

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: March 29, 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
Tom Worthen
Gerald Stefanski
Julie Moran
Dominic Cammarano
Tom Hannon

Also Present: Derek Sullivan, Town Administrator
Alan Slavin, Selectboard member

III. FINANCE COMMITTEE MATTERS

A. Acceptance of meeting minutes, if any (NONE)

B. Presentation/discussion of Special Town Meeting Warrant Article S9 re: Earth Removal Engineering Study – Ken Buckland, Town Planner

Present before the FinCom: Judith Whiteside, Selectboard Chair

Selectboard Chair Whiteside stated there is an issue w/ if earth removal is being monitored in Town. She has written an article requesting \$50,000 to hire an engineer/engineering firm to look at what the Town can do in applying the Town's Bylaw.

Brief discussion ensued re: how earth removal can be overseen & recouping monies from prior earth removal. Mr. Sullivan discussed figuring out earth removal that has already been conducted & how recouping monies can be done. He stated there is a need to handle the activity itself, not pointing a finger at one entity & get everyone on the same page.

C. Presentation/discussion of Special Town Meeting Warrant Article S14 re: Zoning Bylaw, Article 6: Density & Dimensional Regulations – Ken Buckland, Town Planner

Present before the FinCom: Ken Buckland, Town Planner

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Mr. Buckland discussed Article 6 of the Wareham Zoning Bylaw re: density & dimensional regulations. He noted the problem w/ Article 6 presently is it is confusing in some areas & the text is not consistent in all of the tables. This article will clarify & make the text consistent throughout the regulations. Brief discussion ensued.

D. Presentation/discussion of Special Town Meeting Warrant Article S15 re: Wareham Village: Reinvestment Subdistrict, WV-1R – Ken Buckland, Town Planner

Present before the FinCom: Ken Buckland, Town Planner

Mr. Buckland stated this article deals w/ the implementation of the Urban Renewal Plan in draft form. With the new subdistrict, it will add changes to different sections of the Bylaw. This is not the final action necessary to see development occur. Along w/ the changes to the Bylaw, other actions may be needed.

Selectboard Chair Whiteside stated this has been in the works for many years & it was felt it was time to bring it forward to make it economically feasible & more attractive for private investment.

Brief discussion ensued re: this being a baseline plan with design guidelines & performance guidelines to follow. Selectboard Chair Whiteside noted there will be a presentation of the draft URP tomorrow.

E. Presentation/discussion of Special Town Meeting Warrant article re: Spring 2023 Capital & current Capital Plan status – Jerry Stefanski, Capital Planning Committee & Derek Sullivan, Town Administrator

Mr. Stefanski stated the Capital Planning Committee met today & finalized what they are proposing for capital. He proceeded to note the capital items proposed by the committee as follows:

- School Dept.: Two (2) Special Education buses & one (1) 77-passenger bus - \$330,000.
- School Dept: High School boiler – Town's share of the boiler replacement project – \$720,000. Mr. Sullivan stated the cost has come in under the projected amount.
- Municipal Maintenance: 10-wheeler w/ plow package: \$375,000. Mr. Sullivan discussed the condition of the existing 10-wheeler & age.
- Municipal Maintenance: Pick-up truck w/ plow package

Mr. Sullivan discussed repairs needed at the library re: exterior siding & estimated cost of \$300,000. Brief discussion ensued re: condition of library & the recent flooding in the building.

- Inspectional Services: Three (3) vehicles to replace 3 vehicles that are in poor condition & may not pass inspection.

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Mr. Sullivan noted applying for grants & Eversource incentives for electric car charging stations for eight locations.

- IT: 3-year contract for cyber monitoring. Mr. Sullivan discussed a need for 24/7 monitoring & past attempts at intrusion. Brief discussion ensued.
- Police Dept: 12 tasers/taser equipment over a five-year period, eight (8) body cams & two (2) cruisers. Mr. Sullivan discussed pilot program for use of body cams & costs for requested items listed. Discussion ensued re: use of body cams.
- EMS: Final 2/3 payment of ambulance approved at last Fall Town Meeting. Brief discussion ensued. Mr. Sullivan discussed getting back on track w/ replacement ambulances.
- Municipal Maintenance: Library HVAC. Mr. Sullivan discussed options & costs (estimated construction cost & total project cost). Crowley Engineering came back w/ an estimated total cost of \$637,000. He is requesting \$750,000 to include cost increases since the estimate was received.
- Dept. of Natural Resources: New patrol boat

Present before the FinCom: Mr. Buckminster, Harbormaster

Mr. Buckminster discussed need to replace the existing Harbormaster patrol boat & problems/issues w/ current 2002 patrol boat. He noted the possibility of auctioning off the existing boat, estimated costs for a new boat & specifications needed. Mr. Sullivan discussed plan to repay the cost of the boat over a period of time w/ Harbor Services fees.

