

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: September 22, 2010
Date of Transcription: September 23, 2010
Transcribed by: Kelly Barrasso

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Donna Bronk, Chairman
Marilyn Donahue, Chairman (Arrived at 6:40 P.M.)
William R.C. White, Clerk
Dick Paulsen
David Trudell (Arrived at 6:35 P.M.)
Bonnie Cottuli (Arrived at 6:42 P.M.)
Dominic Cammarano (Arrived at 7:00 P.M.)
Frank Heath
Sam Gray

Also Present: John Sanguinet, BOS Assistant
Jane Donahue, BOS Liaison
Mick Jones, Charter Review Committee
Claire Smith, Town Moderator (Arrived at 7:05 P.M.)

III. BUSINESS

A. Reserve Fund Transfer Request.

The FinCom members reviewed Reserve Fund Transfer Request #01-11 in the amount of \$1,3000 to fund the Animal Control line item Purchased Services for an unforeseen event relative to the hiring of an expert to set traps for the capturing of 24 skunks.

MOTION: Mr. Paulsen moved to approve Reserve Fund Transfer Request #01-11 in the amount of \$1,300.00. Mr. Gray seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (5-0-0)

NOTE: Mr. Trudell arrived at this time.

B. Review & Vote Town Meeting Warrant Articles.

Mr. Sanguinet a number of scribner errors w/in the Warrant.

Mr. Sanguinet explained that most of the union agreement articles may be w/drawn because some agreements are still not in place.

Brief discussion ensued re: the Quinn Bill & Town payments made last year.

Mr. Paulsen asked when the FinCom will be receiving the June 2010 fiscal year end figures. Mr. Sanguinet stated he will ask the Town Accountant. Ms. Bronk stated it is now September & the FinCom still doesn't have these figures. She feels this is unacceptable.

Selectman Donahue discussed how the Town Accountant is trying to get things back on track & how other matters have arisen that needed to be taken care of ASAP. She understands things are behind, but there is a need to get through one more cycle to get caught up.

NOTE: Ms. Donahue arrived at this time.

Brief discussion ensued re: supposed salary increases & contractual agreements.

NOTE: Ms. Cottuli arrived at this time.

Ms. Bronk expressed the importance of "knowing where the Town is at" before the FinCom can make financial decisions.

Selectman Donahue stated the BOS has reserved the High School for Town Meeting on the following dates: 10/25, 10/26, 10/27, 11/1, & 11/2.

Selectman Donahue explained that the BOS has agreed to take the Charter articles & the Bylaw Amendment articles & move them to Saturday, November 13th w/ Town Meeting approval. One of the reasons for proposing this is at the 10/25/10 Town Meeting, more people can be informed as to this proposal. Mr. Jones stated he has no problem w/ this.

The FinCom proceeded to review & vote on the Town Meeting Warrant Articles.

Article 1 – Amend FY11 Budget

MOTION: Mr. Paulsen moved Favorable Action on Article 1 of the 2010 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. White seconded.

NOTE: Mr. Sanguinet explained that all numbers are for FY11. He stated the general purpose aid was cut by the State by \$72,000. He discussed how this figure will be made up (two positions will not be filled & updates to the VADAR system that were not needed will be used to cover this debt). He discussed other monies available, such as the Assessor departing & putting this money towards the new Assistant Town Accountant position.

Mr. Sanguinet stated the Town Administrator wants to hire a research person for the Town Administrator's office to alleviate calculating work. \$6,000 will be needed to fund this position & to fund another employee position (Barbara Marcosa).

Mr. Sanguinet stated there is a need to fund the initial payment of two cruisers under a lease.

Mr. Trudell expressed concern re: the cruisers not being listed in the Capital Plan. He wants to know how the residents will be told of these cruisers & what the money is for. Mr. Sanguinet stated the Town Administrator will state this at Town Meeting.

VOTE: Unanimous (8-0-0)

NOTE: Selectman Donahue departed at this time.

Article 3 – WPCF Enterprise Fund

Mr. Sanguinet discussed adjustments made to this budget. There will be a slight increase to the EDU rate based on discussions w/ DEP. The EDU per unit will increase by \$12.00. This increase in the EDU rate will create funding needed in the amount of \$96,000. Discussion ensued.

Discussion ensued re: two new staff hired to check on pump stations & the collection system & the need to fill a position of Superintendent of the WPCF. Ms. Bronk clarified that the Charter states that the Director of Municipal Maintenance should be in charge of the WPCF. The former Superintendent was let go. Mr. Sanguinet explained there is a need for an Administrative Director of Wastewater Services at the plant. This person will also need to hold a license.

NOTE: Mr. Cammarano arrived at this time.

