

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: February 26, 2020

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Bernie Pigeon, Chair
David Heard, Vice Chair
Tom Worthen
Glenn Lawrence
Joe Smith
Gerald Stefanski
Dominic Cammarano (Arrived at 6:50 P.M.)

Members Absent: Stuart Novick
Pat Rumney

III. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES: FEBRUARY 5, 2020

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to approve the meeting minutes of February 5, 2020. Mr. Stefanski seconded.

**VOTE: (5-0-1)
Mr. Heard abstained**

IV. FINANCE COMMITTEE MATTERS

- A. Review & discussed 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant articles & proposed 2020 Special Town Meeting Warrant articles.**
- 1. Article 16 – Harbor Services Permit Receipts Reserved for Appropriations Account & proposed Special Town Meeting Warrant article: Harbor Services Permit Receipts Reserve for Appropriations Account.**

Present before the FinCom: Gary Buckminster, Director of Natural Resources

Mr. Buckminster explained Article 16 is looking to transfer \$24,755.00 from the Harbor Services Permits Receipts for Appropriations Account to be transferred to the Harbormaster's Maintenance & Improvements Account. The breakdown is as follows:

- Vehicle Lease Payment - \$22,140.00
- Onset Floating Dock Project Bond Anticipated Note - \$2,615.00

The proposed Special Town Meeting article is looking to transfer \$15,584.00 from the Harbor Services Permits Receipts Reserved for Appropriations Account to be transferred to the Harbormaster's Maintenance & Improvement Account. The breakdown is as follows:

- Vessel Dockage - \$4,000.00
- Onset Floating Dock Project Bond Anticipated Note - \$3,784.00
- Outboard Motor Replacement - \$7,800.00

Mr. Buckminster discussed vessel dockage & why it is needed.

Mr. Buckminster discussed the Onset Floating Dock project repayment. He noted this will be to pay back the Town Treasurer's Dept. because they paid the bond note.

Mr. Buckminster discussed the outboard motor replacement & why it is needed.

Mr. Buckminster briefly discussed the vehicle lease payment & the Onset Floating Dock note.

2. Article 15 – Community Preservation: FY2021 Fund Reserves & proposed Special TM Warrant article: Westfield Girls Softball Field Upgrades.

Present before the FinCom: Sandy Slavin, CPC Chair

Carl Troupe, President of Wareham Girls Softball

Ms. Slavin explained Article 15 & stated that the CPC is required by law to reserve at least 10% of the fiscal year's estimated revenue for historical preservation, affordable housing & open space grants & to allocate 5% of this estimated revenue for its administration expenses. The FY2021 estimated revenue is \$1,000,000.00. The total being requested under this article is \$350,000.00.

Ms. Slavin discussed the percentage the State pays which varies. The more towns that join, the State contribution rate goes down. She noted that at the end of FY19, the amount of uncommitted & undesignated monies was \$1.7 million.

Brief discussion ensued re: the status of the Onset Band Shell project. Ms. Slavin stated the money was distributed for this project, but she is not sure of what the status is. She stated the project was approved at the Fall 2018 Town Meeting for \$330,000.00. She noted that \$2.6 million in projects have been committed, but not yet completed.

Ms. Slavin spoke re: the proposed Special TM Warrant article re: the Westfield Girls Softball Field upgrades. She stated the organization requested \$40,000.00, but the CPC approved only \$30,000.00. The breakdown of the \$30,000.00 is as follows:

- \$7,100.00 for a mower
- \$9,000.00 for two (2) storage units
- \$2,000.00 for a gate for emergency access to the field
- \$11,900.00 for upgrades to the softball field mix & the diamonds

NOTE: Mr. Cammarano arrived at this time.

Mr. Troupe stated that last year, 101 girls participated in the softball league & the fields are used almost every day. The league hosts girls from kindergarten through 8th grade.

Mr. Troupe stated the league currently leases storage containers that impacts their budget. He noted the mower being used currently to maintain the field is too old.

Discussion ensued re: what type of mower is being looked at to purchase & quotes received.

- 3. Article 17 – Charter Amendment: Appointed Town Clerk**
- Article 18 – Charter Amendment: Add Sewer Commissioners to/as Elected Officials**
- Article 19 – Charter Amendment: Delete Board of Road Commissioners**

Present before the ConCom: Judy Whiteside, Charter Review Committee
Bob Fitchtenmeyer, Charter Review Committee

Ms. Whiteside gave a brief overview of the Charter Review Committee. She noted that there will be other Charter amendments forthcoming for the Fall Town Meeting.

Ms. Whiteside discussed Article 18 which would add the Sewer Commissioners as elected officials.

Ms. Whiteside discussed Article 19 which would delete the Road Commissioners. She explained that under Chapter 40 of the MA General Laws, the Board of Selectmen are the Road Commissioners. The previous Charter Review Committee thought the duties could be handled more efficiently by a separate commission. As the needs of the Town have grown, it has become apparent that the day-to-day business of the roads of Wareham cannot be addressed in a timely fashion during one monthly meeting. As a result, the Director of Assessors & the Town Planner have developed a process for responding to the day-to-day needs. Therefore, the Charter Review Committee recommends the responsibility be returned to the Board of Selectmen by amending the Charter in this fashion.

Ms. Whiteside discussed Article 17 – Appointed Town Clerk

Ms. Whiteside explained that the Town Clerk's function is not a policy setting position. There is a need to have someone that is qualified in this position, not just someone who gets the most votes. She discussed the Town of Fairhaven & their reasons for having the Clerk's position be appointed. She discussed the positive aspects of having the Town Clerk's position be an appointed position. She also noted the present Town Clerk endorses this change 100%.

Ms. Whiteside discussed the format changes to the Charter going forward. She spoke re: a potential Special TM Warrant article. She noted one change that will come forward is omitting language in the Charter to cover an elected Collector to an appointed Treasurer/Collector. She noted this section of the Charter is not appropriate today.

4. Any other Town Meeting articles.

B. 2020 Spring Town Meeting schedule:

1. March 12, 2020 – Last day to submit Special Town Meeting Warrant articles.
2. March 17, 2020 – BOS to close Special Town Meeting Warrant
3. March 18, 2020 – FinCom to receive Special Town Meeting Warrant
4. April 27, 2020 – Town Meeting.

C. Any other Town Meeting matters.

D. Any other FinCom matters.

V. LIAISON REPORTS

VI. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Unanticipated Items)

Discussion ensued re: grants the School Dept. receives which is not seen in the budget, but is only shown in the audited financial reports. Mr. Cammarano feels the School Dept./School Committee needs to bring this information forward.

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE & TIME

The next FinCom meeting will be held on March 4, 2020.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 P.M. Mr. Heard seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (7-0-0)

Date signed: 3/4/20

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

Date copy sent to Town Clerk: 3/5/20