

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: November 7, 2018

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Bernie Pigeon, Chairman
David Heard, Vice Chairman
Stuart Novick
Glenn Lawrence
Gerry Stefanski

Members Absent: Pat Rumney
Joan Fontes
Ellis Bailey
Dominic Cammarano

III. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

No-one came forward for Citizens Participation.

IV. FINANCE COMMITTEE MATTERS

A. Review 2018 Fall Town Meeting and processes.

Mr. Heard stated it seems that the FinCom is receiving Town Meeting article information later & later each year which makes the FinCom's tasks more difficult. He stated the FinCom's role is becoming more difficult in terms of providing answers, being informed, etc. Mr. Novick concurred.

Mr. Stefanski feels he was put in a position to make decisions he hadn't had time to think about or review. He stated getting information one hour prior to Town Meeting is not proactive. He stated if the timeframe can't be changed w/ the printing of the Warrant, then the FinCom needs to pass over articles that they don't have all the information on.

Mr. Novick stated he doesn't know how much voters rely on the FinCom & he doesn't feel the FinCom getting information earlier will make a difference.

Mr. Pigeon stated the whole purpose of Town Meeting is to make informed decisions. He expressed frustration w/ placeholder articles. He stated Town Meeting timelines/timeframes are known ahead of time, so the information should be available. He doesn't know if there is any recourse to fix the issue.

Mr. Heard concurred w/ Mr. Stefanski's feelings relative to the FinCom not voting on articles unless all the information is provided. He wants Town Meeting to have sufficient information when making a vote.

Mr. Novick stated the only way to change anything is for the BOS not to place articles on the Warrant if there is no information or the article submittal is incomplete.

Mr. Heard stated for example, the Planning Board needs to hold public hearings on articles beforehand in a timely manner prior to Town Meeting.

Mr. Stefanski feels it is unacceptable for the FinCom to make decisions w/ no information in a timely manner.

Mr. Novick suggested telling sponsors of articles, if no information is provided or available, the FinCom will pass over their article & not make a recommendation. Mr. Pigeon concurred.

Present before the FinCom: Claire Smith, Moderator

Ms. Smith discussed issues w/ this past Town Meeting & changes that were made at the last minute that created confusion. She noted other towns complete their Warrant well in advance of Town Meeting with all their information ready & in hand, such as the Town of Marion. She stated everything is prepared & together for their Warrants. She explained she has tried for nine years to get this issue fixed. She suggested a possible Bylaw that states information needs to be provided to the FinCom by a date certain.

Mr. Novick suggested the FinCom discuss this matter w/ the BOS re: deadlines. He stated if this approach doesn't work, then a Bylaw can be drafted.

Discussion ensued re: confusion w/ a Zoning Bylaw proposed, the article motion, & the different handouts.

The FinCom members concurred to speak w/ the BOS about deadlines & other Town Meeting matters. If there is no agreement w/ the BOS, the FinCom members concurred that a Bylaw should be created.

B. Any other Finance Committee matters.

V. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES: OCTOBER 22, 2018

MOTION: Mr. Heard moved to approve the meeting minutes of October 22, 2018. Mr. Novick seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (5-0-0)

VI. LIAISON REPORTS

VII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Unanticipated Items)

Mr. Pigeon discussed the School Department's meeting re: their budget. He noted that the School Dept.'s public hearing on their budget will be held on December 7, 2018.

Mr. Pigeon noted that the new elementary school vote passed. He discussed the process for the new school going forward & the role of the School Building Committee going forward.

Mr. Pigeon stated the Town's tax rate was split evenly between residential & commercial.

Mr. Pigeon stated the BOS approved, in concept, a recreational marijuana license w/ a \$50,000 donation once the contract is finalized & a 3% of gross profits of the company.

Mr. Pigeon stated the Town is facing a potential lawsuit re: the Onset Bathhouse renovation.

Mr. Pigeon stated the affordable housing project has been approved by Redbrook Rd.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE & TIME

The next FinCom meeting will be at some point in January 2019.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Novick moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 P.M. Mr. Heard seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (5-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Barrasso, Transcriptionist

Date signed: _____

Attest: _____
Bernie Pigeon, Chairman
WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date copy sent to Town Clerk: _____