

**Town of Sterling  
Joint Finance Committee and Capital Committee Meeting  
April 13, 2020  
Butterick Building, Room 205**

**Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Sova called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 6:14 PM.  
Chairman Heller called the Capital Committee meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

**In Attendance:**

Finance Committee - Joe Sova. By remote connection: Mary Cliett, Everett Heller, and Todd Chapman  
Capital Committee - Joe Sova. By remote connection: Everett Heller, Todd Chapman, Mary Cliett, Bob Brown, and Elaine Heller

Also in attendance - Town Administrator Ross Perry and Selectman John Kilcoyne. By remote connection: Selectmen Maureen Cranson and Arden Sonnenberg

**Review and Update FY21 Budget and Capital Plans:**

Town Administrator Perry provided an update on the budget, in light of the effects of the Coronavirus on cash flow. Available cash at time of the meeting is \$4,291,295.00. Wachusett Regional School District representatives are allowing payments to the school district to be done in split payments, one due in May and one in June. WRSD is revising their budget downward.

TA Perry questioned whether the Committees wanted to move ahead with the budget as discussed at the last meeting, and level fund or make cuts later. A discussion on budget items continued. The Committee members will finalize the budget at a meeting next week.

**Vote Budget and Capital Plans:**

In a review of capital items on the town warrant, a motion to recommend approval of \$50,000 for a new entrance and lift design at the Library was made by Mary Cliett and seconded by Joe Sova. All in favor; motion carried.

A vote was taken on the radio upgrade for the Police Department, \$15,000. Joe Sova made a motion to recommend support and Mary Cliett seconded the motion. Unanimous vote.

A motion to recommend support of a replacement Animal Control vehicle in the amount of \$45,000 was made by Mary Cliett and seconded by Elaine Heller. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Joe Sova recommended support of a DPW request for \$60,000 for a plow truck with wing and Mary Cliett seconded the motion. Unanimous vote.

A vote was taken on the placement of utilities underground in the downtown area. Joe Sova made a motion in support and Mary Cliett seconded the motion. Vote: Sova - aye; Everett Heller - aye; Cliett - aye; Brown - aye; Elaine Heller - aye. Chapman - nay. Motion carried.

A motion to recommend support of mulch for the Muddy Pond Playground, \$9,000, was made by Joe Sova and seconded by Mary Cliett. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion to recommend support of the Athletic Field Complex Design in the amount of \$70,000 was made by Joe Sova and seconded by Todd Chapman. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion to recommend support of seal coating and line painting at the Senior Center was made by Todd Chapman and seconded by Mary Cliett. On the first vote: Cliett, Sova, Brown - aye. Elaine Heller,

Chapman and Everett Heller - nay. With a split vote, Mary Cliett reconsidered and changed her vote to nay. The motion did not carry.

A motion to recommend support of cleaning the 1835 Town Hall, amounting to \$6,000, was made by Joe Sova and seconded by Mary Cliett. All were in favor and the motion carried.

A motion to support an article for \$61,000 to be used for multiple IT projects was made by Joe Sova and seconded by Mary Cliett. Unanimous vote.

A motion to recommend support of the Beach Project, environmental evaluation, was made by Joe Sova and seconded by Mary Cliett. All in favor; motion carried.

Joe Sova made a motion in support of \$100,000 for the Master Plan and Elaine Heller seconded the motion. Unanimous vote.

Discussion was held on the Citizens Petition for a new playground structure at Houghton School. Mary Cliett made a motion that the Capital Committee not support this petition and Joe Sova seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of no support on this article.

If this Citizens Petition does pass at the Town Meeting, Joe Sova made a motion that funding be taken out of the Capital Fund. Mary Cliett seconded the motion. Vote: Sova - aye; Cliett - aye; Chapman - aye; Brown - aye; Elaine Heller - aye; Everett Heller - nay. Motion carried.

**Review and Vote Warrant Articles:**

After discussion, the decision was made to review and vote on the warrant articles at the next joint meeting, which was tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 27, 2020, at 6:00 PM.

**Review Revenue Projections:**

Town Administrator Perry noted some revenue will come in lower than originally anticipated and he will have updated information at the next meeting.

**Reserve Fund Transfer:**

TA Perry presented an RFT for Veterans Expenses in the amount of \$8,000.00 due to new Vets in the district. A motion to approve this transfer was made by Everett Heller and seconded by Mary Cliett. Unanimous vote.

**Adjourn:**

A motion to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting was made by Joe Sova and seconded by Mary Cliett. All were in favor, motion carried.

Mary Cliett made a motion to adjourn the Capital Committee meeting and Joe Sova seconded the motion. Unanimous vote.

The joint meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.