

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: March 22, 2023

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Bernie Pigeon, Chair
Norma Scogin
Matt Rose
Joseph Smith
Gerald Stefanski
Tom Worthen
Julie Moran
Dominic Cammarano
Tom Hannon

III. FINANCE COMMITTEE MATTERS

A. Acceptance of meeting minutes, if any

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to accept the meeting minutes of February 8, 2023. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to accept the meeting minutes of February 16, 2023. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to accept the meeting minutes of March 1, 2023. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to accept the meeting minutes of March 8, 2023. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

NOTE: The FinCom briefly discussion invoice for transcription services.

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MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to approve invoice from Kelly Barrasso for transcription services in the amount of \$237.50. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

B. Presentation & discussion of Upper Cape Tech FY24 budget – Roger Forget, UCT Superintendent

Present before the FinCom: Roger Forget, UCT Superintendent

Mr. Forget proceeded to discuss & present the following items relative to the UCT FY24 budget:

- Budget sub-committee members
- Technical programs & co-op employment/percentages of participation as well as earnings
- Co-op employers
- Post-secondary plans & college selections
- Per pupil comparison, FY21 operating assessment & FY21 DESE per pupil by school
- Enrollment in regional district & comparison of FY23 to FY24
- Minimum contributions & comparison of FY23 to FY24
- Budget drivers
- Teaching staff
- FY24 preliminary budget: Administration, instruction, student services, operations & maintenance, fixed charges, revenue, transportation & LPN, capital, gross foundation, school enrollment & town enrollment

Mr. Forget discussed remedial assistance offered & expectations for students at the school as well as the summer camp program.

A question & answer session ensued.

C. Presentation & discussion of Sewer Enterprise Fund Warrant article – James Giberti, Sewer Commission President

Present before the FinCom: James Giberti, Sewer Commission President

Mr. Giberti discussed retained earnings & what the earnings can be used for. Mr. Pigeon noted that an Enterprise Fund is an accounting function.

Mr. Giberti spoke re: borrowing & borrowing issues. Discussion ensued re: the WPCF plant & issues, such as repairs needed & lack of strategic planning when the plant was built.

Mr. Giberti discussed outstanding projects & other potential projects that need to be addressed.

Mr. Giberti discussed sewer pipes around Town.

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Present before the FinCom: Sandy Slavin, Sewer Commissioner

Ms. Slavin noted there are sewer pipes that were installed in the 1970's which contain asbestos which are a problem. She feels 60% of the sewer pipes need to be re-lined or replaced. She expressed concern re: the sewer pipes in Onset.

Brief discussion ensued re: capacity of the plant & what potential entities are in the pipeline to connect to sewer.

D. Presentation & discussion of Harbormaster Warrant article – Gary Buckminster, Harbormaster/Shellfish Constable

To be handled at a later date.

E. Report & discussion re: MMA legislative breakfast – Norma Scogin

Ms. Scogin stated she attended the MMA legislative breakfast. She updated the FinCom on topics discussed at said meeting. She stated things are being proposed for the next session relative to the following:

- Creating an entity similar to the MSBA to deal w/ public safety.
- Governor's budget includes a boost to schools & an increase in "circuit breaker" funding by 40%.
- Allow remote & hybrid meetings, including Town Meeting.
- Increasing procurement cap for municipal purchases from \$50,000 to \$100,000.
- Authorize a revocation of the Civil Service statute by local option.

F. Report & discussion re: Chapter 70 workshop – Norma Scogin

Ms. Scogin stated she attended a Chapter 70 workshop. She gave the following highlights of the workshop:

- MA has one of the most complicated funding formulas.
- Governor is proposing the low-income level cut off become 185% of poverty level vs. 133%.
- Governor's proposed budget adds 9.8% more to Chapter 70 aid.
- Enrollment State-wide has ticked up.
- There is a proposed \$20 million increase for extraordinary Special Education relief payments.
- There is a differential in required net-school spending vs. actual net-school spending. There is a 23% differential State-wide.

Brief discussion ensued re: information Ms. Scogin presented.

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G. Discussion & possible vote on articles already reviewed.

