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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND TAXATION
THURSDAY, March 30, 2023 7:00 PM
School Committee Conference Room, Stoughton Public Schools District Office
31 Pierce Street, Stoughton, MA 02072
PUBLIC MEETING

Agenda items may be taken out of order at Chairman's Discretion

1. Mr. Vaughan Enokian, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM .
2. Mr. Enokian asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Anzivino made the motion to open the meeting, seconded by Mr. Desmond. The motion passed.

Present: Vaughan Enokian Chair, John Anzivino Vice Chair, Bob Desmond, Elliot Hansen, Laura Gunn, Adam Iacabucci, David Lurie, Dr. Jess Miner, Mark Struck, Joel Wolk
Absent: Eric Anderson, Chet Collins, Dianne Dolan Secretary, Kerry Marrocco, John Walsh

The Chair Mr. Enokian requested a moment of silence in memory of the death of Mr. William "Joe" Dolan, husband of Mrs. Dianne Dolan. finance committee member.

3. Mr. Anzivino made the motion to add \$2,500,000 to the School budget, seconded by Mr. Desmond. Motion approved 9-1 (Mr. Lurie)
Mr. Anzivino suggested the committee review the departmental budgets.

4. Cedar Hill Salary Increase

Mr. Lurie said we recognize the terrific job that Mr. Barruzza has done, but we need to look at the bigger picture. Mr. Lurie made the motion to put the salary for the golf superintendent at \$85,000. Dr. Miner seconded the motion, stating it would be imprudent to do an 18% increase in one year. The committee voted 9 yes to 1 no (Mr. Wolk) to accept this motion.

5. Cable Public Access Enterprise Fund tabled until completion of budget requests.

6. Mr. Rowe gave an update on the dollar amount of budget at \$124,799,942 resulting in a deficit of 1,383,058.

Mr. Anzivino suggested seeking ways to eliminate the deficit.

p. 33 highway construction, cement gravel 55,000 to 65,000 Mr. Rowe said that this line is in deficit \$9,025. He said \$91,700 has been encumbered in expenses.

Snow and Ice- revenue sheet page 35 deficit 101,389,74 the estimate was \$465,000.

Mr. Wolk asked if the committee is obliged to find budget lines that can be cut.

Mr. Anzivino said the finance committee should present a balanced budget.

The committee determined to take 101,390 from snow and ice to reduce the deficit to 383,058 minus the overage of \$368,610 bringing the new deficit to \$19,448.

Mr. Struck made the motion to accept this solution, seconded by Mr. Lurie. The committee voted 10 yes to 0 no.

7. Page 56 Hydrants FY23 30,000, FY24 \$40,000. This belongs under water/sewer.

8. Central Dispatch Mr. Lurie suggested funding the positions through April.

Dr. Miner stated the employees going to regional would not be rehired. (Savings of \$48,921.)

Mr. Enokian said the committee voted on p. 54. Mr. Rowe said \$9,115 has been spent, leaving \$30,365 available.

Mr. Struck asked to adjust the finance committee reserve, take out \$20,000.

Mr. Anzivino said the \$20,000 from fin com will remove the deficit from snow and ice. This will end up balancing the budget.

Mr. Lurie commented that it was never a good idea to use reserves to cover budget deficits.

The committee voted 6 in favor with 4 against Mr. Lurie, Dr. Miner, Ms. Gunn, Mr. Iacabucci.

9. Town Clerk: (recusals Mr. Desmond, Mr. Struck and Mr. Wolk)

Mr. Anzivino made a motion to accept the budget, seconded by Mr. Lurie. The vote 7 yes 0 no.

10. Library: (recusal - Mr. Iacabucci) Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and approve the budget for the library. Mr. Lurie seconded the motion. The committee voted 7 yes 0 no.

11. School Budget

Dr. Miner made the motion to approve the school budget, seconded by Mr. Struck. The committee voted 9 yes 1 no. (Mr. Lurie)

Mr. Lurie brought the following to the committee's attention:

Since November 22, Chapter 70 funds are \$4,000,000; for FY24 \$9,000,000 including state aid, and ESSOR. Mr. Lurie said the school department has demonstrated it can't absorb the full increase.

FY 21 town meeting the schools asked for \$1,090,680.12 special needs \$1,000,000

Article 67 feasibility study \$250,000

Article 68 \$450,000

Mr. Lurie said June 20 of FY24, the school department will have available \$9,000,000 based on State analysis. Mr. Lurie proposed that the town take \$700,000 from the school department for the town's operating budget.

Dr. Thomas Raab, Stoughton School Superintendent commented that funds received from the Department of Education are not based on census, but on poverty level.

