

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the twenty fifth day of June 2020 A.D. the said meeting was called to order by Town Council President Frank Landolfi at 6:30 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833.

PRESENT: Frank Landolfi, Scott Bill Hirst, Sylvia Thompson; Town Manager William McGarry, Finance Director Brian Rosso; Eric Perrin representing the Ashaway Ambulance and Jim McElroy representing the Hope Valley Ambulance were present in the Meeting Room; Barbara Capalbo, Sharon Davis; Town Solicitor Kevin McAllister and Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin attended remotely.

This meeting was held remotely. Instructions for participating remotely were included on the Town Council Agenda

The remote meeting was called to order with a moment of silent meditation and a salute to the Flag.

OLD BUSINESS

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO TO MOVE UP THE SECOND ITEM RELATED TO THE AMBULANCE SERVICES AS THE FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Hirst, Capalbo, Thompson, Davis

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

COUNCIL CONTINGENCY DONATION TO ASHAWAY AMBULANCE & HOPE VALLEY AMBULANCE

Council President Landolfi indicated this item was to discuss, consider and possibly vote to authorize a donation of \$1,536.00 from the Town Council's contingency account (#001-5065) to be divided equally between the Ashaway Ambulance and Hope Valley Ambulance. Councilor Thompson noted that she had asked for this matter to be scheduled as there was a small amount of money remaining in the contingency account and felt it was something that could be donated to the two ambulance corps; the Covid-19 Pandemic had placed additional

stresses on them. Councilor Capalbo felt it was a reasonable suggestion and was in favor of it. Councilor Davis agreed. Councilor Hirst stated he would vote in favor of it; that these were unusual times but he was concerned about the practice. He added that the next Town Council will have to determine how to spend the Town Council contingency funds. Councilor Capalbo doubted that this would be an on-going expense. Council President Landolfi reported there had been no additional runs by the ambulance corps due to Covid-19 resulting in cash flow issues.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HIRST TO AUTHORIZE A DONATION OF \$1,536.00 FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL'S CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT (#001-5065) TO BE DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN THE ASHAWAY AMBULANCE AND HOPE VALLEY AMBULANCE.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Hirst, Capalbo, Thompson, Davis

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Council President Landolfi stated Finance Director Brian Rosso had cut two checks in order to present them to Mr. Perrin and Mr. McElroy tonight. Councilor Thompson stated there had been no reported cases in Ashaway and one reported case in Hope Valley, an ambulance corp employee, and that person was doing fine.

FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

This item is to discuss, consider and vote to adopt Financial Resolutions and Tax Resolution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020. Council President Landolfi read through Financial Resolutions No.1 through No. 6 as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 1

RESOLVED: In accordance with R.I.G.L. 44-5-2(c) (4), that the electors of the Town of Hopkinton qualified to vote on any proposal to impose a tax or for the expenditure of money, in a Town Financial Referendum, lawfully assembled on the 23rd day of June A.D. 2020 and approved the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. The estimated tax rate for Real and Tangible property is \$18.28, a decrease of \$2.40 from the current rate of \$20.68. The tax rate for Motor Vehicles is \$21.18.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

RESOLVED: the voters of the Town of Hopkinton in consideration of the question on the June 23, 2020 Town Financial Referendum Ballot **rejected** the following:
Local Question 1. To authorize the unspent balance of the Salt & Sand Budget Line Item #5350-6000 and Overtime Pay Budget Line Item #4060-6000 in the 2019/2020 Fiscal Year Public Works Department Budget be restricted and placed into the Legal Fees Restricted Account.

RESOLUTION NO. 3

RESOLVED: That the Town Finance Director be and is hereby authorized and empowered to credit to any appropriations fund any receipts or donations which apply against that fund and all others not

so designated to the General Fund.

RESOLUTION NO. 4

RESOLVED: That the several appropriations specified be expended under the direction and supervision of the Town Council, except those pertaining to public school, bills payable, and interest which sum shall be disbursed and paid out by the Town Finance Director.

