

Monday, March 8, 2021 7:00 p.m. via Go To Meeting (followed special meeting)

In attendance: C. Iino, L. Annino, Jr., E. Blewett, R. Regolo, R. Bauer, R. Pleines, M. Couture, W. Petroskey, E. Sirignano, A. Stirna, K. Zandi, M. Smith, M. Howenstine

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm.

2. Public comment

A. RSD17 liaison Kathy Zandi submitted the February update (available on rsd17.org) and gave an abbreviated presentation covering the following:

- The High School will return to full in-person learning starting this month.
- *Vision of the Graduate*, which clarifies 6 skills and dispositions identified for success, has been finalized.
- Expanding social/emotional learning curriculums for HKMS and HKHS.
- Facilities subcommittee considering restoration of white house and barn on campus, currently used by HKRec and HKYFS

Zandi encourages residents to consult rsd17.org to review BOE minutes, agendas, other materials

B. Animal Control Officers

ACOs Howenstine and Smith spoke in response to recent BOS discussions. Smith emphasized the importance of signage to discourage dogs on all town playing fields; she is not in favor of regular enforcement patrols. A 6-foot lease max is also recommended, as is protocol at state parks. Howenstine sought recognition and support from the BOS of ACOs as professional public safety officers, who are often confronted with dangerous situations and complex legal issues. They are also responsible for communicating with state entities to secure funds for restitution from damages incurred.

3. Approval of minutes

A motion by Blewett, seconded by Annino, to approve the minutes of February 17, 2021^h as presented passed unanimously.

A motion by Blewett, seconded by Iino, to approve the minutes of February 18, 2021 as presented passed unanimously.

A motion by Blewett, seconded by Annino, to approve the minutes of February 22, 2021 as presented passed unanimously.

Blewett moved, seconded by Annino, to approve the minutes of March 4, 2021 as presented.

Discussion:

Annino proposed the following amendments:

Last paragraph Page 1 line 6

Insert sentence before "Annino": It was the unanimous decision of the Joint Compensation Committee that this was not the case.

Page 2 Line one.

After "employees", insert "consistent with the recommendations of the Joint Compensation Committee for 2018."

**Motion by Annino, seconded by Blewett, to amend minutes as above, passed unanimously.
Motion to approve the amended minutes of March 4, 2021 passed unanimously.**

4. Refunds and abatements

Annino moved to approve the following refund and allow it to go its normal course for reimbursement.

CAB East PO Box 67000 \$98.41 Overpayment COC#09721M

The motion, seconded by Blewett passed unanimously.

5. Old Business
A. FY 2021/22 Budget

Operating Budget discussion from previous (6:00 pm) meeting resumed.

- Fire Marshal's requests for replacement of Chromebook with a \$500 tablet, a 2% salary increase, and \$1,400 proposed deputy coverage were accepted. Chromebook will be reassigned.
- Emergency Management Director. If a volunteer can't be found, a stipend might be helpful in recruiting. lino recommended budgeting \$5000 for a potential stipend within the \$10,000 budget. This line is eligible for a federal grant.
- Park and Recreation department field maintenance line was reviewed and questioned.
- Friendly Fund will be reduced to \$1, since this budget line is for the contingency that insufficient contributions are received, and we have not had that happen in many years.
- HKYFS 5.2% increase was discussed. BOS supports the increase, and commended the organization for its contributions to the community.
- It was noted that federal COVID relief funding could be shared with the local non-profits.

Capital Budget discussion followed:

North Chestnut Hill: lino recommends that the town poll the abutters of this scenic road and if enough of them approve, proceed with triple chip sealing, which would obviate extensive annual upkeep and have a payback period of 3-4 years. There was a lengthy examination of the estimate from Comer Contracting, of the map of the area, of the history of the road's scenic road designation, and of the town scenic road designation generally. Annino thinks North Chestnut Hill Road should remain a gravel road and not be included in the budget as a triple chip sealed project unless the residents petition the town for the work. Blewett concurred. lino

disagreed and noted that because the town has to spend time and tax dollars maintaining the road. Triple- chip funding was removed for Chestnut Hill line.

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Beckwith Road: The differences between this gravel road and North Chestnut Hill Road (which has long stretches of forest) were discussed. Beckwith Road now leads to Chatfield Ridge, a paved subdivision private road, with its accompanying increased traffic. Several drainage issues need to be resolved in any case; once they are addressed, the wear and tear on the gravel road will be reevaluated. As the installation of an underdrain and reestablishing of the swale, as recommended by the town engineer, doesn't affect appearance of this scenic road, the town will proceed with the drainage work(\$40,000).

Patrick Drive/ Warwickshire: \$70,000 each for mill and pave, less costly than a full reclaim and pave, is recommended. Budget line increased to \$140,000

Trees: This item was moved from capital to operating.

Chip seal/bonding option: The proposed \$1,139,500 option, in the MYCIP for FY21-22, would require bonding. The Board of Finance had asked the road foreman to present a reduced scope of work. This Option B, consisting of 19 roads, came to \$353,000. Chip sealed roads typically last 7-8 years. The board is reluctant to bond for projects with a life expectancy shorter than that of the bond. Regolo explained that borrowing for 7 - 10 years would involve a direct loan, not a bond, but typically requires a \$3,000,000 commitment. There was further discussion. The board is committed to the multi-year plan as approved by the town. Both options will be presented to the Board of Finance for recommendations.

Paving/drainage on town campus project (Transfer station, Library, Town garage) was noted. The selectmen discussed the importance of maintaining the paving in facilities used by the public in top condition.

Pavilion at Eric Auer Park may be eligible for federal COVID dollars as open air pavilion would accommodate social distancing during pandemic. Blewett questioned whether the rationale was legitimate at this stage of the pandemic. Annino added that this project could be funded with bond. Stirna noted that COVID standards will remain relevant for some time.

Parmelee: lino proposed moving painting to this year's repair line. Funding for gator and stone wall were approved.

Open Space: Line removed. There is already money in the capital account for open space purchases.

Life benefit line: 12,500 line item was removed from capital.

New bottom line: \$3,558,255 in capital expenditures. After capital transfer and other funding leaves with leaves town with \$2,441,055 to borrow, bond or take from general fund. This amount is below the threshold for a direct loan. Regolo asked them to consider whether the amount is low enough to take out of the fund balance. There was discussion about outlook for the taxpayer, given the proposed budget alongside the town's portion of school expenses. Regolo predicted a current shortfall, at the current grand list and mill rate, of \$250,000. Regolo

was optimistic, noting that the snow budget and highway other budget were so far underexpended for the year.

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Regolo clarified several final items, and commented on current year expenditure and status of fund balance.

Annino request a document listing all capital equipment from highway department.

Blewett inquired about the audited fund balance, and there was very brief discussion of timeline for releasing funds. lino will consult with Board of Finance.

A motion to adjourn by Blewett at 9:40 pm, seconded by Annino passed unanimously.

Submitted on March 16, 2021 by E. Disbrow. Record of Votes submitted on March 10, 2021 .