

## **MINUTES OF MEETING OF WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Date of Meeting: October 11, 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  
Matt Rose  
Heidi Churchill  
Julie Moran  
Gerald Stefanski  
Dominic Cammarano

Member Absent: Joseph Smith

### **III. FINANCE COMMITTEE MATTERS**

#### **A. Presentation/discussion of Fall Town Meeting Article 5 – Union Contracts – Derek Sullivan, Town Administrator**

To be handled later in the meeting.

#### **B. Presentation/discussion of Fall Town Meeting Article 26 – Construction Cost for WPCF Projects – Bernie Pigeon, Sewer Commission Chair, and others**

Also Present: Jim Giberti, Sewer Commission member  
Sarah Greenberg, Consultant

Ms. Greenberg proceeded to make a presentation re: Article 26 – Headworks & Clarifiers upgrade & specifically approving the borrowing for said project.

Ms. Greenberg discussed the following:

- Equipment at WPCF is at 20-year life expectancy.
- Top needs are headworks & clarifier upgrades.
- Treatment processes at the WPCF from start to finish.
- Headworks upgrade, headworks process, failure of existing headworks, loss of revenue due to failure & unnecessary costs.
- Clarifiers upgrade, clarifier process, clarifiers do not meet current design standards, failure of existing clarifiers & images of working & broken clarifiers.
- Criticality of facility permits.
- Cost of remedial measures re: city of Quincy in the amount of \$100 million.

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- Urgency of how much the upgrades are needed at the WPCF.
- WPCF upgrades are not a band-aid, but a foundation for future growth as part of planning efforts.
- What is also needed at the plant as part of the centralized Wareham WPCF upgrades (treatment only) in phases. Current article is Phase II.
- What upgrades for Article 26 include, costs & how the project will be paid for.
- Proposed schedule for project (as required by SRF funding cycle).

Discussion ensued re: funding for project, including SRF funding, expansion of treatment, need for additional sites & alternatives for extra flow, plans for the existing WPCF building, new clarifiers & re-purposing the existing clarifiers, reduction of extra maintenance needs at plant re: project, project will aid in not exceeding permit limits on discharge & funding sources/funding eligibility.

Ms. Greenberg stated the Comprehensive Wastewater Plan should be completed by the end of this year.

Brief discussion ensued re: idea for a new plant while using the existing plant & lengthy timeframes/process for a new plant.

Brief discussion ensued re: revenue/funding for project & EDU's.

**NOTE: The meeting went back to item III. Finance Committee Matters – a. Presentation/discussion of Fall Town Meeting Article 5 – Union Contracts – Derek Sullivan, Town Administrator.**

Mr. Sullivan discussed two union contracts for the Sergeants Union & Superior Officers union. Contracts are for three years. He touched on the specifics of the contracts, such as sick time, vacation time, annual stipends & body cameras.

Mr. Sullivan briefly discussed another aspect of the contracts deal w/ potential rescinding of civil service.

Mr. Sullivan briefly discussed salary schedules/increases.

Brief discussion ensued re: body cameras.

**C. Presentation/discussion of Fall Town Meeting Article 28 – Accept Candle Paper Lane – Roger Mello for Petitioner**

Mr. Mello explained when he purchased his property, it was a new development & there were certain requirements he had to follow to build a home there. When he moved in, the sub-division was nearly complete, except for the final coating of the road. The Planning Board was holding a performance bond of \$35,000 for the project. A contractor came in & finished the final coating.

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A petition was then created to have the Town accept the road. The petition was lost, the developer moved on & another inspection was then required which was inspected by Mr. Rowley. It was then suggested by Mr. Barrett of the Planning Board to establish an Association.

Mr. Rose stated the Select Board had concerns re: the island, sidewalks, stormwater drainage & width of the roadway. Mr. Mello addressed the concerns.

Mr. Mello expressed concern re: how this development & road acceptance fell off the tracks.

