

# Town of Sterling



## Joint Finance and Capital Budget Committee BUTTERICK MUNICIPAL BUILDING 1 PARK STREET, Room: 205 Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 6:30 pm Minutes

### **Finance Committee (7):**

George Handy, Chair (FinCom)

Joseph King, Vice Chair (FinCom)

Members: Paul Austin, Ezequiel Ayala, Mark Gauthier, Christina Lashua, Lynne Sheppard

### **Capital Budget Committee (7):**

Lynne Sheppard, Chair (CBC)

Liz Pape, Vice Chair (CBC)

Members: Paul Austin, Ezequiel Ayala, Mark Gauthier, Joseph King, Christina Lashua

Recording Secretary: Valerie Handy

### **I. PRELIMINARIES**

**Attendees:** G. Handy, J. King, L. Sheppard, L. Pape, P. Austin, E. Ayala, C. Lashua (Remote), M. Gauthier (Remote)

**Approved:** 2/20/2024 meeting minutes. Motion by L. Pape, 2<sup>nd</sup> and unanimously approved.

### **II. AGENDA ITEMS**

**FY25 DPW Omnibus Budget Presentation – Superintendent Ryan Mouradian:** Ryan discussed the DPW Capital requests and several changes since the original submission. He mentioned the need for an updated and more comprehensive pavement management plan that would render a far better detailed description of needs and corrections. Ryan noted that the DPW does internal survey of culverts, etc. and maintains the rebuilds in-house saving considerable dollars. DPW maintains approximately 95 miles of road and until a few years ago no town funds were contributed for maintenance of the roadway system, which had fallen into disrepair.

A Columbarium or cinerarium survey (above ground internment of cremated ashes) of adjacent communities has been done. There is a proposal for an expandable project with a start-up of \$50K. The Swett Hill/Sholan Park retainage and storage project should be completed within the next two years. The design would cost \$30k and construction is estimated at \$500K.

**Police – Chief Sean Gaudette:** As the Omnibus budget had no changes and was previously reviewed by Town Administrator and Finance/Capital Committee, it was not necessary for an additional Police Department Presentation.

**FY25 Historical Commission Budget Submission – Chair Catherine Harragian:** New cost estimates were presented for painting the building and fixing the windows. A discussion started regarding the usage of the building. Liz P. suggested that the best use of the building may be to preserve it as a monument versus a fully operating building. Catherine will return and report whether the cost of the painting and window repair can be separated and be done in consecutive years.

**Review latest Omnibus Budget submission:** The town administrator has made minor adjustments; G. Handy and J. King met with the TA and town accountant centered around methods of funding the budget. Some suggestions were made that will be taken under advisement and there will be a further discussion. At this time the insurance line item and the WRSD budget are still pending. It was briefly discussed that an additional firefighter would need to be placed on a separate article defining all associated costs and a funding source. This article will be considered separately by the finance committee for their recommendation. **Review updated**

**Capital Request Financing matrix:** The new pivot table format created by Joe King allows more flexibility than the previous Excel format and is nearing completion and should be ready for publication within the next few weeks

**Next Meeting:** March 7, 6:30pm

**Other Business:** **Approved:** Meetinghouse article by L. Pape. Motion, E. Ayala. Approved with one abstention.

**Meeting Adjourned 9:10 pm**