

**Finance Committee Members Present:** Christos Arsondiadis, David Clough, Dan Cole, Emilio Mauro, Tim McKenna, Barbara Saint André, Cindy Thomas and Wai Wong.

**Finance Committee Members Absent:** Rob Barker.

**Guests Present:**

Dave Emhardt, Chair, Capital Planning Committee  
Bob Panico, Vice Chair, Capital Planning Committee  
Ellen Jones, Finance Committee Secretary  
Randy Scollins, Finance Director

**Opening:** Chair McKenna called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom virtual meeting.

**Approval of Agenda** - Chair McKenna reviewed the agenda.

**New Business**

**Revote Article 12, Motion 2 – Municipal Cash Capital – Reduce from \$750,000 to \$650,000**

The Finance Committee discussed reducing the Council on Aging emergency generator cash capital request from \$57,000 to \$0 and reducing the Library Security Cameras cash capital request from \$43,000 to \$0. Mr. Scollins stated to the Committee that the Municipal Operation Budget would be reduced by \$50,000 for the unfilled DPW Operations Manager. Currently some of the responsibilities of this position are being performed by another DPW employee.

**A motion made by Ms. Thomas to reopen the vote for Article 12 Motion 2 for reconsideration was seconded by Mr. Mauro.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ms. Thomas	Aye	Mr. Wong	Aye
Mr. Mauro	Aye	Ms. Saint André	Aye
Mr. Clough	Aye	Mr. Arsondiadis	Aye
Mr. Cole	Aye	Mr. McKenna	Aye

**The motion to reopen Article 12 Motion 2 passed 8-0-0.**

**A motion made Mr. Mauro to amend the municipal cash capital Article 12 Motion 2 from \$750,000 to \$650,000 by reducing the Council on Aging cash capital request for an emergency generator from \$57,000 to \$0 and reducing the Library cash capital request for security cameras from \$43,000 to \$0 was seconded by Mr. Wong.**

Mr. Emhardt stated that the Board of Selectmen and Capital Planning Committee supported these cash capital reductions.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ms. Thomas	Aye	Mr. Mauro	Aye
Mr. Arsondiadis	Aye	Ms. Saint André	Aye
Mr. Clough	Aye	Mr. Wong	Aye
Mr. Cole	Aye	Mr. McKenna	Aye

**The amended motion for Article 12 Motion 2 passed 8-0-0.**

**Revote Article 12, Motion 3 – School Cash Capital – Reduce from \$750,000 to \$600,000**

A motion made by Mr. Mauro to reopen the vote for Article 12 Motion 3 for reconsideration was seconded by Ms. Saint André.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Thomas	Aye	Mr. Mauro	Aye
Mr. Arsondiadis	Aye	Ms. Saint André	Aye
Mr. Clough	Aye	Mr. Wong	Aye
Mr. Cole	Aye	Mr. McKenna	Aye

The motion to reopen Article 12 Motion 3 passed 8-0-0.

**A motion made Ms. Saint André to amend the school cash capital Article 12 Motion 3 from \$750,000 to \$600,000 by reducing the items as listed on the agenda was seconded by Mr. Mauro.**

In response to Mr. Mauro’s inquiry about what items were included in the HVAC reduction, Mr. Scollins stated that there was a reduction to the general “bucket” of HVAC maintenance and that the School Department would cover any expenses through the operating budget. Mr. Scollins stated that the School Committee voted in support of these reductions. Mr. Emhardt stated that the Capital Planning Committee also voted in support of these reductions.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Thomas	Aye	Mr. Mauro	Aye
Mr. Arsondiadis	Aye	Ms. Saint André	Aye
Mr. Clough	Aye	Mr. Wong	Aye
Mr. Cole	Aye	Mr. McKenna	Aye

The amended motion for Article 12 Motion 3 passed 8-0-0.

**Revote Article 12, Motion 4 – School Security Cameras and School Bus.**

A motion made by Mr. Mauro to reopen the vote for Article 12 Motion 4 for reconsideration was seconded by Ms. Saint André.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Thomas	Aye	Mr. Mauro	Aye
Mr. Arsondiadis	Aye	Ms. Saint André	Aye
Mr. Clough	Aye	Mr. Wong	Aye
Mr. Cole	Aye	Mr. McKenna	Aye

The motion to reopen Article 12 Motion 4 passed 8-0-0.

