

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 28, 2023**

1. Call to Order

Michael Parker called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Members Present

In attendance were Michael Parker, Kathy Devlin, Joe Tolisano, Bruce Devlin, Bill Salka, and Ralph Williams. Also, in attendance was First Selectman Tim Keeney, Superintendent Paul Gagliarducci, Business Manager Stephanie Levin, Assistant Finance Director Brian Wissinger and CFO Mike Marinaccio.

3. BOE Update

Superintendent Paul Gagliarducci introduced the new Superintendent, Dr. Sam Galloway, to the Board. Dr. Galloway will officially start April 3, 2023. Dr. Gagliarducci presented the approved Board of Education budget to the Board. The proposal is for a 4.34% increase over the FY2023 budget. The Board of Education will have their public hearing on March 13, 2023, for residents to ask questions regarding their budget proposal. Dr. Gagliarducci informed the Board that there would be no movement at this time on the HVAC project. The cost estimates were received, but until further information from the State on their funding assistance, the Board of Education has decided to stop any further funding requests.

4. Selectmen's Update

First Selectman Tim Keeney presented the approved Finance Department Strategic Plan to the Board.

Keeney updated the Board of the progress of an agreement with Stafford Ambulance regarding costs for providing ALS services to the Town of Stafford. Keeney stated that a proposed contract was sent to Stafford on February 8, but there had not been any communication from the Town of Stafford since. Chairman Parker requested that the Town follow orders of the Board of Finance to begin billing Stafford. A lengthy discussion ensued. It was determined that if no response is heard from Stafford, then a bill will be compiled and sent to the Town for the services rendered to date.

5. Finance Department Strategic Plan

6. Proposed Agreement Town of Somers and Town of Stafford/Stafford Ambulance

7. CFO/Finance Department Update

CFO Mike Marinaccio gave the Board a copy of the Financial Information & Operating Data that was filed by Munistat, the Financial Advisor for the Town of Somers. This filing is required by the Securities and Exchange Commission annually by February 28. Marinaccio gave the Board an updated Appropriation Process Schedule for the bonding resolution and a bonding timeline of dates. Marinaccio stated that the Town is well on time to move forward with the process.

8. CIP Requests FY2023

Brian Wissinger presented 3 requests for funding at this time from the CIP Committee. The first request is for improvements at Camp Aya-Po as recommended by the Aya-Po Committee's Final Report. This request is for \$40,350.

The second request is to change the funding source of the Fit Tester previously approved by the Board of Finance as part of the FY2023 Capital Budget. The grant funding for this item was denied by the Federal Government, so a request was made by the Fire Chief to use ARPA funds for the item.

Joe Tolisano made a motion to approve the use of ARPA Funds for \$15,700 for the purchasing of a Fit Tester as previously approved, seconded by Bruce Devlin. There was no further discussion and a unanimous decision followed.

The third request is to purchase a new ambulance. The estimated delivery time is 18-24 months from time of agreement. This request would allow the Fire Chief to place the order and enter the queue for a new ambulance.

The Board requested further discussion on the Camp Aya-Po Improvements and Ambulance after the total budget proposals are made by the Boards of Education and Selectmen.

9. Capital Budget Proposal FY2024

Brian Wissinger gave the Board the Proposed FY2024 Capital Projects Budget. This budget will be voted when the Board of Finance votes on the overall budget to send to public hearing.

10. Budget Update FY2024

Brian Wissinger updated the Board that both the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen have approved their budgets. The total increase is 1.28% over the FY2023 budget. This budget would require at most a 1.25 mill increase. A presentation and detail documentation will be sent to the Board by the end of the week. The Board of Finance has a special meeting on March 14, 2023, to review both budgets and begin discussing funding and spending cuts.

11. ARPA Funds Update

Brian Wissinger handed out a schedule with all approved ARPA projects to date, their original budgets, the expenses associated with the projects to date, and the remaining ARPA funds balance. As of today, there is \$570,353 of Unallocated ARPA Funds. After approving the Fit Tester, the Unallocated Balance is \$554,653. Other requested uses of ARPA Funds would bring this balance to \$380,803.

12. Transfers

There were no transfers.

13. Approval of Minutes

a. **1/24/2023 Regular BOF Minutes**

Bruce Devlin made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Joe Tolisano. There was no further discussion and a unanimous decision followed.

14. Other Business

Lisa Horan spoke to the Board of Finance on the Board of Education's proposed budget. The Board was very receptive of her comments and urged that she attend the Board of Education's Public Hearing to speak to them directly about it as well.

15. Adjournment

Joe Tolisano made a motion to adjourn at 8:22pm, seconded by Kathy Devlin. There was no further discussion and a unanimous decision followed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Wissinger

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FIU4XoiAQ0>