

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

**Date of Meeting: February 9, 2022**

### **I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

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

### **II. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Bernie Pigeon, Chair  
Gerald Stefanski, Clerk  
Tom Worthen  
Matthew Rose  
Dominic Cammarano

Members Absent: David Heard  
Stuart Novick  
Joseph Smith

Also Present: Derek Sullivan, Town Administrator (Arrived 7:00 P.M.)

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

#### **A. Review Town Administrator's proposed Revenue and Expenses.**

Mr. Pigeon noted the Town Administrator's revenue & expenses are based on conservative projections. The Town Administrator is proposing a School Dept. budget of \$29,655,551.00.

#### **B. Review proposed School Committee Budget request.**

Present before the FinCom: Geoff Swett, School Committee  
Joyce Bacchiacci, School Committee  
Kimberly Shaver-Hood, Superintendent

Ms. Shaver-Hood stated the School Committee's proposed net budget is \$29,650,973. The nonnet proposed budget is \$2,425,823. The budget as a whole (net & non-net) is \$32,076,796. This equates to a 4% increase from this year's budget. Brief discussion ensued.

Ms. Shaver-Hood explained the budget contains contractual obligations. There is a reduction in supplies & staff included in this budget. Circuit breaker funds in the amount of \$800,000-\$900,000 will be used. There is an increased need for additional nursing for certain students & additional social workers. Additional teachers have been hired to cover the COVID lapse & additional bus drivers have been hired due to the driver shortage. A large amount of money is being paid for out-of-district students. There is an increase in students coming into

the district w/ significant needs. There is also a substitute teacher need. Student needs are reflected in the budget. There will be a need for reduction in staff. She discussed when ESER funding stops.

Ms. Shaver-Hood briefly discussed special needs staff, retirements, & shifts in positions. She stated there will be layoffs.

Mr. Swett stated the Superintendent has been asked to come back w/ a 3% increase vs. a 4% increase. The Decas School & the Multi-Service Center will be vacated w/ savings. There are also plans to vacate the East Wareham School. He noted planning for an ongoing basis between the Town & School Dept. The struggle will be eliminating \$1 million to \$1.5 million in a few years after the ESER money is done. He discussed three areas that will be reviewed in the next few years as follows: reduction in the administrative side of running the school system, special education and class sizes. Discussion ensued re: reviewing & possible potential cuts to these three areas.

Ms. Shaver-Hood explained reviewing services offered & making adjustments. Brief discussion ensued re: ESER money, its availability for next two years & what will happen after the two years. Brief discussion ensued re: grants received.

**NOTE: Mr. Sullivan arrived at this time.**

**C. Continued discussion of Special Town Meeting requests.**

Not handled.

**IV. LIAISON REPORTS**

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

Brief discussion ensued re: the golf course purchase.

Brief discussion ensued re: ESER monies.

**VI. NEXT MEETING DATE & TIME**

The next meeting will be held on February 23, 2022 for review of Departmental Budget requests. This is an all-day session which will be held in the Multi-Service Center, Selectmen meeting room.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: Mr. Stefanski moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 P.M. Mr. Cammarano seconded.**

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

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

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Bernie Pigeon, Chair WAREHAM  
FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date copy sent to Town Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

WAREHAM TOWN CLERK  
2023 JAN 17 PM2:31