**A motion made by Ms. Saint André to recommend that Article 12 Motion 4 be indefinitely postponed was seconded by Mr. Mauro.** Mr. Emhardt stated that the Capital Planning Committee supported that Article 12 Motion 4 should be indefinitely postponed. Ms. Saint André stated that an article that has no appropriation would be indefinitely postponed.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Thomas	Aye	Mr. Mauro	Aye
Mr. Arsondiadis	Aye	Ms. Saint André	Aye
Mr. Clough	Aye	Mr. Wong	Aye
Mr. Cole	Aye	Mr. McKenna	Aye

The motion to indefinitely postpone Article 12 Motion 4 passed 8-0-0.

**Revote Article 21 – Appropriation to Increase the Solar Facility Stabilization Fund**

A motion made by Mr. Mauro to reopen the vote for Article 21 for reconsideration was seconded by Mr. Cole.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Thomas	Aye	Mr. Mauro	Aye
Mr. Arsondiadis	Aye	Ms. Saint André	Aye
Mr. Clough	Aye	Mr. Wong	Aye

Mr. Cole           Aye                   Mr. McKenna    Aye  
The motion to reopen Article 21 passed 8-0-0.

A motion made by Ms. Saint André to recommend that Article 21 be indefinitely postponed was seconded by Mr. Mauro. Mr. Scollins stated that a transfer from Solar Facility Receipts to the Town Solar Facility Stabilization Fund would be delayed for one year.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Thomas	Aye	Mr. Mauro	Aye
Mr. Arsondiadis	Aye	Ms. Saint André	Aye
Mr. Clough	Aye	Mr. Wong	Aye
Mr. Cole	Aye	Mr. McKenna	Aye

The motion to indefinitely postpone Article 21 passed 8-0-0.

**Article 31 – Appropriation for the Installation of a Traffic Signal at Pleasant/Sherman/Angela Intersection with Associated Easement and Eminent Domain Authority**

A motion made by Ms. Saint André to reopen the vote for Article 31 for reconsideration was seconded by Mr. Mauro.

A motion made by Ms. Saint André to reconsider the motion for Article 31 and to reduce the appropriation from \$750,000 to \$585,000 from free cash was seconded by Mr. Mauro.

Mr. Scollins stated that economic uncertainty due to the COVID-19 crisis could result in the Town receiving less in state aid for the future. He also stated that Mr. John Roberts from the Massachusetts Municipal Association indicated that there could be reductions in state aid. A 10% reduction in state aid could mean approximately \$1 million less in state aid which would be difficult to absorb within the budget. Mr. Scollins stated that he is not recommending going against the policymakers of the Town but to look to the Town's reserves and to access low interest rates for borrowing to fund projects. He stated that the Board of Selectmen would support using \$85,000 of free cash and \$500,000 of borrowing towards this traffic signal project contingent upon the BOS using \$165,000 of mitigation funds towards the project.

Mr. Scollins stated that the Town has managed its debt well and that 75% of its principal debt would be repaid within ten years. The benchmark for Towns repaying debt is usually 50%.

Borrowing for this project would most likely not take place until FY22.

**Ms. Saint André withdrew her motion for Article 31.**

Mr. Scollins stated that he would be borrowing \$12.75 million on May 7, 2020 at noon for various projects approved at the 2019 Town Meeting and that typically the Town goes to market once per year for borrowing and that this \$500,000 would not be included in the May 7<sup>th</sup> borrowing. He stated that the impact on the homeowner for the \$500,000 of additional borrowing would not be a big impact.

**A new motion (Motion #1) made by Ms. Saint André to recommend an appropriation of \$85,000 from Free Cash for design services for the installation of a traffic signal at the Pleasant/Sherman/Angela Intersection was seconded by Mr. Wong.**

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Thomas	Aye	Mr. Mauro	Aye
Mr. Arsondiadis	Aye	Ms. Saint André	Aye
Mr. Clough	Aye	Mr. Wong	Aye
Mr. Cole	Aye	Mr. McKenna	Aye

The motion to amend Article 31 (motion #1) passed 8-0-0.