Ms. Groppi said SOA considers the number of students categorized as low-income. She said SPED applications are increasing. She noted that students are impacted socially and emotionally, a result of enduring the pandemic. Ms. Groppi intimated that Mr. Lurie was misreading the facts, or the facts presented were not relevant to Stoughton and its status.

Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 26, the General Fund Operating budget at \$124,780,494, Dr. Miner seconded the motion. The committee voted 10 yes 0 no.

12. Articles 3,4 and 5 Standard Articles Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Articles 3,4 and 5, seconded by Mr. Desmond.

Article 3 Accept and Contract Funds for Town Roads

Article 4 Apply for and Accept Federal/State Funding

Article 5 Disposal of Town Property

The committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

13. Article 6 Deposit to Stabilization Fund deferred to later in the meeting.

14. Article 7 Cedar Hill Enterprise Budget Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 7 Cedar Hill, second by Mr. Hansen. The committee voted 10 yes to 0 no.

15. Article 8 Public Health Association Enterprise Fund Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 8, second Mr. Desmond. The committee voted 10 yes to 0 no.

16. Article 9 Sewer Department Enterprise Fund Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 9, second by Mr. Desmond. Committee voted 10 yes 0 no.
(\$8,238,669)

17. Article 10 Water Department Enterprise Fund Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 10, seconded by Mr. Hansen. (\$5,077,579) The committee voted 10 yes 0 no.

18. Article 11 to establish a Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Mr. Rowe explained that numbers were not available now and the vote would be to authorize the establishment of a fund. Mr. Anzivino stated that he was against the article. He noted that enterprise funds should be self-supported and presently this fund was in deficit at \$850,000. Mr. Wolk said he supported this article, stating it would be a fairer way to assess residents. Mr. Anzivino made a motion to accept and recommend to town meeting Article 11, second by Mr. Wolk. The committee rejected this article on a vote 1 yes (Mr. Wolk) to 9 no.

19. Article 12 Cable Public Access Fund Amount requested \$467,385
Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting article 12, motion seconded by Mr. Hansen. The committee voted in favor 9 yes to 1 no. (Mr. Lurie)

20. Article 13 Reauthorization of Revolving Funds Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 13, seconded by Mr. Desmond. The committee voted 10 yes to 0 no.

21. Articles 14 through and including Article 20 Collective Bargaining Articles
Mr. Anzivino made the motion to refer to town meeting, second by Mr. Lurie.
Discussion: Mr. Iacabucci asked what happens to articles that are referred.

Mr. Anzivino said they are voted on the floor of town meeting.
Dr. Miner asked if the committee should vote to refer or vote to reject with explanation attached.
Mr. Anzivino withdrew original motion and made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Articles 14 through Article 20. Mr. Wolk seconded the motion.
The committee voted 0 yes to 9 no. The rationale to be attached was because back-up documentation was not available at the time of the committee vote. The motion made by Mr. Anzivino was seconded by Mr. Struck. The committee voted 10 yes 0 no to include an explanation.

22. Article 21 Supplemental Bills

Mr. Rowe suggested a motion to refer this article to town meeting.
Mr. Anzivino made the motion to refer Article 21 to town meeting as no supplementary information was received, motion seconded by Mr. Hansen. Vote was 10 yes to 0 no.

23. Article 22 Unpaid Bills (\$1166.49) Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 22, seconded by Dr. Miner. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

24. Article 23 Rescind Unissued Borrowing Authorization Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 23, motion seconded by Mr. Desmond. The committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

25. Article 24 Establish 300th Celebration Account Recusal Mr. Wolk

Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend Article 24 to town meeting, seconded by Mr. Lurie. The committee voted 9 yes to 0 no.

26. Article 25 Deposit to the 300th Celebration Anniversary Account

Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 25, seconded by Mr. Hansen.
During discussion Mr. Lurie suggested changing the dollar amount from \$50,000 to \$10,000 as an amendment to the motion. Mr. Wolk seconded the amendment.
On the amendment, the committee rejected the amendment by a vote of 3 yes to 7 no.
On the original motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 25, the committee voted 9 yes to 1 no. (Mr. Lurie)

27. Article 27 Community Preservation Committee FY23 Budget/Report Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 27, seconded by Mr. Wolk. The committee voted 10 yes to 0 no.

28. Article 28 Capen Reynolds Dog Park and Community Gardens

To see if the Town will vote construction of a dog park, amount \$63,000, cash article.
Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 28, seconded by Mr. Hansen. The committee voted 10 yes to 0 no.

29. Article 29 Rehabilitation of Denison Athletic Complex, Design Phase Amount \$37,000

Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 29, seconded by Ms. Gunn. The committee voted in favor 10 yes to 0 no.

