

## MINUTES OF MEETING OF WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Date of Meeting: February 28, 2024**

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

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

### **II. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Norma Scogin  
Matt Rose  
Julie Moran  
Gerald Stefanski  
Joseph Smith  
Heidi Churchill

Member Absent: Dominic Cammarano

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

**A. Approval of meeting minutes: January 31, 2024 & February 8, 2024**

**NOTE:** Ms. Scogin stated no motion for approval of meeting minutes is required under Robert's Rules, unless there are corrections. There were no corrections to the above meeting minutes.

**B. Report of the Chair re: approval of payment for transcriptionist invoice in the amount of \$87.50**

Ms. Scogin reported she has submitted said invoice for payment.

**C. Approval of WB Mason invoice in the amount of \$99.98 for paper supplies to print the Fall Town Meeting Report**

**MOTION:** Mr. Smith moved to approve invoice from W.B. Mason in the amount of \$99.98 for printing supplies used for the Fall Town Meeting Report. Ms. Moran seconded.

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

**D. Overview of Annual Town Meeting Warrant & anticipated schedule for consideration by Finance Committee**

Ms. Scogin spoke re: the Annual Town Meeting Warrant that she forwarded to all members.

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**E. Presentation of Select Board Annual Town Meeting articles – Judith Whiteside, Select Board Chair**

Select Board Chair Whiteside noted there are two petition articles. She reviewed the following articles:

- i. **Election of Officers**
- ii. **Recurring Business**
- iii. **Compensation of Certain Appointed & Elected Officials**
- iv. **Occasional Reports**

Select Board Chair Whiteside noted reports to be brought forward by various Town entities.

Select Board Chair Whiteside spoke re: a petition article dealing w/ increasing the number of marijuana facilities that may be more involved than the petitioner anticipated, such as potential State involvement. Brief discussion ensued.

Select Board Chair Whiteside discussed the downward trend in the marijuana market across the State.

Select Board Chair Whiteside noted the second petition article dealing w/ a request for funding for the Recycling Center. She noted there is a problem w/ who signed the petition due to some signatures being those of the Recycling Committee. She spoke to a Recycling Committee member re: funds available through grants that go into a Revolving Fund that they have access to & other sources. She will forward the figures for funding available to the Recycling Committee. She believes this article may be passed over at Town Meeting.

Select Board Chair Whiteside noted several unused CPC grant monies that will be going back to the CP Fund.

- v. **Bylaw Change re: Number of Finance Committee Members**
- vi. **Charter Change re: Deadline for Annual Town Budget**

Select Board Chair Whiteside proceeded to review the Special Town Meeting Warrant. She explained there will be budget transfers.

Select Board Chair Whiteside discussed she has been authorized by the Select Board to negotiate w/ WCTV on their expired contract (Verizon portion).

Select Board Chair Whiteside discussed an article dealing w/ the duties of the Town Clerk. There would be a Bylaw that would allow the Town Clerk to use "editing" skills to re-number, reorganize & remove non-substantial changes which was suggested by the Bylaw Review Committee.

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Select Board Chair Whiteside noted an article dealing w/ antiquated Bylaw items or items that are now covered under State law. Per the Bylaw Review Committee, these items are being suggested to be removed from the Bylaws. This article has been reviewed by Town Counsel. She explained what will happen when/if these changes are approved by the Attorney General. She noted changes will make the Bylaws more user friendly.

**F. February 8, 2024 budget workshop comments**

Ms. Scogin noted the budget is not finalized as of yet.

Brief discussion ensued re: the positive nature of the budget workshop & different member takeaways on the information presented.

**G. Report of the Chair re: meeting w/ representatives of Wareham Public Schools relative to possible override request**

Ms. Scogin stated the overall meeting was positive & constructive. At this time, she doesn't believe there will be an override request. Ms. Moran noted the issues w/ reduced State Aid to the Town. Discussion ensued re: impact of this reduction on the Town.

**H. Introduction of FinCom applicant – Brianna King**

Present before the FinCom: Brianna King (via Zoom)

Ms. King spoke re: her involvement in the community & her desire to join the FinCom. The FinCom thanked Ms. King for applying.

Ms. Scogin noted there are currently seven FinCom members. Terms for Mr. Rose, Mr. Cammarano & herself expire this year. She noted Mr. Cammarano will need to wait one year before re-applying if he so wishes.

**I. Liaison reports, if any**

Ms. Churchill spoke re: a local contractor who has been very involved & responsive to the Affordable Housing Trust. She spoke re: a piece of property on Gibbs Ave. that the contractor is interested in renovating for affordability & the possibility of adding more affordable units which the lot can handle which is encouraging.

Present before the FinCom: Select Board member Alan Slavin  
Sandy Slavin, ConCom member & Sewer Commissioner

Ms. Slavin stated the old Everett School building is on sewer & the property doesn't fall into the Historic District.

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Mr. Stefanski stated the Capital Planning Committee will have a capital list for the Annual & Special Town Meeting by the end of March.

Ms. Moran stated the Planning Board is dealing largely w/ solar projects currently. She noted some of the discussions dealing w/ solar are decommissioning, depleting of forests, etc. She noted disciplines developing for a more streamline process for applications & dealing w/ no-show applicants.

**J. Reminders – Conflict of Interest training, Code of Conduct acknowledgement, Discriminatory Harassment Policy acknowledgement**

Ms. Scogin reminded members to complete these items.

**K. Public comment at the discretion of the Chair**

Mr. Slavin asked re: the override issue. Ms. Scogin updated him on her meeting re: this matter.

- IV. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Unanticipated Items)**  
**V. NEXT MEETING DATE & TIME**

The next FinCom meeting will be held on March 13, 2024 at 6:30 P.M., Room 27, Wareham Town Hall.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 P.M. Mr. Rose seconded.**

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

Date signed: 03/14/2024

Attest:

Norma Scogin  
Norma Scogin, Chair

WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date copy submitted to Wareham Town Clerk: 04/29/2024