A new motion (Motion #2) made by Ms. Saint André to recommend \$500,000 through borrowing for the installation of a traffic signal at the Pleasant/Sherman/Angela Intersection was seconded by Mr. Mauro.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Thomas	Aye	Mr. Mauro	Aye
Mr. Arsondiadis	Aye	Ms. Saint André	Aye
Mr. Clough	Aye	Mr. Wong	Aye
Mr. Cole	Aye	Mr. McKenna	Aye

The motion to further amend Article 31 (motion #2) passed 8-0-0.

**Article 33 – Appropriation for Earl Newhouse Waterfront Improvements**

The Finance Committee was presented with a new motion that included language that the \$239,130 appropriation would not take place unless a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Land & Water Conservation Fund is awarded for the project in the amount of at least \$200,000.

A motion made by Ms. Saint André to recommend the new motion as printed in the April 30<sup>th</sup> agenda was seconded by Mr. Mauro.

Mr. Scollins stated that he worked closely with Town Counsel on the language for the new motion. If for some reason the grant does not come in at \$239,130 the words “at least \$200,000” would avoid nullifying the project. The use of Free Cash would be reimbursed back to the Town’s General Fund. Grant funds received from the state would go directly into the Town’s General Fund. With regard to the grant from the Commonwealth, receipt of funds would be on a reimbursement basis and according to the Town Planner, Laura Smead, would be quite quick.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Thomas	Aye	Mr. Mauro	Aye
Mr. Arsondiadis	Aye	Ms. Saint André	Aye
Mr. Clough	Aye	Mr. Wong	Aye
Mr. Cole	Aye	Mr. McKenna	Aye

The motion to amend Article 33 passed 8-0-0.

**Revote - Article 37 – Amend Soil Erosion and Sediment Control By-Law and**  
**Revote – Article 38 – Amend Stormwater Management By-Law**

A motion made by Mr. Mauro to reopen the votes for Article 37 and Article 38 for reconsideration was seconded by Ms. Thomas.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Thomas	Aye	Mr. Mauro	Aye
Mr. Arsondiadis	Aye	Ms. Saint André	Aye
Mr. Clough	Aye	Mr. Wong	Aye
Mr. Cole	Aye	Mr. McKenna	Aye

The motion to reopen Article 37 and Article 38 passed 8-0-0.

A motion made by Ms. Saint André to postpone indefinitely Article 37 and Article 38 was seconded by Mr. Mauro.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wong	Aye	Mr. Clough	Aye
Ms. Saint André	Aye	Mr. Arsondiadis	Aye
Mr. Mauro	Aye	Ms. Thomas	Aye
Mr. Cole	Aye	Mr. McKenna	Aye

The motion to amend Article 37 and Article 38 passed 8-0-0.

**Revote – Article 52 – AMEND ZONING BY-LAW SECTION 9.1 FLOOD PLAIN OVERLAY DISTRICT (FPOD)**

A motion made by Mr. Mauro to reopen the vote for Article 52 for reconsideration was seconded by Ms. Thomas.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Thomas	Aye	Mr. Mauro	Aye
Mr. Arsondiadis	Aye	Ms. Saint André	Aye
Mr. Clough	Aye	Mr. Wong	Aye
Mr. Cole	Aye	Mr. McKenna	Aye

The motion to reopen Article 52 passed 8-0-0.

Town Counsel cleaned up Article 52 by removing commentary that was intermingled with the text of the motion.

A motion made by Mr. Mauro to recommend the motion for Article 52 as printed in the agenda and recommended by Town Counsel was seconded by Mr. Wong.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wong	Aye	Mr. Clough	Aye
Ms. Saint André	Aye	Mr. Arsondiadis	Aye
Mr. Mauro	Aye	Ms. Thomas	Aye
Mr. Cole	Aye	Mr. McKenna	Aye

The motion to recommend Article 52 as printed in the agenda and recommended by Town Counsel passed 8-0-0.

**Discussion of Special Town Meeting Articles – June 22, 2020**

Mr. Scollins informed the Committee that the Board of Selectmen voted the Special Town Meeting (STM) warrant (consisting of eight articles) at their BOS meeting on April 28.

