

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Date of Meeting: October 2, 2019**

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 P.M.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Bernie Pigeon, Chairman  
David Heard, Vice Chairman  
Tom Worthen  
Stuart Novick  
Joe Smith  
Pat Runney  
Dominic Cammarano

Member Absent: Glenn Lawrence  
Gerry Stefanski

**III. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**

No-one came forward for Citizens Participation.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 25, 2019**

**MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved to approve the meeting minutes of September 25, 2019. Mr. Smith seconded.**

**VOTE: (6-0-1)  
Mr. Heard abstained**

**V. FINANCE COMMITTEE MATTERS**

**A. 2019 Fall Town Meeting:**

**1. Review of 2019 Fall Town Meeting Warrant.**

**a. Article 9 – McKinney-Vento Funds & Article 10 – Transfer Monies to Wareham Public Schools Fund.**

Present before the FinCom: Andrea Shamo, Assistant Superintendent  
Michael Flaherty, School Committee  
Joyce Bacchiocchi, School Committee

Article 9 – McKinney-Vento Funds

Mr. Pigeon stated this article will be included in the Consent Agenda at Town Meeting.

#### Article 10 –Transfer Monies to Wareham Public Schools Fund

Discussion ensued re: the accounts money was put into & accounts where the School Dept. wants to place un-spent account monies.

Mr. Cammarano clarified that these are accounts w/ money in them that was not spent. Ms. Shamo stated the monies that were placed in the accounts were estimates for the cost of a particular item/project. She noted the attempts to get the correct amount appropriated. She explained that the costs for particular items/projects were less than what was estimated.

Mr. Heard explained the original article funding for these items came from Free Cash. Mr. Smith feels it may not be legal to do what is being asked by the School Dept. Mr. Pigeon added that many of these were capital improvements. Ms. Bacchiocchi stated Town Counsel was at the BOS meeting & Town Counsel stated as long as there was no borrowing involved, this is alright to do.

Mr. Worthen stated this money is in excess of the budgeting for the items. He feels this money should go back to the Town since Town Meeting only voted for specific items/budget & not for what is being requested now. Thus, the School Dept. is looking for an adjustment to the current year's budget. Mr. Pigeon feels this request could be precedent setting. Mr. Cammarano feels the School Dept. is being punished for being frugal. He stated they saved money where they could have spent all of it.

Ms. Bacchiocchi stated they are looking to put money in a category/account, not the general account. She noted there are always unexpected expenses.

Discussion ensued.

**MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved Favorable Action on Article 10 of the 2019 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Rumney seconded.**

**VOTE: (2-5-0)**

**Mr. Worthen, Mr. Smith, Mr. Pigeon, Mr. Novick & Mr. Heard opposed**

**b. Discussion on any other Town Meeting Warrant articles.**

**2. Vote on Town Meeting Warrant articles.**

#### Article 5 – FY19 Unpaid Bills

**MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved to refer Article 5 of the 2019 Fall Town Meeting Warrant to Town Meeting for a decision. Mr. Smith seconded.**

**VOTE: Unanimous (7-0-0)**

## Article 7 – Union Contracts

Mr. Novick asked that the Town Administrator summarize the Union contracts & what has changed since last year. Mr. Cammarano concurred. Mr. Pigeon stated there are several contracts that may be completed prior to Town Meeting.

## Article 14 – CPC: Shangri-La Playground Build

Mr. Smith stated he would like to see a plan & a budget for this project.

**MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved Favorable Action on Article 14 of the 2019 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Novick seconded.**

Brief discussion ensued re: maintenance & commitments from neighbors to maintain the playground.

Mr. Smith stated he is not against the project, but he would have liked more information. Mr. Worthen feels the amount being requested for this project is too much. He is for the playground, but against the amount. Mr. Heard suggested citizens come forward & speak w/ the FinCom as to what they would like to see so that this article passes. Mr. Pigeon doesn't want to discourage in-kind & volunteers committed to this project. Discussion continued.

**VOTE: (6-1-0)  
Mr. Worthen opposed**

## Article 10 – Transfer Monies to Wareham Public Schools Fund

Mr. Novick doesn't understand why this is a procedural issue. Lengthy discussion ensued w/ various opinions re: this article.

- 3. Review FinCom Warrant article recommendations.**
- 4. Discussion: Assembly of Warrant.**

### **B. Any other Finance Committee matters.**

Mr. Pigeon discussed the proposed Wareham Congress. He explained there is an idea of putting together a congress of committees so everyone is on the same page. He stated Mr. Richard Swenson has asked to come talk to the FinCom at some point re: this matter.

Mr. Pigeon stated that the MA Municipal Association is having their annual breakfast on October 26, 2019 at Bridgewater State University from 9:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. He will forward the details to the FinCom members if they are interested in attending.

- VI. LIAISON REPORTS**
- VII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Unanticipated Items)**

**VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE & TIME**

The next FinCom meeting will be held on October 28, 2019 at 6:30 in the High School Cafeteria.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Mr. Cammarano moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 P.M. Mr. Novick seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous (7-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Barrasso  
Kelly Barrasso, Transcriptionist

Date signed: 1/15/20

Attest: Bernie Pigeon (KB)  
Bernie Pigeon, Chairman  
WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date copy sent to Town Clerk: 1/21/20