Ms. Scogin stated Town Counsel has said that until the Select Board has accepted the plan, nothing can be done by the FinCom or Town Meeting. The Select Board has voted Further Study on this article.

Mr. Mello discussed different plans for a subdivision, which includes a development plan & an as-built plan. He explained the residents do not own the road. The road is owned by the developer.

Discussion ensued re: the details of the article & how to proceed.

**D. Presentation/discussion of Fall Town Meeting Article 1 – Gerald Stefanski, Capital Planning Committee Chair, and others**

Mr. Stefanski stated this article will be passed over because there is no Free Cash available at this time.

**E. Presentation/discussion of Ten-Year Capital Plan – Gerald Stefanski, Capital Planning Committee Chair**

Mr. Stefanski stated it is a five-year plan. He distributed the proposed five-year plan. He stated there are three components of the five-year plan: schools, Town departments & WPCF. He discussed the process for requesting items to be placed on the Capital Plan from the above noted entities. He noted various items from the three entities already in the Capital Plan.

**F. Discussion & possible votes on Fall Town Meeting Articles previously heard**

**MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved to pass over Articles 1 & 2 of the 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Moran seconded.**

**VOTE: Unanimous (6-0-0)**

**MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved Favorable Action on Article 3 of the 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Moran seconded.**

**VOTE: Unanimous (6-0-0)**

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**MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved Favorable Action on Article 4 of the 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Moran seconded.**

**VOTE: Unanimous (6-0-0)**

**MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved Favorable Action on Article 5 of the 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Moran seconded.**

**VOTE: Unanimous (6-0-0)**

**MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved Favorable Action on Article 13 of the 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Moran seconded.**

**VOTE: Unanimous (6-0-0)**

**MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved Favorable Action on Article 14 of the 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Moran seconded.**

**VOTE: Unanimous (6-0-0)**

**MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved Favorable Action on Articles 18-24 of the 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Moran seconded.**

**VOTE: Unanimous (6-0-0)**

**MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved to pass over Article 25 of the 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Rose seconded.**

**VOTE: Unanimous (6-0-0)**

**MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved Favorable Action on Article 26 of the 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Stefanski seconded.**

Discussion ensued re: concerns relative to this project & ramifications to the Town going forward if not approved.

**VOTE: (5-1-0)**

**Mr. Cammarano opposed**

**MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved Favorable Action on Article 27 of the 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Moran seconded.**

**VOTE: Unanimous (6-0-0)**

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**MOTION: Mr. Rose moved to refer Article 28 of the 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant to Town Meeting. Mr. Cammarano seconded.**

**VOTE: Unanimous (6-0-0)**

**G. Approval of transcriptionist, Kelly Barrasso contract**

Ms. Scogin noted amendments to the contract.

**MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved to approve the contract for Kelly Barrasso, Transcriptionist as amended. Mr. Stefanski seconded.**

**VOTE: Unanimous (6-0-0)**

**H. Discussion of plans for October Town Meeting Report**

Ms. Scogin discussed the cover for the Town Meeting Report & the printing of said report will be done in-house. All information should be submitted to Ms. Scogin by Friday.

Ms. Scogin noted FinCom recommendations assigned & outstanding recommendations due. Brief discussion ensued re: if the Capital Plan should be included in the Report.

**IV. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Unanticipated Items)**

Mr. Cammarano noted there are an additional 26 students from Wareham attending Upper Cape Cod Tech./Vocational School, thus, this will result in an increase to the Town's contribution.

**V. NEXT MEETING DATE & TIME**

The next FinCom meeting will be held on October 23, 2023, location TBD.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 P.M. Mr. Rose seconded.**

**VOTE: Unanimous (6-0-0)**

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**Referenced Documents:**

- Article 26 – Headworks & Clarifiers upgrade & borrowing (presentation/documentation)
- Five-year Capital Plan

Date signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Norma Scogin, Chair  
WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date copy submitted to Wareham Town Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_