**STM – Article 1 – Adopt the Rules to Govern Special Town Meeting**

A motion made by Mr. Mauro to recommend the motion for Article 1 of the STM as written in the STM warrant was seconded by Mr. Arsondiadis.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Thomas	Aye	Mr. Mauro	Aye
Mr. Arsondiadis	Aye	Ms. Saint André	Aye
Mr. Clough	Aye	Mr. Wong	Aye
Mr. Cole	Aye	Mr. McKenna	Aye

The motion for STM Article 1 passed 8-0-0.

Mr. Emhardt extended his thanks and appreciation to the Finance Committee, the Capital Planning Committee, the Finance Director and all the Department heads for hard work and assistance during the capital and budget process.

**STM – Article 2 – Stormwater Management – New General By-Law**

A motion made by Mr. Mauro to recommend the motion for Article 2 of the STM as written in the STM warrant was seconded by Mr. Clough. The new by-law would include language to change the minimum land disturbance square footage from 5,000 sq. ft. to 20,000 sq. ft. (less regulatory).

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Thomas	Aye	Mr. Mauro	Aye
Mr. Arsondiadis	Aye	Ms. Saint André	Aye
Mr. Clough	Aye	Mr. Wong	Aye
Mr. Cole	Aye	Mr. McKenna	Aye

The motion for STM Article 2 passed 8-0-0.

**STM – Article 3 – Metropolis Rink Appropriation**

**A motion made by Mr. Mauro that \$500,000 to recommend a transfer as written in the agenda for STM Article 3 was seconded by Mr. Wong.**

Mr. Scollins explained that the state legislature was successful in getting \$500,000 earmarked in the state budget for the Rink project. The \$500,000 has already been received by the Town and is in the general fund. The project will increase from \$10.5 million to \$11 million. He further stated that the Building Renovations Committee has indicated that additional funds were needed for the project due to unforeseen conditions. One of the unforeseen conditions was the closure of the project for three weeks because of the COVID-19 nonessential construction orders.

**A motion made by Ms. Saint André as a friendly amendment to Mr. Mauro’s motion to transfer available funds received from the state in the amount of \$500,000 to the Rink project for STM Article 3 was seconded by Mr. Mauro.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Ms. Thomas</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Mauro</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Arsondiadis</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Ms. Saint André</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Clough</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Wong</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Cole</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. McKenna</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**The motion for STM Article 3 passed 8-0-0.**

**STM – Article 4 – Amend Zoning By-Laws – Change “Board of Selectmen” to “Select Board”**

**A motion made by Ms. Saint André to recommend to Special Town Meeting the amendment of the Zoning By-Laws as printed in the warrant article for STM Article 4 was seconded by Mr. Wong.**

Mr. Mauro inquired if all of the Town’s By-Laws have been researched to assure that all by-laws that need to be updated will be updated.

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Mr. Wong</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Clough</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ms. Saint André</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Arsondiadis</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Mauro</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Ms. Thomas</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Cole</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. McKenna</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**The motion for STM Article 3 passed 8-0-0.**

**STM – Article 5 – Special Tax Agreement with The Phia Group**

**A motion made by Mr. Mauro to recommend to Special Town Meeting Article 5 for the BOS to enter into a Special Tax Agreement (STA) with The Phia Group was seconded by Ms. Thomas.**

Mr. Scollins explained that the BOS negotiated an STA with The Phia Group for a 30-40% tax reduction in the first year for the company moving from Braintree to Canton to occupy the former LoJack headquarters. Approximately 140 employees would be employed by The Phia Group. The BOS is in support of this STA and recommended it at their BOS meeting on April 28. Mr. Mauro stated that the Economic Development Committee has not met since the COVID-19 pandemic and, therefore, has not taken a position on this agreement.

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Ms. Thomas</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Mauro</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Arsondiadis</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Ms. Saint André</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Clough</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Wong</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Cole</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. McKenna</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**The motion for STM Article 5 passed 8-0-0.**

**STM – Article 6 – Bolivar Pool Project Funds Appropriation**

Mr. Scollins stated that the Town Administrator had been looking for clarity on the budget for the Bolivar Pool project and to make sure that the project was not running over budget because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Bolivar Pool project is staying within budget, unlike the Rink project which is currently running over budget. The pool project has \$450,000 in contingencies.