Mr. Buckminster briefly discussed raising of fees.

Mr. Sullivan discussed certified Free Cash.

F. Presentation/discussion of Special Town Meeting Warrant article re: Opioid Stabilization Fund – Judith Whiteside, Selectboard Chair

Mr. Sullivan stated the article deals w/ setting up an Opioid Stabilization Fund & the funds cannot be expended w/out approval by Town Meeting. Free cash & other settlement funding will be put into this fund. Brief discussion ensued what the funding will/can be spent on.

NOTE: Mr. Sullivan departed at this time.

G. Presentation/discussion of Wareham Schools FY24 budget – Matthew D’Andrea, Superintendent, Kristen Flynn, Director of Finance, Kevin Brogioli, School Committee

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Present before the FinCom: Matthew D'Andrea, Superintendent
Kristen Flynn, Director of Finance
Eric Trahan
Joyce Bacchiachi, School Committee

Mr. D'Andrea discussed the following highlights of FY24 School Dept. budget:

- Reduction of original budget along w/ cuts to positions & insurance
- Increases/decreases to budget, for example increases in salaries, out-of-district tuition, collaborative school, transportation, utilities, supplies for maintenance/operations & insurance.
- Increase of \$2,466,081 increase prior to any offsets
- Offsets, for example, circuit breaker monies, 240 grant, IBAQ grant for HVAC, & school nutrition funding.
- FY24 budget vs. FY23 budget.

Discussion ensued re: status of FY23 budget net-school spending figures, State aid, student enrollment trends, school choice figures, special needs/IEP percentages, challenging items in budget, such as contractual obligations & utilities, other revenue sources (grants), stipulations placed on grants, solar, assessments & programs for remediation & school funding & aid.

Mr. D'Andrea discussed the following re: the Wareham Middle School roof project:

- Brief history of Wareham Middle School & current enrollment
- Overview of roof plan which is broken into sections.
- Timeline of when roof sections will be replaced
- Problems/issues w/ roof
- MSBA funds & difficulty qualifying for the entire roof
- Non-reimbursable sections of roof
- Estimated cost breakdowns & how the remaining cost balance(s) will be paid

Discussion ensued re: estimated costs.

H. Discussion/possible vote on articles already reviewed

Article 20 – Terminate Contract 2022—001/Sewer (Swifts Beach)

Present before the FinCom: Jean Welch

Ms. Welch discussed parts of contract dealing w/ penalties if contract is cancelled. She discussed the significant financial burdens to residents re: the contract, such as electrical work costs. Brief discussion ensued re: engineering costs that have already been spent on the contract/project & potential financial costs to residents.

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MOTION: Mr. Smith moved Favorable Action on Article S8 of the 2023 Special Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Moran seconded.

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

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

MOTION: Ms. Scogin moved Favorable Action on Article S9 of the 2023 Special Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Smith seconded.

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

VOTE: (8-0-1)

Mr. Cammarano abstained

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

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

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VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

MOTION: Ms. Scogin moved Favorable Action on Article S14 of the 2023 Special Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Smith seconded.

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

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

MOTION: Ms. Scogin moved Favorable Action on Article S15 of the 2023 Special Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Smith seconded.

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

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

Brief discussion ensued re: Article 20 of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

MOTION: Mr. Rose moved to refer Article 20 of the 2023 Annual Spring Town Meeting Warrant to Town Meeting. Ms. Scogin seconded.

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

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Mr. Smith – Yes
Mr. Stefanski – Yes

VOTE: (7-1-1)
Mr. Worthen abstained
Mr. Cammarano opposed

Brief discussion again ensued re: Article 20.

I. Discussion/assignment of articles for FinCom recommendations

Assignments were made for various article recommendations.

J. Reminder of deadlines for Town Meeting report items

The deadline for report items is April 3, 2023.

IV. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Unanticipated Items)

V. NEXT MEETING DATE & TIME

The next FinCom meeting will be held on April 5, 2023 at 6:30 P.M. in Room 27, Wareham Town Hall.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 P.M. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

Date signed: 5/3/2023

Attest: 

Bernice Pigeon, Chair

WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date copy sent to Wareham Town Clerk: _____