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TOWN OF BURLINGTON

Meeting Minutes

DEPT./BOARD: Ways and Means Town Hall 1 Subcommittee
DATE: Sept 16, 2021
TIME: 4:00 PM
PLACE: WebEx Conference Call

MEMBERS and INVITED OFFICIALS:

Present:

Ernie Covino – Planning Board
John Danizio – Assistant Town Administrator / Town Accountant
Gary Gianino – Town Treasurer/Collector
Whitney Haskell – Budget Director
Frank Monaco – Town Hall 1
Steve Morin – Ways and Means Chairman
Mike Runyan – Selectmen
Paul Sagarino – Town Administrator
David Tait – Chair Town Hall 1

Absent: None

Meeting Purpose:

Discuss September 27, 2021 Warrant Articles

Article 7 Transfer from Affordable Housing – Affordable Housing Needs Assessment \$30,000

Mike Runyan provided an overview of history and current needs providing a foundation for why we should conduct an assessment and how it would benefit various boards and future housing projects. The Housing Partnership was formed over 30 years ago. However we do not have a current and complete needs assessment. The plan is to engage the Metropolitan Area Planning Council to conduct in person forums and gather information from a cross section of residents. This information would then be consolidated into a written needs assessment. The goal is to use these findings as a guideline for future projects brought forward by developers and other town initiatives. Funding will be from the affordable housing fund.

Vote: 2-0-0

Article 11 117 South Bedford Street

The purpose of this article is to authorize the Select Board to sell this newly renovated property for the purpose of providing affordable housing. The property was fully remodeled roughly between Oct 2020 and April 2021 with the help of many volunteer and generous contributions of time and materials from the community.

Vote: 2-0-0





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Article 4 Amend the FY22 Operating Budget \$500,000

There is about \$8,500,000 of Federal aid available to Burlington. The new legislation provides more flexible rules on what the money can be used for and allows a three plus year time frame to use the funds. The purpose of this article is to approve \$500,000 of the money as revenue replacement in order to reinstate cuts from the original FY22 budget. There is no expansion of staffing or services. There is some anticipation that we may need to repeat this \$500,000 replacement in FY23 and FY24 for a total of \$1,500,000.

Money will also be used this fiscal year to offset about \$1,000,000 of anticipated COVID related expenses and \$500,000 towards the Mill Pond upgrade design however these do not require Town Meeting approval.

Vote: 2-0-0

Article 8 Fund Appellate Tax Board Decision \$150,000

Macys appealed past assessments of \$20,000,000 for FY14, 15, 16 requesting an abatement down to \$13,000,000. The Tax Board settled the appeal at \$18,000,000. The abatement will be paid from the Overlay Surplus Fund as authorized by the Board of Assessors. However there is interest due which must be funded from other sources. This article authorizes up to \$150,000 to cover the cost of interest on property tax abatements.

Vote: 2-0-0

OPEB Discussion

Gary Gianino provided an overview of the Actuarial Valuation and Review of Other Postemployment Benefits as of December 31, 2020. There was some “roundtable” discussion about future considerations for funding but there were no action items or immediate concerns. The plan is to review the report at a future Ways and Means meeting.

Adjourned Approximately 5:45 PM

