

**Town of Sandisfield**  
**Finance Committee Meeting**

**Date: September 26, 2018**

**Location: Town Hall Annex, 66 Sandisfield Road**

Members Present: Alex Bowman, Roger Brown, Joe Gelinas, Bogart Muller, Fred Ventresco (ex-Officio Committee Member).

Members Absent: Kathy Jacobs

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.
2. Joe announced that Roger Brown was participating via Skype IAW the Sandisfield Remote Participation Policy.
3. Joe moved, Bogart seconded to approve the minutes of the August 25 2018 meeting. Roll call vote 4-0.
4. Joe announced that funds appropriated from the Stabilization Trust Fund are normally repaid, typically in five years, from annual appropriations. The impact of that could mean that annual appropriations for that fund could be up to \$90,000/year in addition to repayments already scheduled (e.g., \$70,800 scheduled for FY20).
5. Discussed Article 2 of the October 16, 2018 Special Town Meeting Warrant article that proposes a \$14,711.50 transfer from the Stabilization Trust Fund to the Fire/Ambulance Equipment account for a CPR system for the Fire Department. After a discussion, Joe moved and Alex seconded that we recommend this request to the STM. Roll call vote 0-4. The following reasons/questions for the negative recommendation were cited:
  - a. This request does not seem urgent and might be better put into next year's annual operating budget.
  - b. Training costs are unknown.
  - c. Operating costs are unknown.
  - d. Are there alternative machines that might be considered for differences in quality and price?
  - e. Could the Fire/Ambulance Equipment account be used to partially fund this request?
  - f. The brochure for this device indicated that "numerous payment structures" were available. Perhaps those could be pursued.
6. Discussed Article 3 of the October 16, 2018 Special Town Meeting Warrant article that proposes to transfer \$2,500 from Yanner Park Stabilization account to the Yanner Park Expense account. After discussion, Joe moved and Bogart seconded that we recommend this request to the STM. Roll call vote 0-4. The following reasons/questions for the negative recommendation were cited:

- a. This request was based on a decision made during the FY19 budget process to provide some funds before a Yanner Park Committee had been formed. The request was mistakenly left off of the May 2019 Annual Town Meeting. This request is intended to make up for that oversight.
  - b. The intent of the original request was to allocate some funds for a start-up phase once the committee was formed. No specific expenses were detailed.
  - c. Now that a committee has been formed the FINCOM prefers that, consistent with all other budget requests, this request should come from the newly formed committee and should provide a detailed budget.
- 7. Discussed Article 1 of the October 16, 2018 Special Town Meeting Warrant that proposes a \$215,000 appropriation from the Stabilization Trust Fund to cover the shortfall for the Rugg Bridge construction. After discussion, Joe moved and Alex seconded that we recommend this request to the STM. Roll call vote 4-0. The committee, however, had several concerns and questions regarding this request:
  - a. Why is there a \$77,000 deficit in the Rugg Bridge account? We should know how it came to be in deficit and to ensure that only Rugg Bridge related expenditures were paid from this account.
  - b. Fred says that he calculates the retainage to be \$84,000 while the engineer says it is \$112,000. This needs to be reconciled.
  - c. We are told that the town is considering fixing the bridge and holding back funds from Maxymillian's retainage to pay for those repairs. Not being sure that we can legally do that it would seem that we should insist that the contractor make good on the repairs. The liability for complete, adequate repairs should be theirs, not ours.
  - d. It was not made clear to us that the \$78,967.10 in extra work was to have been part of the Maxymillian contract or was always to have been the town's own extra work. Is this above the Maxymillian \$1,199,124.14 contract or not?
  - e. The source and use of three sources of revenue were not clear. Specifically, ATM 2016 (\$12,500), ATM 2017 (\$25,000), and a grant for \$23,000. Why were these appropriated and how were they spent? Did they, for example, pay for some of the up-front work done by Foresight? How should these funds be considered in the decision to account for the bridge expenses?
  - f. Is the use of Free Cash still being considered to make up a portion of this deficit?
- 8. Joe outlined the need for one or more meetings. First, a joint meeting with the Select Board to discuss the need for more detailed information with budget requests. The three requests considered at this meeting were not accompanied with sufficient, accurate information with which to make informed decisions. The FINCOM also needs to meet to consider and vote on its own budgets that are due to be handed in on or before November 30.
- 9. Joe moved a roll-call vote approved adjournment: 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Joe Gelinas, Finance Committee Chair



Alex Bowman, Finance Committee Member



Roger Brown, Finance Committee Member

Kathy Jacobs, Finance Committee Member

Bogart Muller, Finance Committee Member