30. Article 30 Lighting and Scoreboards for Miller, O'Day and Goff Field
Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 30, second by Ms. Gunn. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

31. Article 31 Renovation of Marks Field, Design Phase
Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 31, second by Mr. Wolk. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

32. Article 32 (\$7500.) Office Storage Equipment for the Old Stoughton Musical Society
Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend Article 32 to town meeting, second by Mr. Struck. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

33. Article 33 Cash Article \$35,000 Preservation of Town of Stoughton Vital Records
Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend Article 33 to town meeting, second by Mr. Hansen. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

34. Article 34 Cedar Hill Golf Course Renovations \$195,000 upgrade irrigation system, repair cart paths. Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend Article 34 to town meeting, second by Mr. Wolk. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

35. Article 35 Hansen School Playground Reconstruction \$950,000 cash article
Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend Article 35 to town meeting, second by Mr. Struck.
In discussion, Mr. Lurie dissented suggesting that the school department should assist in the funding. The committee voted 9 yes 1 no (Mr. Lurie)

36. Article 36 Parking and Trailhead Construction at Atkinson Ave Ext. (\$105,000)
Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend Article 36 to town meeting, second by Mr. Struck. Committee vote 10 yes, 0 no.

37. Article 37 Acquisition of property off Benson Road (\$220,000 cash article)
Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 37 second by Mr. Desmond. Committee vote 9 yes 1 no. (Mr. Lurie)

38. Article 38 Depot Stabilization (\$200,000 cash article) for minor repairs to doors, windows, plumbing, professional services, environmental testing
Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 38, second by Ms. Gunn. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.
Mr. Lurie explained that originally, he was against, but the Select Board had designated a use for the building, making the project eligible for grant funds.
Mr. Zamanian expressed the same sentiment, saying the vote from his committee was now unanimous 7 yes 0 no.

Mr. Enokian thanked Mr. Zamanian and the Committee on Preservation for the work done and for the benefits to the town.

39. Article 41 Veterans Tax Exemption Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and recommend Article 41 Chapter 59 Section 5 Clause Twenty-second G (Veterans Tax Exemptions), second by Mr. Hansen.

Mr. Lurie pointed out that this Article would also apply to spouses of veterans.
Committee vote 10 yes to 0 no.

40. Article 42 Public Works Capital Equipment Purchases \$295,000 Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 42, second by Mr. Wolk.
Note there are three separate items listed in this article and they will be listed separately in the warrant. Committee vote 9 yes 1 no. (Mr. Hansen)

41. Article 43 Town Buildings and Facilities Maintenance and Upgrades Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 43, second by Ms. Gunn.
Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

42. Article 44 Police Station Locker Room Upgrades (\$75,000)
Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 44, second by Mr. Desmond. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

43. Article 45- Roadway resurfacing
Mr. Rowe noted that this is a borrowing article and will require 2/3 town meeting vote.
Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend Article 45 to town meeting, second by Mr. Lurie. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

44. Article 46 Extraordinary repairs to Fleet (\$75,000)
Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 46, second by Mr. Struck. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

45. Article 47 Datacenter Infrastructure Upgrade Project (\$150,000)
Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 47, second by Ms. Gunn. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

46. Article 48 Police Capital purchases \$75,000 and \$220,000
Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend Article 48 to town meeting, second by Mr. Struck.
Mr. Iacabucci asked for an explanation of the request to purchase 3 cruisers annually. Mr. Wolk responded that by purchasing every three years, the trade-in value was greater. Mr. Iacabucci said it would be a good idea to review the insurance policy for the vehicles.
The committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

47. Article 49 Capital purchases for the Fire Department (\$295,000)

Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 49, second by Mr. Wolk. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

48. Article 50 Multiple Small Equipment and Maintenance Purchases for Cedar Hill (\$50,000) Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting, second by Mr. Hansen. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

49. Article 51 New Voting Machines (\$75,000) Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 51, second by Mr. Hansen. Mr. Hansen expressed concern that the new machines could be vulnerable to corruption. Mr. Lurie agreed noting that in California, voting machines had been eliminated in favor of paper counts. On the motion, the committee voted 7 yes 2 no (Mr. Hansen, Mr. Lurie) 1 abstention. (Mr. Struck)

50. Article 52 Residential water meters (\$1,600,000) Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend Article 52 to town meeting, second by Mr. Struck. In discussion, Mr. Lurie mentioned that the data is insufficient to prove that this will improve collection rates. On the motion, the committee voted 0 yes 10 no.

51. Article 53 Pratts Court Water Treatment Plant Upgrades (\$1.5 million) Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend Article 53 to town meeting, second by Mr. Hansen. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

52. Article 54 Phase 5 Water Main Upgrades and Improvements (\$1,878,000) Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 54, second by Mr. Hansen. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no. Mr. Lurie asked if this was a borrowing article. Mr. Rowe responded that the debt service would be paid from enterprise funds.