Ms. Cottuli asked where the money is from the salary of the Superintendent that was let go. Mr. Sanguinet stated this money will go to fund the new position of Administrative Director of Wastewater Services at a lower level of pay.

Discussion ensued re: overtime in this budget @ \$95,000. Mr. Paulsen indicated this line item had been zero prior. Ms. Bronk explained there is a need for staff to go out on holidays & weekends to check the pump stations & operations.

NOTE: Ms. Smith arrived at this time.

MOTION: Mr. Trudell moved Favorable Action on Article 3 of the 2010 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Cottuli seconded.

VOTE: (4-4-1)
Ms. Donahue, Mr. Gray, Mr. Paulsen, & Ms. Bronk opposed
Mr. Cammarano abstained

Article 4 – Unpaid Bills

MOTION: Ms. Donahue moved Favorable Action on Article 4 of the 2010 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Gray seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

Article 5 – Computer Upgrade – Town Hall/Police Station

Mr. Sanguinet discussed the proposed upgrade to the radio infrastructure at the police station & the upgrade to the Town's server(s).

Discussion ensued re: the intent of the upgrade which will be to an interactive communications system, for example, to communicate w/ the Fire Dept. & EMS. Everyone will be on the same page in case of an emergency.

Mr. Sanguinet noted that the Town will need to borrow for this upgrade.

MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved Favorable Action on Article 5 of the 2010 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. White seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

Article 6 – Capital Equipment

Mr. Sanguinet discussed proposed purchases (a chipper, a new generator for the Multi-Service Center, & ??????????) He noted the chipper now utilized is very dangerous, has no safety features, & is not being used because of these issues. The present generator at the Multi-Service Center won't operate the elevator if power is lost. Money for these purchases will come from available funds, most likely Free Cash.

MOTION: Ms. Cottuli moved Favorable Action on Article 6 of the 2010 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Donahue seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

Article 7 – Capital Vehicles

Mr. Sanguinet discussed vehicles needing replacement. Three vehicles are w/in the Municipal Maintenance Dept. He discussed issues w/ the three vehicles the Town presently owns.

Ms. Bronk asked if it is an absolute necessity to purchase all three vehicles at once. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Paulsen asked if the FinCom could obtain information on the current vehicles/equipment, such as age, etc. Mr. Sanguinet stated the vehicles being looked at for replacement are as follows:

- 1993 Backhoe w/ a worn out engine. Mr. Sanguinet discussed what this backhoe is utilized for.
- 1988 Sweeper which is worn out. There is a non-functioning odometer. Several streets were not swept last year because of issues w/ the sweeper.
- 1980 Catch Basin Truck. This truck has many hours on it & is not functioning properly.

Mr. Sanguinet stated the Town will borrow for these vehicles. When the first payment comes due, the Town will have no debt. The library & Middle School debt will be coming off line.

MOTION: Ms. Cottuli moved Favorable Action on Article 7 of the 2010 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Donahue seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

Article 8 – Borrowing for Septic Loan Program

Mr. Sanguinet discussed that this program is utilized to update septic systems & is an on-going loan program.

MOTION: Ms. Cottuli moved Favorable Action on Article 8 of the 2010 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Gray seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

Article 9 – Rescind Borrowing: Rosepoint, Briarwood Beach, & Beaver Dam Estates Sewer Project

Article 10 – Community Preservation: Rescind Bond Authorization Town Hall Roof

Article 11 – Community Preservation: Rescind Bond Authorization Great Neck Conservation Project

Mr. Sanguinet explained these articles deal w/ funds being left in borrowing which need to be taken off the books.

MOTION: Ms. Cottuli moved Favorable Action on Articles 9, 10, & 11 of the 2010 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. White seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

Article 18 – Collective Bargaining Agreement: Wareham Clerical Union

Mr. Sanguinet stated the estimated cost for this article will be \$16,517.00 for fund for FY11. No money will be given for prior years. There were agreements reached re: healthcare & sick leave buy back.

Article 19 – Collective Bargaining Agreement: Wareham Wastewater Treatment Plant Union

Mr. Sanguinet stated that similar concessions were made w/ this union as w/ the Clerical Union. The cost estimated cost for this article will be \$4,271.00.

Mr. Sanguinet noted that all contracts will run for one year & negotiations will start over again in January.

Article 20 – Cost of Living Increase for Non-Union Personnel.

Mr. Sanguinet stated the estimated cost for this article is \$2,000. There is only one non-union person who is covered under the Personnel Plan.

Article 21 – Collective Bargaining Agreement: Wareham Library Employees

Article 22 – Collective Bargaining Agreement: Wareham Dispatchers Union

Article 23 – Collective Bargaining Agreement: Wareham Foreman Union

Mr. Sanguinet stated these articles will most likely be withdrawn. He noted all of these unions have offers, but none have been taken at this time.