**A motion made by Mr. Mauro that the subject matter of STM Article 6 be indefinitely postpone was seconded by Ms. Thomas.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Ms. Thomas</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Mauro</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Arsondiadis</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Ms. Saint André</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Clough</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Wong</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Cole</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. McKenna</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**The motion for STM Article 6 passed 8-0-0.**

**STM – Article 7 – Grant of Utility Easement to Verizon at 199 Bolivar Street**

**A motion made by Mr. Mauro that STM Article 7 be recommended to STM as written in the STM warrant was seconded by Mr. Arsondiadis.** Mr. Scollins stated that this easement was required to accommodate for the pool renovations.

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Ms. Thomas</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Mauro</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Arsondiadis</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Ms. Saint André</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Clough</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Wong</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Cole</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. McKenna</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**The motion for STM Article 7 passed 8-0-0.**

**STM Article 8 – Additional Recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee: Canton Emergency Rental Assistance Program**

**A motion made by Mr. Mauro that STM Article 8 be recommended to STM as written in the STM warrant was seconded by Mr. Wong.**

Mr. Scollins stated that STM Article 8 was a noble gesture by the Community Preservation Committee to recommend approximately \$52,000 of rental relief to be administered by a non-profit company but funds to be distributed for people in private house rental units.

Mr. Scollins recommended to the Finance Committee that they delay their vote on Article 8 until the BOS has vetted the article and work out any technicalities. STM Article 8 could be taken up at the next Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Scollins further stated that the legality of this article needs to be worked out. Anti Aid Amendment in Massachusetts prohibits public funds being used for private purposes. He explained that the process being proposed would be the payment of an administration fee to a company to administer the funds for private owners of rental properties. The intent is great but may be in conflict with the Anti Aid Amendment.

Mr. Scollins recommended that the Finance Committee look to Town Counsel for an opinion on STM Article 8 and consider the position to be taken by the BOS at their upcoming meeting on May 12.

**The Finance Committee did not take action on STM Article 8.**

Mr. Mauro stated that it would be helpful to have someone from CPA at the next Finance Committee meeting to discuss STM Article 8.

**ATM – Article 54 Motion 1 – Vote to Transfer Available Funds**

Mr. Scollins recommended to the Finance Committee that three line items be reduced as follows:

- Transfer from Ambulance Service to Fire Department be reduced from \$1.1 million to \$900,000.
- Transfer from Solar Facility to Town-wide Electricity be reduced from \$465,521 to \$365,521.
- Transfer from School Food Service to Health Insurance be reduced from \$160,500 to \$0.

**A motion made by Ms. Saint André that ATM Article 54 Motion 1 be recommended to Annual Town Meeting as printed in the agenda dated April 30 was seconded by Ms. Thomas.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Ms. Thomas</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Mauro</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Arsondiadis</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Ms. Saint André</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Clough</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Wong</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Cole</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. McKenna</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**The motion for ATM Article 54 Motion 1 passed 8-0-0.**

**Public Comments** - There were no public comments.

**Announcements** – There were no announcements at the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes** - There were no minutes approved.

**Next Meeting Date:** May 13, 2020.

Items to be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting included:

- Voting final budgets.
- Discussion of warrant narratives and revisit write ups.
- STM Article 8 – Discuss and vote.
- Article 32 – Revisit Article 32 - Appropriation for removal of Weeds and Nuisance Vegetation at Old Shephard Pond.
- Annual Audit – Discussion with Town Auditors before the Town Meeting.

**Adjournment:** A motion made by Ms. Saint André to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 p.m. was seconded by Ms. Thomas.

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Ms. Thomas</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Mauro</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Arsondiadis</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Ms. Saint André</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Clough</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Wong</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Cole</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. McKenna</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**The motion to adjourn at 9:29 p.m. passed 8-0-0.**

Minutes reviewed by: Committee Members

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy McKenna  
Chair, Canton Finance Committee



**Canton Finance Committee Meeting  
April 30, 2020**

**Please note: Some meeting documents may be found on the Town's website under the Posted Minutes section (Laser Fiche).**

**For information regarding department budget requests please follow the below link:**

<https://www.town.canton.ma.us/DocumentCenter/View/5658/FY21-Municipal-Budget---Dept-Requests---Jan-2020>

Agenda for April 30, 2020. (5 pages, includes drafts for various ATM articles).

Copy of STM warrant voted by the BOS on April 28, 2020.