

Justin Paré, President
John Simmons, Vice President
Daniel Donovan
Mark Gould, Jr.
Darius Gregory



Kathleen Prescott
Patrick Reynolds
Andrew Shanahan
Andrea Slobogan

Town of North Attleborough

TOWN COUNCIL

43 South Washington Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760

Phone: (508) 699-0100

1/26/2023 - Minutes

I. Roll Call

Vice-President Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:02PM and lead the Committee and other guests present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present :

Vice-President Simmons
Councilor Prescott
Councilor Gould
Chris Shamp
Craig Cameron

Members Absent:

Councilor Prescott
Councilor Reynolds
Craig Cameron

Staff Present :

Town Manager Michael Borg
Assistant Town Manager Antonio Morabito
Clerk of the Council Kerrin Billinghoff
Town Accountant Linda Catanzariti
Park and Recreation Director Stephen Carvalho
Council on Aging Director Pam Hunt

Residents Present :

Councilor Daniel Donovan
Joe Viola of the JABA Walkers
Diane Landry member of Senior Center
Sandy Mann of Friends of North Attleboro Council on Aging
Earnestine Ostaline member of Senior Center

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED :

- Minutes from the December 12, 2022 Finance Sub-Committee Meeting

- Measure 2023-032- Approval of Transfer of Funds from FY23 Free Cash for a Big Red Bus

II. Pledge Of Allegiance

III. Approval Of Minutes

- a. Approval of Finance Sub-Committee Minutes of December 12, 2022

Councilor Gould moved to approve the December 12, 2022, Finance Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

Chris Shamp seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3-0-1.

IV. Town Councilor Community Announcements

Nothing to report at this time

V. Resident And Community Comment

Nothing to report at this time

VI. Old Business

None at this time

VII. New Business

- a. Measure 2023-032- Approval of Transfer of Funds from FY23 Free Cash for a Big Red Bus

Purpose and Justification:

Request for a Transfer from FY23 Free Cash for the purchase of a Big Red Bus for the Town of North Attleboro

Town of North Attleboro received a grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation from State Representative Adam Scanlon's Office. \$50,000 was appropriated to help purchase a bus for the community. The cost of a 2022 twenty-two passenger bus with wheelchair capability is \$155,00.00 delivered to North Attleboro (this includes approximately \$10,000 to wrap it). The grant funds need to be sent by June of this year.

Amount for Bus: \$155,000.00
To Wrap the Bus: \$10,000.00
Bus Total: \$165,00.00

Grant from Mass DOT \$50,000.00
Balance to be funded from FY23 Free Cash- \$115,000.00

Town Manager Borg explained the measure to the Committee and presented photos of the bus.

- This bus would be a Multi-Departmental Bus servicing Veterans, Seniors, Park and Recreation Program Participants, and various departments such as the School Department.
- This bus is not a replacement for GATRA. Would not run on a circular route.
- Is handicapped accessible.
- Does require a COL Operator License
- DPW will provide maintenance for the vehicle.
- Between the Seniors and Park & Recreation, they will provide a driver.
- Will help the community support our Veterans and Seniors.
- Can take Veterans to the VA Hospital on scheduled days.
- Seniors can go on filed trips into Boston, to the beach, art museums, and walking trails.
- Bus will reside at Park and Recreation for the time being.
- Bus will be wrapped to celebrate our community.

Park and Recreation Director Steve Carvalho was in attendance to explain to the Committee just how important this bus will be to the community and answer any questions the Committee may have had. He explained the history of the "Old Big Red Bus" and that when it broke down it had never been replaced. It was used by the Seniors and Park & Recreation. The new bus will be smaller than Big Red, but much better because it is handicapped accessible/ AD compliant. The community is in desperate need for this bus.

Councilors had questions about the bus:

- Would some of the fees for programs be allocated for bus fees?
 - Fees will be added to the programs to cover the costs of the gas and paying the driver.
- What is the make and model of the bus?
 - 2021 Ford 450 and will hold 22-24 passengers.
 - Under 10,000 miles
 - Has up to a 100,000-mile warranty (Ford warranty)

Council on Aging Director Pam Hunt was in attendance to address the Committee and let them know how important this bus is to the Council on Aging. The seniors love to go on trips and many do not like to drive long distances so many times they carpool, but having a bus would be a great option and then the seniors won't have to drive. The seniors love to travel in a group and this will give them that opportunity. Ms. Hunt thanked the Committee for their consideration.

There were seniors in attendance speaking on behalf of all of the members of the Senior Center and how much they would love and utilize this bus. By having a bus:

- Seniors can travel in a group.
- Safety Issue by eliminating an additional 22 cars on the road, they can all go in one bus.
- JABA walkers will use this bus to travel to different walking trails out of Town.
- Seniors would be able to attend many more events.

They all thanked the Committee for their consideration.

Vice-President Simmons noted that member Craig Cameron could not be in attendance, but wanted everyone to know that he was not in favor of using free cash for a new Big

Red Bus due to high initial purchasing costs, additional carrying costs and compounded by a low utilization factor (e.g. total costs / # of uses = super high costs per trip). I would be more inclined to establish a rental agreement with a local busing Company to meet any needs. This way any transportation costs could be either directly or partially charged to those receiving the benefit (Perhaps a cost sharing arrangement) and the Town would not be responsible for costs of keeping the Bus parked in a parking lot somewhere not being used.

There was discussion amongst the Committee, and they were all in agreement that this bus would be great for the entire community as well as the seniors. The Town will not just be giving something to the seniors but rather giving something back to them that they had already had.

Councilor Gould made a motion to refer back to the Full Town Council with a favorable recommendation measure 2023-032- Approval of Transfer of Funds form FY23 Free Cash for a Big Red Bus.

John Porter seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0.

VIII. Adjournment

Councilor Gould made a motion to adjourn.

John Porter seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0. UNANIMOUS

Meeting adjourned at 7:47PM.