Article 24 – Collective Bargaining Agreement: Wareham Superior Officers Union

Mr. Sanguinet stated the estimated cost for this article is \$8,000.

Article 25 – Collective Bargaining Agreement: Wareham Police Union

Article 26 – Collective Bargaining Agreement: Wareham Municipal Maintenance Dept. & Town Custodians Union

Article 27 – Wareham EMT Association

Article 28 - Collective Bargaining Agreement: United Steel Workers

Article 29 – Collective Bargaining Agreement: United Steel Workers – Dept. Heads

Mr. Sanguinet stated this articles most likely will be withdrawn.

Article 30 – Collective Bargaining Agreements Not Yet Settled

Mr. Sanguinet stated the estimated amount for this article is \$170,000 & would come from Free Cash. This will be set aside for future Town Meetings.

Article 31 – Early Retirement

Mr. Sanguinet stated at this time, it has been determined that it may not be cost effective to adopt this early retirement package now due to the restrictions placed by the Legislature. For example, if three Municipal Maintenance workers were offered early retirement, the Town could only hire one employee back. He noted this article may be withdrawn.

Article 32 – Harbormaster Building & Pier Repairs/Upgrades

Mr. Sanguinet reviewed the list of upgrades & repairs being requested. The Harbormaster Permit fees collected will pay for these upgrades/repairs. The cost is \$40,000.

MOTION: Ms. Cottuli moved Favorable Action on Article 32 of the 2010 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Trudell seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

Article 33 – Sign Materials Account
Article 34 – Harbors/Beaches Maintenance Account
Article 35 – Line Painting Account

Mr. Sanguinet will provide these figures at the next meeting.

Article 86 – Abandon Sewer Easement – Preservation Lane

Mr. Sanguinet stated this had been a proposed pump station location for a sewer project, but the location was changed, but has been recorded. There is a need to rescind this easement to undo the recording. Town Meeting action is required to do this.

MOTION: Ms. Donahue moved Favorable Action on Article 86 of the 2010 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Gray seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

Article 87 – Community Events Fund

Mr. Sanguinet doesn't have the final numbers yet.

Ms. Cottuli stated there is a need to speak w/ the Town Accountant re: numbers, information, etc. Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Mr. Trudell moved Favorable Action on Article 87 of the 2010 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Heath seconded.

Discussion continued.

NOTE: Mr. Trudell & Mr. Heath withdrew their motions.

Article 88 – Accept Layout of Bethel Way

Mr. Sanguinet explained that Town Meeting voted to do this last year, but the process wasn't followed through so it couldn't move forward.

Discussion ensued re: a specific process that needs to be followed re: acceptance of roadways. Mr. Trudell feels this article (& the previous article dealing w/ Bethel Way) did not follow the proper channels or process in the first place to get this roadway accepted. Discussion continued.

MOTION: Mr. Trudell moved Favorable Action on Article 88 of the 2010 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Cottuli seconded.

**VOTE: (8-0-1)
Ms. Donahue abstained**

Article 89 – Abandon/Discontinue Garage Street

Mr. Sanguinet stated this article was requested by A.D. Makepeace Co. so they can complete Phase II of the Rosebrook Project. If this article doesn't pass, it will make the project more difficult because they cannot cross over Town property without it.

Mr. Paulsen questioned if the Town can get something in return for approving this vs. just giving it up to them. Mr. Sanguinet will ask the BOS.

MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved Favorable Action on Article 89 of the 2010 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Trudell seconded.

**VOTE: (5-0-4)
Mr. Paulsen, Mr. White, Mr. Heath, & Ms. Donahue abstained**

Article 90 – Petitioned Article: Accept Layout of Rock Marsh Road

Brief discussion ensued. The FinCom concurred to ask the petitioner to come explain the article.

Article 91 – Petitioned Article: Wind Turbines

Brief discussion ensued. The FinCom concurred to ask the petitioner to come explain the article.

Discussion ensued w/ Claire Smith, Town Moderator. Ms. Smith was asked if she has thought about a consent agenda for the articles. Ms. Smith stated she hasn't thought

about it yet. She needs to meet w/ Mr. Sanguinet & the Town Administrator. She noted that November 2, 2010 is an election day & she will be meeting w/ the Town Clerk to discuss dates booked for Town Meeting.

Ms. Smith discussed the suggestion of bundling the Charter articles & dealing w/ them on Saturday, November 12, 2010. This decision would require Town Meeting approval.

Discussion ensued re: if the Bylaw Amendments were submitted by the Charter Review Committee. Mr. Jones stated they were not. Ms. Cottuli surmised that the BOS inserted the Bylaw Amendments to coincide w/ the Charter Review changes/articles. If the Charter change articles don't pass, then the Bylaw change wouldn't pass either.

