

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: February 29, 2012

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Frank Heath, Chairman
David Trudell, Vice Chairman
Donna Bronk
Bonnie Cottuli
Dominic Cammarano (Arrived at 6:38 P.M.)
Larry McDonald
Rene Pickett (Arrived at 6:38 P.M.)

Members Absent: Dick Paulsen
Sam Gray

III. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

No-one came forward for Citizens Participation.

IV. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

A. Audit Committee Letter to BOS.

Mr. Heath stated this letter was sent out last Thursday.

B. FY 2011 Report.

Mr. Heath stated w/in the budget, there are no revenue numbers for FY2011 & no revenue page. He stated in FY2011, there are deficit amounts spent from individual departments. He stated under the category of County Tax on the inter-governmental line, there is a budget revision of \$227,699.00.

NOTE: Ms. Pickett & Mr. Cammarano arrived at this time.

The FinCom proceeded to review the deficits in various departments for FY2011, surpluses, & the \$227,699.00 offset to these deficits. Mr. Heath stated some figures need clarification.

Ms. Bronk asked re: the status of a joint meeting between the FinCom, School Committee, & the BOS. Mr. Heath stated the School Committee is in favor of meeting

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COMMITTEE OF WAREHAM

relative to the budget. They would like to meet w/ the FinCom on March 7th at 6:00 P.M. to discuss what the impacts will be if the school budget is level funded & to discuss in detail what cuts will be made. He noted the School Committee will be discussing level funding, not the Town Administrator's figures. He has not heard back from the BOS yet re: said meeting.

C. FY 2012 YTD Report.

Mr. Heath encouraged everyone to review the FY2012 YTD report.

Ms. Bronk asked if the FinCom is receiving reports what the Charter dictates. Mr. Heath responded "yes".

D. Town Meeting

1. **Town Meeting – Monday, April 23, 2012.**
2. **FinCom to receive closed Warrant tentatively by Wednesday, March 14, 2012.**
3. **Warrant to printer – Monday, April 9, 2012.**
4. **Any other Town Meeting business.**

Mr. Heath discussed tentative articles he has heard may be on the Warrant. Brief discussion ensued re: a tentative article being proposed to cap the betterment cost for the Phase II sewer project & how (if any) remaining balance of the betterment will be paid.

E. Committee Attendance

Mr. Heath polled the FinCom as to who will be able to be present at 6:00 P.M. for next week's meeting. He stated a quorum is needed to open this meeting.

V. ACTION COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Mr. Heath stated the Action Committee just met this evening & is televised. He encouraged everyone to watch. He discussed that the main discussion of the meeting was to whether or not to proposed a debt exclusion to pay for school buses or cut transportation services. It was stated the next Action Committee meeting will be held on March 20th.

VI. FY 2013 BUDGET REVIEW

A. Revenues.

Mr. Heath stated he understands that whatever revenue is present is what the revenue numbers are, except for the growth number which will be approx. \$170,000.00.

B. School Department Budget & Joint Meeting.

Mr. Heath stated the FinCom will meet w/ the School Committee on March 7th at 6:00 P.M. to hear their proposals.

Mr. Heath stated the Town Administrator's school budget proposal is approx. \$25,880,000.00. The School Committee voted on a school budget of approx. \$28,780,000.00. He discussed section 55 of the Town Charter. He stated currently, there is a debate as to what figure should be included in the budget (the Town Administrator's proposal of the School Committee's proposal). He explained if the School Committee's figure is utilized, it will create a \$3 million problem.

Mr. McDonald stated there is a need for more revised figures from the Town Administrator. Mr. Heath stated there is a need to update the actuals for FY 2011. The FinCom has been promised this information by the time the FinCom receives the Warrant.

Mr. Heath stated that in looking at the budget as it is set today by the Town Administrator, if certain things were taken out, such as additional positions the Town Administrator has proposed & other various items, such as the technical licenses, the most he sees that could be cut from the budget (on the Town side) is \$780,000.00.

Ms. Cottuli stated she understood that the meals tax was to be utilized for capital only. Mr. Heath explained that legislation re: this needs to be passed first, but as for now, this money is in the general budget. Mr. Heath stated he would recommend freezing all positions & level funding.

Mr. McDonald doesn't feel it is the FinCom's job to cut anything from the budget. He stated it is up to the Town Administrator. He doesn't feel the FinCom should be building a budget. Mr. Heath stated he was just trying to throw some things out there & he is not trying to make any decisions. Ms. Bronk recommends showing townspeople what is proposed & explain the costs. Mr. Heath doesn't feel this is the FinCom's job. Ms. Bronk stated townspeople need to be informed & things need to be explained from an entity that is not biased. Mr. Cammarano feels the options should be given to townspeople as to the choices there are. Mr. Heath stated the FinCom has no authority to tell anyone how to run their business.

Ms. Bronk discussed the issue of various positions being overpaid. Some FinCom members disagreed. Mr. Trudell stated it is not the pay, but the benefits that are the issue & benefit/pension liabilities that continue to grow.

C. Other Budget Line Items.

Mr. Heath stated other budget line items include things such as pensions, the healthcare holiday, snow & ice, etc. He explained these are items not controlled by departments. He stated these costs are big expenses & some continue to grow.

