimbursement in the amount of \$752,827.18 from Federated Insurance towards the Maple Avenue project. Of the five claims submitted to Federated Insurance, four of the five have been paid, with one claim of approximately \$23,000 still outstanding.

The River Place bridge was originally estimated at \$2,700,000 and with engineering costs, up to \$3,028,082. The bridge had not been worked on since approximately February 2022; work has only recently restarted. The new estimate is \$4,106,000. The First Selectman is awaiting a written commitment from the DOT to pay the difference. The bank wants to close out the original loan at 2.25% and refinance the balance owed of approximately \$2,400,000. The Town would need to reapply for a bank loan at a higher interest rate. The First Selectman is awaiting a contract from the State approving the additional expenditures as well as the timeline to April 2025. It will be necessary to have a Board of Selectman meeting, and then a Town Meeting around the end of October to approve the loan.

The Town has received approximately \$52,000 from the solar company since January 1st.

The Treasurer reported receipt of an additional \$4,000,000 since sending out her report. The Tax Collector has collected 55% of taxes.

Superintendent Iacobelli gave an update on Botelle as follows: last year's budget had an unanticipated shortfall of over \$200,000. However, the BOE was able to take advantage of reimbursement grants and excess cost grants, reducing the shortfall to \$6,000. The BOE received \$8,000 in tuition offsetting the shortfall. The boiler at Botelle School remains the concern heading into the winter season.

There was nothing under 2/3 vote.

Under public comment, there was a brief question regarding the status of the temporary bridge in South Norfolk.

On Motion of J. Tarrant, second by S. Anderson and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M. Ryan, Secretary