RESOLUTION NO. 5

RESOLVED: That the Town Finance Director of the Town of Hopkinton be and is hereby authorized and empowered to borrow upon the credit of the Town as the same may be necessary during the present Fiscal Year such sum or sums as may be required to meet the expenses and obligations of the Town, provided however, that such loans shall not at any time exceed the sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000.00).

RESOLUTION NO. 6

RESOLVED: That the over-expenditures in the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget, identified by the Town Finance Director, are hereby approved.

Council President Landolfi noted the budget had passed 124-89; the second question was rejected by a similar number. He asked if the unspent funds would go into the general fund.

Mr. Rosso responded in the affirmative; that if there was expense incurred resulting from legal fees it could be offset by other line items. He did not feel it would be a huge impact; clearly if the Town had to expend funds to cover legal fees they would be covered.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO APPROVE ALL SIX RESOLUTIONS.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Hirst, Capalbo, Thompson, Davis

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Council President Landolfi read the Tax Resolution as follows:

TAX RESOLUTION

RESOLVED: That the Town Council of the Town of Hopkinton based on the budget adopted by vote of the Town Council on June 25, 2020 pursuant to section 2370 of the Hopkinton Town Charter following adoption of the proposed FY 2020/2021 budget by the voters at the Financial Town Referendum on June 23, 2020, hereby impose a tax levy at a Town Council Meeting held this 25th day of June 2020, and order the apportionment and collection of a tax on the ratable real estate and tangible personal property in a sum not less than \$19,093,646.00 and not more than \$20,093,646.00. Said tax is for ordinary expenses and charges of the Town, for payment of interest and indebtedness, and for the purposes authorized by Law. The Assessor shall apportion said respective taxes upon the assessed valuations of the ratable property of said Town as determined by the said Assessor of the Town as of the 31st day of December A.D. 2020, at twelve o'clock midnight, according to Law. The said respective Tax Levies shall be applied to the assessment roll as aforesaid and the resulting tax roll certified by the Assessor to the Town Clerk not later than the 15th day of July A.D. 2020. The Town Clerk on receipt of said completed tax roll shall forthwith make a copy of the same and deliver it to the Town Finance Director, who shall forthwith issue and affix to said copy a Warrant under his hand, directed to the Collector of Taxes of said Town, commanding her to proceed and collect said taxes of the persons and estates liable therefore. Said Taxes shall be due and payable on and between the first day of August and the eighth day of September A.D. 2020 next, and/or may be paid in equal quarterly installments, the first installment of twenty-five per centum on or before the eighth day of September A.D. 2020, and the remaining installments as follows:

Twenty-five per centum on the eighth day of December A.D. 2020, twenty-five per centum on the eighth day of March A.D. 2021 and twenty-five per centum on the eighth day of June A.D. 2021. Each installment of taxes, if paid on or before the last day of each installment period, successively and in order shall be free from all charge for interest.

EXCEPTING HOWEVER, that where the combined total of said tax and additional tax levied is an amount not in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) it shall be due and payable in a single installment on and between the first day of August and the eighth day of September A.D. 2020.

If the first installment or any succeeding installment of taxes is not paid by the last date of the respective installment period, or periods, as they occur, then the unpaid quarterly payments shall be due and payable immediately and shall bear interest on any unpaid quarterly payments at the rate of twelve (12) per centum, per annum.

RESOLVED: That the Collector of Taxes shall collect and pay unto this Town's Treasury, as the same is collected, the tax this day ORDERED.

Councilor Davis asked why the numerical range in the first paragraph versus one number. Mr. Rosso explained the \$1 million dollar spread is there now as there had been some difficulty identified by the auditors some years back because the spread wasn't big enough. Councilor Thompson also added that it was also because the Tax Assessor hasn't certified the roll as well as other variables. Council President Landolfi noted 213 people were not a lot of people to vote on the budget that the Town Council has worked hard to produce. Councilor Thompson felt that to be a common problem. Councilor Capalbo stated it was 215 people; 213 people participated last year. Councilor Thompson expressed thanks to the voters and a big thanks the poll workers who came forward to work.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HIRST TO APPROVE THE TAX RESOLUTION.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Hirst, Capalbo, Thompson, Davis

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO ADJOURN.

SO VOTED

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin

Town Clerk