

**TOWN OF SOUTHWICK
FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes
April 25, 2023
Hybrid**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Deedy, Chairman
Aleda DeMaria, Vice Chair
Karen Demaio
Paul Connolly
Robert Horacek
Dr. Richard Zalowski
David Methe

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: Sheri Knowlton

OTHER: Laura Fletcher, Town Accountant
Melissa Bridges, Assistant Town Accountant
Elizabeth Smolen, Secretary

The meeting was being recorded.

The Finance Committee was called to order at 5:36 p.m.

Attendance Roll Call: **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve the minutes of March 28, 2023. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve the minutes of April 4, 2023. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve the minutes of April 11, 2023 Joint Meeting with the Select Board. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

New Business:

Cemetery – Approve repurposing funds from Repairs and Maintenance for the purchase of privacy fencing for \$3,500.00.

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve the repurposing of funds from Repairs and Maintenance for the purchase of privacy fencing. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

Cemetery – Approve repurposing funds from Repairs and Maintenance for the purchase of a utility trailer for \$1,800.00.

A MOTION was made R. Horacek, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve the repurposing of funds from Repairs and Maintenance for the purchase of a utility trailer. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

Old Business: There was no old business.

Reserve Fund Transfer: The committee discussed the Reserve Fund Transfer listed below in the Reserve Fund Transfer Request.

Buildings and Grounds - A request was made for \$3,000.00 for the emergency sidewalk repair at Whalley Park due to a water main break.

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve the Reserve Fund Transfer Request for emergency sidewalk repair at Whalley Park due to a water main break. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

Agenda:

Discussion and approval of FY2024 Budget General Fund.

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve the Total Government Budget. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve the Total Public Safety Budget. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve the Total Public Works Budget. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve the Total Other Environmental Budget. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve the Total Human Services Budget. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve the Total Culture and Recreation Budget. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A **MOTION** was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve the Total Debt, Interest and Insurance Budget. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A **MOTION** was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve the Grand Total General Government Budget. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A **MOTION** was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve the Grand Total Water Budget. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A **MOTION** was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve the Grand Total Sewer Budget. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A **MOTION** was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve the Grand Total EMS Budget. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

Note: A draft of Pros and Cons on the Financial Articles for the Special Town Meeting and the Annual Town Meeting Warrants was reviewed and discussed. The Committee will continue discussion at the next meeting.

Discussion and approval of the financial Warrant Articles for the Annual Town Meeting.

A **MOTION** was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve as written Article 9: Annual Budget. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A **MOTION** was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve as written Article 10: Department Revolving Fund Annual Spending Limit Authorization. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A **MOTION** was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve as written Article 11: Community Preservation Annual Budget. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A **MOTION** was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve as written Article 12: Community Preservation Committee – Administrative and Operating Expenses. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A **MOTION** was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve as written Article 13: Alum Treatment Debt Service. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A **MOTION** was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve as written Article 14: Restoration of Bronze Memorial Plaques. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve as written Article 15: Whalley Spray Park. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve as written Article 16: The Moore House Repair. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve as written Article 17: Hazardous Tree Removal at Old Cemetery. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve as written Article 18: Repair of Slate Roof and Cupola at Police Department. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by R. Horacek (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve as written Article 19: Regional School District Budget. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve as written Article 20: Regional School District – Debt Authorization. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve as written Article 35: Borrowing Authorization – Road Construction. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve as written Article 36: Borrowing Authorization – Fiber Optic Broadband. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve as written Article 37: Borrowing Authorization – Dump Truck and Plow. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

Discussion and approval of Articles for the Special Town Meeting.

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve Special Town Meeting Article 1. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve Special Town Meeting Article 2. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve Special Town Meeting Article 3. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve Special Town Meeting Article 4. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

Discussion and approval of the Statement from the Finance Committee for the Annual Town Meeting Budget Book.

A MOTION was made R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to approve the Statement from the Finance Committee for the Annual Town Meeting Budget Book. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

The next Finance Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

A MOTION was made by R. Zalowski, seconded by K. Demaio (Vote: 6/0/0) to close the meeting. **J. Deedy: Yes, A. DeMaria: Absent, K. Demaio: Yes, P. Connolly: Absent, R. Horacek: Yes, R. Zalowski: Yes, D. Methe: Yes, S. Knowlton: Yes**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Elizabeth Smolen, Finance Committee Secretary

J. Deedy, Chairman