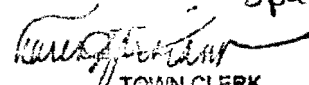


Town of Stafford
Joint Meeting of the Water Pollution Control Authority, Board of Selectmen, and the Board of Finance
Special Meeting
Monday, December 10, 2018
6:30 P.M. - Veteran's Meeting Room

2018 DEC 12 PM 4:24
3 pages

TOWN CLERK

WPCA Members Present: Chairman Allen Warren; Scott Bonett, Mandy Fisher, Roger Thomas, and David Walsh

Board of Selectmen Members Present: First Selectman Mary Mitta, Selectman/WPCF Superintendent Rick Hartenstein, and Selectman John Locke

Board of Finance Members Present: Chairman Jane Slater, Gary Fisher, Fran Moriarty, Tony Pellegrino; and Board Alternates Steven Geryk, Richard Shuck, and Conrado Ulloa

Also present were Neil Hoss, Treasurer; Lisa Baxter, Town CFO; WPCA Attorney Edward Muska and members of the public.

Index:

1. Discussion – WPCA Projects
2. Discussion and Action – Project Funding

WPCA Chairman Allen Warren, Board of Finance Chairman Jane Slater and First Selectman Mary Mitta all called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Quorums were established.

Tony Pellegrino made a motion to seat alternate members Conrado Ulloa and Steven Geryk for Board of Finance absent member Brian Bagley and recused member David Walsh. Fran Moriarty seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.

1. Discussion – WPCA Projects

Superintendent Rick Hartenstein began with a presentation regarding the recent WPCA projects that have been financed entirely by the sewer fund totally just more than one million dollars. These projects/purchases were able to be funded through budgeting and having a reserve for Capital improvements. A spread sheet was distributed regarding the breakdown of Town versus WPCA expenses for the West Street Road Reconstruction Project. Of the \$1.7 million total cost, 68.75% is WPCA's share and 31.25% is the Town's portion. The Route 190 Pump Station Rebuild has been estimated at \$1.5 million. The WPCA will cut costs so as to not exceed \$1 million. The total estimated cost for the two (2) projects is \$2.7 million; WPCA's portion is \$2,168,015.

2. Discussion and Action – Project Funding

Superintendent Hartenstein continued with the presentation. If the Town were to bond \$5 million, \$2.7 million would be for the West Street Road Reconstruction and the Route 190 Pump Station Rebuild; leaving \$2.3 million for Town infrastructure improvements. The Town improvement portions are to include the Williamson Road Bridge and road maintenance and repair.

The Town has elected to hire an engineering firm to assess the roads and prepare a 10-Year Road Management Plan for the repair and maintenance of the Town roads. Concern was

expressed regarding the condition of many roads that are scheduled to be chip sealed and if this work is not performed in a certain window, a whole road reconstruction will be necessary.

Questions arose regarding how much money could the Town bond. Is \$5 million too low? A \$5 million bond would cost the Town approximately \$450,000 annually for 20 years. The Town's limit to borrow is \$6 million, which would result in a .600 mill rate increase in three (3) years. The Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance requested that the WPCA pay a portion of this bond. David Walsh stated that the WPCA's position was not to pay for any portion of the bond request. He stated that the WPCA project requests were capital improvements and have previously been paid for by the Town. The small amount of users should not have to pay for something the whole Town benefits from. Roger Thomas added that funds have not been put aside for a payment like this. The WPCA is looking to do a Wastewater Financial Model that will outlay a system to have money for future capital improvements.

Selectman Mary Mitta stressed the importance of all the commissions working together for the best interest of the Town. The Town is facing many financial issues and the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance have had meetings to formulate a plan and request financial assistance from the WPCA.

Tony Pellegrino stated that he realized the importance and the necessity of the projects being presented. He reminded the WPCA that the sewer rates were one of the lowest in the State. A small increase could result in a portion of the money coming to the Town to assist in the bond payment, and the remainder going to regular operation and maintenance costs.

At 8:13 p.m., the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance took a brief recess while the WPCA met amongst themselves.

The WPCA discussed how they could assist the Town for these projects. It was stressed that this was an isolated occurrence and not to be a precedence going forward.

David Walsh made a motion to dedicate a portion of a sewer rate increase to help pay for 50% of the West Street Road Reconstruction and the Route 190 Pump Station Replacement Projects. The breakdown on a \$6 million bond is to pay 18.07% of annual payments for 20 years. Roger Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carries with a 4-0-1 vote with Mr. Bonett abstaining.

The Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance reconvened at 8:23 p.m. The WPCA stated how they could assist the Town for these projects. The WPCA offered to assist with 50% of the sewer related projects. Gary Fisher requested that the WPCA plan for future improvements so that money is in place for a future project. The WPCA commented that this was an isolated occurrence and not to be a precedence going forward.

John Locke made a motion to appropriate \$6 million for the West Street Reconstruction Project, the Route 190 Pump Station Rebuild, Williamson Road Bridge, and the remaining funds for allocated to road repair and maintenance. The WPCA will contribute 18.07% of the annual payment for 20 years. Mary Mitta seconded the motion. Motion carries with a 2-0-1 vote, with Rick Hartenstein abstaining.

Tony Pellegrino made a motion to appropriate \$6 million for the West Street Reconstruction Project, the Route 190 Pump Station Rebuild, Williamson Road Bridge, and the remaining funds for allocated to road repair and maintenance. The WPCA will contribute 18.07% of the annual payment for 20 years. Conrado Ulloa seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

John Locke made a motion to adjourn the joint meeting of the Water Pollution Control Authority, Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance at 8:41 p.m. Mary Mitta seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

Tony Pellegrino made a motion to adjourn the joint meeting of the Water Pollution Control Authority, Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance at 8:41 p.m. Fran Moriarty seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

Dave Walsh made a motion to adjourn the joint meeting of the Water Pollution Control Authority, Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance at 8:41 p.m. Roger Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jane LaMorte
Recording Secretary