

TOWN OF WAREHAM
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

JULY 24, 2023

Town meeting was held in at the Wareham Elementary School Cafetorium and called to order by Town Moderator Margaret Ishihara at 7:00 pm at the Wareham Elementary School Cafetorium, 63 Minot Avenue, Wareham, MA. Confirmation of a quorum and pledge of allegiance was recited.

Counters: Priscilla Porter, Christine Smith, Howard Smith and Peter DiPasqua were sworn in prior to the start of the meeting.

Attendance: 90

Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda for articles 2, 3 and 4
Passed unanimously by majority vote

CONSENT AGENDA

I move that the Town:

Pass over Article # 2 – Rescind Article 15, 2022 Spring Town Meeting;

Pass over Article # 3 – Engineering Plan Swift's Beach Sewer Lines into Ruggles Pump Station;

Pass over Article # 4 – Transfer of Retained Earnings.

Article 2 – Rescind Article 15 2022 Spring Town Meeting

To see if the town vote to rescind Article 15 from the 2022 Annual Spring Town Meeting, in the amount of \$3,000,000 (3 million) for the Replacement Swifts Beach Sewer Lines to Ruggles Pump Station, or to do or act in any manner relative thereto

Passed Over in Consent Agenda

Article 3 – Engineering Plan – Swift's Beach Sewer Lines into Ruggles Pump Station

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$300,000. (three hundred thousand dollars) for engineering plans for the repair of the failed gravity sewer lines; including, but not limited to repair and/or replacement and/or lining of sewer lines and related structural systems on Wankinquoah Ave., Murphy St., Columbia St., Barnes St., Pleasant St. and Bayview Ave., as well as the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this amount shall be transferred from available funds, borrowing or otherwise, or to do or act in any manner relative thereto.

Passed Over in Consent Agenda

Article 4 – Transfer of Retained Earnings

To see if the Town appropriate \$1,100,000 (one million one hundred thousand dollars) from FY23 Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) FY23 Certified Retained Earnings to fund the non-State Revolving Fund loan portion of the WPCF plant upgrades that were approved under Article 18 of the December 14, 2020, Town Meeting, or to do or act in any manner relative thereto.

Passed Over in Consent Agenda

Motion was made to move Article 5 Certification to Moderator

I move that the Board vote, pursuant to bylaws Division 1, Article 1, Section 2, to certify that Article 5, amend Article 15 from the 2022 Spring Town Meeting, should be taken up immediately, prior to Article 1.

Explanation: Article 5, amend Article 15 from the 2022 Spring Town Meeting – may have important fiscal consequences and should be heard first.

Select Board Vote:

Yes 5 No 0

Article 5: Amend Article 15 2022 Spring Town Meeting

I move that the town amend Article 15 from the 2022 Annual Spring Town Meeting by deleting, “to abandon the failed gravity system replacing it with a closed system with grinder pumps” and inserting “to repair and/or reline the sewer lines and related structural equipment” so that the approved article would now read: “I move that the Town appropriates the sum of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) to pay costs of a capital improvement project to repair and/or reline the sewer lines and related structural equipment to Wankinquoah Ave, Murphy St, Columbia St, Barnes St, Pleasant St and Bayview Ave including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(1), §8(14), or pursuant to any other enabling authority. All or any portion of the borrowing authorized by this vote may be obtained through the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust established pursuant to G.L. c. 29C.”

Moderator declared passed 2/3 majority

Article 1:

I move that \$36,000,000 is appropriated for the purpose of financing the construction of the WPCF Clarifier Upgrade and Headworks Projects including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow \$36,000,000 and issue bonds or notes therefore under Chapter 44 of the General Laws and/or Chapter 29C of the General Laws; that such bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the Town unless the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board determines that they should be issued as limited obligations and may be secured by local system revenues as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C; that the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust established pursuant to Chapter 29C; and in connection therewith to enter into a financing agreement and/or security agreement with the Trust and otherwise to contract with the Trust and the Department of

Environmental Protection with respect to such loan and for any federal or state aid available for the project or for the financing thereof; that the Select Board, or their designee, is authorized to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, to expend all funds available for the project and to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out the project.

Madam Moderator asked Marc Drainville, consultant at GHD if he would speak to the body on this article.

Many voters raised questions and concerns. After much discussion with the voters, a motion was made by Jared Chadwick to move the question and was seconded. Vote to move the question passed. A motion was then made by Peter Teitelbaum to amend article 1, by deleting "be general obligations of the Town unless the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board determines that they should" and changing may to shall. The vote on article 1 as amended failed. There was more discussion, a vote to move the question was made by Alan Slavin and seconded. Vote to move the question passed. Vote was taken on the original article.

Vote on Article 1

DEFEATED 48 YES, 30 NO

Motion made and seconded to dissolve Special Town Meeting approved unanimously at 8:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Debra A. Gremo, Town Clerk