Annual Town Meeting articles:

Mr. Pigeon briefly discussed the EMS budget & revenue collections.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved Favorable Action on Article 9 of the 2023 Annual Spring Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

- Mr. Worthen – Yes**
- Mr. Hannon – Yes**
- Mr. Smith – Yes**
- Ms. Scogin – Yes**
- Mr. Pigeon – Yes**
- Mr. Rose – Yes**
- Mr. Stefanski – Yes**
- Ms. Moran – Yes**
- Mr. Cammarano – Yes**

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

Mr. Pigeon briefly discussed the Sewer Enterprise Fund. Brief discussion ensued re: indirect costs against the fund.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved Favorable Action on Article 10 of the 2023 Annual Spring Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Scogin seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

- Mr. Worthen – Yes**
- Mr. Smith – Yes**
- Ms. Scogin – Yes**
- Mr. Pigeon – Yes**
- Mr. Rose – Yes**
- Mr. Stefanski – Yes**
- Ms. Moran – Yes**
- Mr. Cammarano – Yes**
- Mr. Hannon – Yes**

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

Brief discussion ensued re: Article 20 & if it passes, what the cost will be.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved Favorable Action to refer Article 22 of the 2023 Annual Spring Town Meeting Warrant to Town Meeting. Ms. Scogin seconded.

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Mr. Pigeon read the article into the record & what referring the article to Town Meeting means. Brief discussion ensued.

Roll Call Vote: **Mr. Worthen – Yes**
 Mr. Smith – Yes
 Ms. Scogin – Yes
 Mr. Pigeon – Yes
 Mr. Rose – Yes
 Mr. Stefanski – Yes
 Ms. Moran – Yes
 Mr. Cammarano – Yes
 Mr. Hannon – Yes

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

Special Town Meeting articles

Mr. Pigeon discussed Article S6, fees & if meetings go hybrid, WCTV will have to pay out of these fees. Brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Pigeon discussed Article 5 & two entities being added as Revolving Funds.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved Favorable Action on Article S5 of the 2023 Special Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

Roll Call Vote: **Mr. Worthen – Yes**
 Mr. Smith – Yes
 Ms. Scogin – Yes
 Mr. Pigeon – Yes
 Mr. Rose – Yes
 Mr. Stefanski - Yes
 Ms. Moran – Yes
 Mr. Cammarano – Yes
 Mr. Hannon – Yes

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

Brief discussion ensued re: funding amount for Article S9 – Earth Removal Engineering Study.

Mr. Pigeon stated Article S10 – West Wareham School will be withdrawn.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved Favorable Action on Article S11 of the 2023 Special Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Scogin seconded.

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Roll Call Vote: **Mr. Worthen – No**
 Mr. Smith – Yes
 Ms. Scogin – Yes
 Mr. Pigeon – Yes
 Mr. Rose – Yes
 Mr. Stefanski – No
 Ms. Moran – Yes
 Mr. Cammarano – No
 Mr. Hannon – Yes

VOTE: (6-3-0)

Mr. Worthen, Mr. Cammarano & Mr. Stefanski opposed

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved Favorable Action on Article S12 of the 2023 Special Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Scogin seconded.

Roll Call Vote: **Mr. Worthen – No**
 Mr. Smith – No
 Ms. Scogin – Yes
 Mr. Pigeon – No
 Mr. Rose – No
 Mr. Stefanski – No
 Ms. Moran – No
 Mr. Cammarano – No
 Mr. Hannon – No

VOTE: (1-8-0)

Mr. Worthen, Mr. Smith Mr. Pigeon, Mr. Rose, Mr. Stefanski, Ms. Moran, Mr. Cammarano & Mr. Hannon opposed

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved Favorable Action on Article S13 of the 2023 Special Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

Roll Call Vote: **Mr. Worthen – Yes**
 Mr. Smith – Yes
 Ms. Scogin – Yes
 Mr. Pigeon – Yes
 Mr. Rose – Yes
 Mr. Stefanski - Yes
 Ms. Moran – Yes
 Mr. Cammarano – Yes
 Mr. Hannon – Yes

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VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

H. Discussion & assignment of articles for FinCom recommendations.

Mr. Pigeon asked for recommendation write-ups from FinCom members by April 3, 2023 along w/ each members' paragraphs for the Chair's Letter in the Warrant.

IV. AN OTHER BUSINESS (Unanticipated Items)

V. NEXT MEETING DATE & TIME

The next FinCom meeting will be held on March 29, 2023 at 6:30 P.M. in Room 27 of the Wareham Town Hall.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

Date signed: _____

Attest: _____

Bernie Pigeon, Chair

WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date copy sent to Wareham Town Clerk: _____