Article 36 – Charter Change – Update Charter/Correct Mistakes

Mr. Jones discussed the cover letter for the Charter & statements/wordings that are no longer relevant, such as “Home Rule”.

Discussion ensued re: the FinCom voting on all the articles, not just financial ones.

Mr. Heath doesn't understand why the word “Home Rule” would be taken out because, for example, the court case of the library vs. the Town is based on the Home Rule. He needs to understand what the ramifications would be re: this change. Discussion ensued. Ms. Donahue offered to look into this matter.

Discussion ensued re: how to proceed relative to the Charter articles. Ms. Cottuli feels if the FinCom tries to write an explanation of these articles, it will create more confusion. Several FinCom members concurred.

Mr. Jones stated Article 36 attempts to correct non-controversial wording. There is no more to it than that. The FinCom shouldn't read into it any more than that.

Mr. Heath added that the Town of Wareham is based as a Home Rule Charter under the State forms of government.

MOTION: Mr. Heath moved to table Article 36 for further consideration. Mr. Trudell seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

Article 37 – Charter Change: Town Meeting Format

Mr. Trudell expressed his opposition to this article. Mr. Paulsen asked how this article was arrived at. Mr. Jones explained 250 items were collected from officials, residents, etc. The items listed in this article came from those comments. He discussed this article's intent.

The FinCom members expressed concerns re: this article, such as ballot voting to be scheduled w/in 60 days & costs for this.

MOTION: Mr. Trudell moved No Action on Article 37 of the 2010 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Gray seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

Article 38 – Charter Change: Board of Selectmen Composition

Mr. Jones explained the intent of this article is to create better representation across the board.

Ms. Donahue noted that precincts are set up for ease of voting not representation.

Ms. Cottuli feels this article may be a good idea. Mr. Trudell concurred.

Mr. White feels the intent of this article has the potential for getting more people involved.

Ms. Bronk feels it may limit the talent out there. Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Ms. Donahue moved No Action on Article 38 of the 2010 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Gray seconded.

VOTE: (5-4-0)

Mr. White, Ms. Cottuli, Mr. Cammarano, & Mr. Trudell opposed

Article 39 – Charter Change: Expand Volunteers

Mr. Jones explained the intent of this article is to allow property owners in Town to serve on non-elected committees & boards. Discussion ensued. The FinCom concurred that this article needs more clarification.

Mr. Heath read a Bylaw re: registered voters.

MOTION: A motion was made & seconded for Favorable Action on Article 39 of the 2010 Fall Town Meeting Warrant.

VOTE: (7-2-0)

Article 40 – Charter Change: Appointing Authority

Discussion ensued re: the intent of this article.

Mr. Paulsen feels a committee should have control of who they are appointing. Several FinCom members concurred.

MOTION: Mr. Trudell moved No Action on Article 40 of the 2010 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Gray seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

Article 41 – Charter Change: Establish Board of Road Commissioners

Mr. Trudell feels there is a need for this. He doesn't feel the BOS as Road Commissioners can handle everything.

Mr. Paulsen asked what the wording "merit principle" means in the article. Mr. Jones stated this wording is already in the Charter.

Mr. Paulsen would like to know what other towns do relative to Road Commissioners. Ms. Bronk explained what the Town of Plymouth does.

Ms. Cottuli doesn't know how this would fit into the planning/zoning process.

MOTION: Mr. Trudell moved Favorable Action on Article 41 of the 2010 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Donahue seconded.

Mr. Paulsen again stated he would like to know what other towns do.

VOTE: (7-2-0)

Ms. Bronk & Mr. Paulsen opposed

Article 42 – Charter Change: Eliminate Personnel Board Requirement

Ms. Cottuli feels people should have a choice to be in a union or not. Mr. Jones stated this article deals w/ a Personnel Board, not a plan.

Mr. Heath feels this part of the Charter is for check & balance. If the checks & balances is eliminated, it won't be there.

MOTION: Ms. Cottuli moved No Action on Article 42 of the 2010 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. White seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

C. Approve meeting minutes: September 15, 2010.

MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved to approve the meeting minutes of September 15, 2010. Ms. Donahue seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

D. Any other business.

Mr. Heath updated the FinCom on his VADAR training & issues he sees w/ utilizing this system.

Mr. Jones stated that Mr. Alan Slavin of the Charter Review Committee will be present at the next meeting to proceed w/ discussion on the rest of the Charter articles.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: Unanimous (9-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Barrasso
Kelly Barrasso, Transcriptionist

Date signed: 9/29/10

Attest: William R.C. White (R.B.)
William R.C. White, Clerk
WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date filed: 9/30/10
Date copy sent to Town Clerk: 9/30/10

