

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: June 28, 2023

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Norma Scogin, Chair Pro Tem
Matt Rose, Clerk
Julie Moran
Joseph Smith
Tom Worthen
Gerald Stefanski
Dominic Cammarano
Heidi Churchill

III. FINANCE COMMITTEE MATTERS

Ms. Scogin introduced the newest FinCom member, Heidi Churchill.

A. Approval of meeting minutes (NONE)

B. Vote to appoint Gerald Stefanski as FinCom representative to the Capital Planning Committee

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to appoint Mr. Stefanski as the FinCom representative to the Capital Planning Committee. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (8-0-0)

C. Presentation, discussion & possible vote on WPCF/Sewer Commission July 24, 2023 Special Town Meeting articles – Bernie Pigeon, Sewer Commission Chair

Present before the FinCom: Bernie Pigeon, Sewer Commission Chair
Jim Giberti, Sewer Commission Vice Chair
Derek Sullivan, Town Administrator

Ms. Scogin noted the five Special Town Meeting Warrant articles pertaining to the WPCF.

Mr. Pigeon provided specific information relative to sewer in Town, for example the amount of pump stations, sewer lines, what the WPCF handles in sewage

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Mr. Pigeon explained funds being requested in the articles are meant to maintain the level at the current reliability of the plant. This will entail replacing the headwaters & clarifiers. The life expectancy of the buildings are 50 years & 25 years for the mechanical component (namely the plant). The last plant upgrade was in 2005.

Article 1 – Replace Headworks & Clarifiers

Mr. Pigeon briefly noted the function of clarifiers & headworks. Mr. Giberti discussed the importance of replacing the headworks & clarifiers, issues w/ disposal of sludge & how it is being handled currently. Mr. Pigeon noted the positive aspects of new clarifier & how it will be more efficient. There are some funding loans/sources that the Town may qualify for. He explained why the current headworks & clarifiers are inefficient. It was noted that the existing headworks & clarifiers would stay in place to provide redundancy.

Mr. Sullivan spoke re: the agreement w/ the Town of Bourne & their current sewer usage.

Mr. Sullivan addressed the estimated costs for said project & the Town of Bourne's portion. The estimated debt service cost is \$1.35 million, but there are other large proposed projects. The debt service would be borne by the sewer users (Enterprise Fund).

Brief discussion ensued re: the contract agreement w/ the Town of Bourne. Mr. Sullivan noted he doesn't see DEP letting the Town get out of the agreement w/ Bourne.

Mr. Giberti noted discharge into the Agawam River & other options being looked at for discharge. He spoke re: need for regionalization of sewer & possible discharge into the canal. There is a need to see where the Town is now & look out 50 years.

Mr. Pigeon briefly discussed nitrogen issues.

Brief discussion ensued re: how many household sewer users will be impacted by this project. Mr. Pigeon noted it is approx. 6,000 households. Mr. Sullivan stated EDU's will be used to determine cost per household. Cost of debt service would be about \$135 per EDU per year but that might be accomplished without raising rates.

Discussion ensued re: SRF funding, loans & timeframes/deadlines for the project. Brief discussion ensued re: un-used gallonage & commitments for gallonage.

Article 2 – Rescind Article 15 of the 2022 Spring Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Pigeon explained the intent of the article is to abandon the failed gravity system & replace w/ a system that requires grinder pumps which has now been cancelled.

Article 3 – Engineering Plan for Swifts Beach Sewer Lines into Ruggles Pump Station
Article 5 – Amend Article 15 of the 2022 Spring Town Meeting Warrant

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Mr. Pigeon stated the engineering plan would be generated to address the existing problems vs. upgrading the system as proposed. Article 5 proposes to amend language from previous Article 15 which he read into the record. The estimated cost for said engineering plan is \$3 million. He stated these articles accomplish in a more appropriate manner the objective of Article 3 originally. He feels Article 5 is better phrased for the objective. He stated the issue w/ Wankinquoah Ave. is separate from this issue. Mr. Sullivan briefly discussed the bids for Wankinquoah Ave. & DEP approval. He discussed where funds will come from (Federal funds) for this project. He noted the \$3 million cost for Article 3 will come from borrowing.

Article 4 – Transfer of Retained Earnings

Mr. Pigeon explained an issue w/ transferring monies from one fiscal year to another since this matter was first addressed. He stated this article may have to be passed over. Mr. Sullivan stated retained earnings are the equivalent of Free Cash at the end of the fiscal year. These funds need to be certified & most likely won't be certified until October. This article can be handled at the October Town Meeting or from other available funds.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved Favorable Action on Article 1 of the July 24, 2023 Special Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (8-0-0)

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved Favorable Action on Article 2 of the July 24, 2023 Special Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (8-0-0)

Brief discussion ensued re: the intent of Articles 2 & 5. Mr. Sullivan stated Article 2 is to rescind & Article 5 is to amend.

Present before the FinCom: Judith Whiteside, Select Board Chair

Ms. Whiteside feels Article 5 should come first before Article 2. She stated the Select Board can direct the Town Moderator to place Article 5 first. Brief discussion ensued.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to reconsider Article 2 of the July 24, 2023 Special Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Moran seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (8-0-0)

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved Favorable Action on Article 2 of the July 24, 2023 Special Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

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Brief discussion ensued re: need for clarification on Articles 2, 3 & 5.

VOTE: (0-7-1)

Mr. Worthen abstained

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved Favorable Action on Article 3 of the July 24, 2023 Special Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (0-8-0)

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved Favorable Action on Article 4 of the July 24, 2023 Special Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Rose seconded.

VOTE: (0-7-1)

Mr. Cammarano abstained

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved Favorable Action on Article 5 of the July 24, 2023 Special Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (8-0-0)

i. Public comment at the discretion of the Chair

No-one came forward for public comment.

D. Discussion & vote on end of year transfers – Derek Sullivan, Town Administrator

Mr. Sullivan explained two year-end transfers. One is for the WPCF in the amount of \$200,000 from salaries to expenses. The second is for legal expenses in the amount of \$8,000.

MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved to approve the two budget year-end transfers as described by Mr. Sullivan. Ms. Moran seconded.

Mr. Sullivan discussed departmental “turn-backs” at the end of the fiscal year.

VOTE: Unanimous (8-0-0)

E. Update on preparation for July 24, 2023 Special Town Meeting

Ms. Scogin has started drafting the report & the FinCom has now voted on the articles. She spoke to the Town Moderator about what is to be included in the report. Brief discussion ensued.

F. Conflict of Interest certification reminder

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Brief discussion ensued re: members finalizing their certification.

G. July 12, 2023 reorganization reminder

Brief discussion ensued.

IV. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Unanticipated Items)

The FinCom members thanked Mr. Worthen for his service on the FinCom.

V. NEXT MEETING DATE & TIME

The next FinCom meeting will be held on July 12, 2023 at 6:30 P.M.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

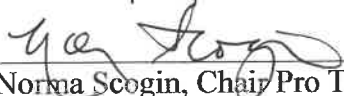
MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 P.M. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (8-0-0)

Referenced Documents:

1. Votes of FinCom/Selectboard for July 24, 2023 Special Town Meeting Warrant (Grid)
2. July 24, 2023 Special Town Meeting Warrant
3. Town of Wareham FY23 Municipal Relief Year-End Transfers

Date signed: 7/12/2023

Attest: 
Norma Scogin, Chair Pro Tem
WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date copy submitted to Wareham Town Clerk: 7/13/2023