53. Article 55 Sewer Capital- Inflow and Infiltration (\$400,000) Mr. Rowe explained that 25% would be borrowed, 75% would be a MWRA grant. Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend Article 55 to town meeting, second by Dr. Miner. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

54. Article 56 Town Lake Management Program Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 56, second by Dr. Miner. The committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

55. Article 57 Town Hall Parking and Landscaping Improvements (\$75,000) Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend Article 57 to town meeting, second by Mr. Desmond. Committee vote 9 yes 1 no. (Mr. Struck)

56. Article 58 Landscaping Improvements at Lucius Clapp Property (\$75,000 free cash). Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend Article 58 to town meeting. Second by Ms. Gunn. Committee vote 9 yes 1 no (Dr. Miner)

Mr. Zamanian CPC Director expanded the rationale to note that this property falls within the historical preservation capability of the CPC.

57. Article 59 Tosca Drive, Central St., and Canton St. Intersection improvements (\$150,000) Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend Article 59 to town meeting, second by Mr. Struck. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

58. Article 60 Pine Street and Pleasant Street Intersection Improvements Design (\$75,000 free cash)

Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend Article 60 to town meeting, second by Ms. Gunn. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

59. Article 61 Acceptance of Kelsey Drive Sewer Pump Station as Public

Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 61, second by Mr. Wolk. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

60. Article 62 Electronic Permitting Software (\$450,000 free cash) Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend Article 62 to town meeting, second by Mr. Desmond. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

61. Article 63 Create Opioid Settlements Stabilization Fund Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend Article 63 to town meeting, second by Ms. Gunn. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

62. Article 64 Dedicate Revenues to the Opioid Settlements Stabilization Fund

Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend Article 64 to town meeting, second by Ms. Gunn. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

63. Article 65 Deposit to Building Stabilization Fund and Article 66 Fire Apparatus Stabilization Fund deferred to later in the meeting.

64. Article 67 Feasibility Study of South Elementary School (\$250,000 borrowing article)

Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend Article 67 to town meeting, second by Mr. Wolk.

In discussion, Mr. Lurie commented that the request exceeds amount needed. He said he doesn't believe the town can afford to construct a combined building.

Mr. Wolk objected stating that the feasibility study must be done, and it is possible that this portion of the cost may be reimbursed. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

65. Article 68 Security Upgrades- Intrusion Alarm Upgrades and Interior Door Hardware (\$450,000 with \$200,000 from free cash and \$250,000 available from a previous article)

Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend Article 68 to town meeting, second by Ms. Gunn.

In discussion, Mr. Lurie objected stating that he favors security upgrades but objects to the funding sources.

Mr. Enokian commented that Chapter 70 funds are accounted for.
Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

66. Article 69 Stoughton Depot Rehabilitation- cash payment of previous authorization bond (\$300,000)

Mr. Rowe asked that this article be referred to town meeting as in all probability it will be dismissed.

Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to refer Article 69 to town meeting, second by Mr. Wolk.

Mr. Zamanian confirmed that the \$300,000 will be used to pay the BAN. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

67. Article 70 Funding Approval Sunset

Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend Article 70 to town meeting, second by Dr. Miner.

Mr. Wolk explained that he was hesitant to vote yes, noting that if this passes, it will mean that funds set aside in previous articles will not be available for future purchases or expenses. He said the article will require greater monitoring of borrowing articles. He said why not just institute an annual review. He said he would vote no.

Mr. Lurie said we have a bureaucratic problem with loans on the books without a status report. He said this Article will make an annual review necessary. He said he will vote yes.

Mr. Wolk accepted Mr. Lurie's argument but suggested the threshold of \$250,000 perhaps was too low. The Committee vote 9 yes 1 no.

68. Article 74 Adopt Financial Policy Statement

Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and to recommend to town meeting Article 74, second by Mr. Wolk. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

69. Article 6 Deposit to Stabilization Fund

Mr. Anzivino made the motion to accept and recommend to town meeting that \$320,452.24 be deposited into the general stabilization fund, second by Mr. Wolk. Committee vote 10 yes 0 no.

70. Article 65 Deposit to Building Stabilization Fund and Article 66 Fire Apparatus Fund

Mr. Anzivino made the motion to refer Article 65 and Article 66 to town meeting, seconded by Mr. Lurie. On the motion, the committee voted 10 yes 0 no.

Mr. Struck asked if minutes would be reviewed before town meeting.

Mr. Enokian suggested there would be a meeting to review minutes before town meeting.

Dr. Miner made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Wolk. The motion passed 10 yes 0 no.
The open session of the finance committee was adjourned at 10:52 PM.

Committee on Finance and Taxation
Open Session Thursday, March 30, 2023 7:00 PM