D. Capital Planning.

Mr. Heath discussed issues facing capital planning, such as the Minot Forest School matter, the computer programming over-run, etc.

Mr. Trudell stated today at the Capital Planning Committee meeting, three items came up for discussion. He explained w/in the budget, \$382,000.00 has been allocated for capital. \$100,000.00 has been allocated to the School Dept. leaving \$282,000.00 to deal w/ three or four other capital items the Town Administrator feels are critical. Approx. \$150,000.00 would be towards the over-run for the computer/technical program. This doesn't leave a lot of money left. He stated out of \$382,000.00, there will only be \$132,000.00 to deal w/ the ambulance issue & other Town Administrator items (such as defibrillators, parking program, & the Onset bath houses). The committee has asked that the EMS Director come before them on March 7th to discuss the ambulance issue. He stated the ambulance issue keeps getting worse & there is a need to convince the Town Administrator of this. He stated there is not enough money to address all the critical issues.

Mr. McDonald stated w/ as many businesses as there are in this Town, he feels some sort of deal could be come up w/ re: the ambulances. Mr. Trudell questioned why would a business person in Town give up money for the privilege of coming into Town. Mr. McDonald stated there is a need to look outside the box. Mr. Trudell stated the Town Administrator needs to make a commitment on a new ambulance or a re-build of one.

Mr. McDonald stated another issue are the critical needs of various departments & the School Dept. which all can't be addressed at one time & all of which will come to a head at some point. He stated the small amount budgeted for capital items will not get the job done.

Mr. Trudell stated the EMS Dept. produces a positive cash flow & the Town should do something to help out the situation.

Mr. Trudell stated there is a potential of bringing on a graduate student to aid in capital planning. He asked the FinCom's permission to lend the FinCom's laptop computer to this graduate student. He noted the laptop may require some upgrades.

Mr. Trudell noted that Dr. Rabinovitch, Superintendent of Schools came before the Capital Planning Committee & reported that the Minot Forest School study is proceeding in a logical way & that a committee will need to be formed. A member of the FinCom & the Capital Planning Committee will need to be on this committee w/ a commitment of approx. three years. The Capital Planning Committee Chair will be that committee's representative & there is a need for a FinCom representative. Dr. Rabinovitch has asked him to appoint someone to this committee.

Ms. Cottuli noted that the ambulance issue is no different than the sewer user issues discussed a few years back.

Ms. Cottuli stated she had asked prior re: the Council on Aging position & had asked the Town Administrator to clarify why two people were doing the same (one) job.

Ms. Cottuli stated last week the FinCom was notified that the Town Accountant's position salary range was raised to \$90,000.00 - \$95,000.00. It has come to her attention that the Town Treasurer/Collector makes \$82,000.00 & this salary is maxed out. She feels the Treasurer/Collector position is just as important as the Town Accountant's position. She stated the difference in salaries between the two positions is disturbing to her. Mr. McDonald stated if the Town is going to get a good qualified candidate for Town Accountant, there is a need to raise the salary range, especially w/ the Town being so political & people not wanting to come work here. Mr. Trudell stated the Treasurer/Collector has not received a raise in a long time & if comparisons have been made re: similar positions in other towns. He feels there is a disparity. Ms. Bronk stated the DOR were the ones that recommended the increase in salary for the Town Accountant position. Mr. McDonald stated there are not a lot of good municipal accountants out there right now. Lengthy discussion continued re: the Town Accountant position & finding what is needed.

E. BOS/SC/FinCom Joint Meeting Status.

This matter was already discussed.

VII. LIAISON REPORTS

There were no liaison reports.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (Unanticipated Items)

Mr. McDonald asked if the proposed intern for the Capital Planning Committee will be paid. Mr. Trudell stated there may be a small stipend, like a work-study, but the stipend would be very small.

Mr. Heath asked for a vote on the loan of the FinCom's laptop computer for the Capital Planning Committee intern.

MOTION: Ms. Cottuli moved the FinCom loan the FinCom laptop computer to the Capital Planning Committee for use by a graduate student. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (7-0-0)

Discussion ensued re: a representative of the FinCom to serve on the Minot Forest Study Committee. Ms. Bronk volunteered. Mr. Heath explained there will be many, many meetings & it will be intensive. He noted it will be an estimated three year commitment. Mr. Trudell stated that the point was made that once the FinCom representative is on this

committee, if their term ends on the FinCom, they can still stay on the committee. He too noted how intensive serving on this committee will be.

Mr. Heath stated before appointing a representative, he wants to make sure the two FinCom members that are absent are made aware of this matter if they too are interested.

Mr. McDonald stated he went on the Town's website to look up when they are meeting next, but he could not find this information. Mr. Heath stated he will look into this.

Mr. Trudell discussed issues he sees w/ the Town operating the recycling center & then selling dump stickers & doing the same type of recycling at the dump. He doesn't feel it makes sense to be operating two of the same types of things. He stated it seems like the Town is competing w/ the Town.

IX. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: JANUARY 11, 2012 & FEBRUARY 22, 2012

MOTION: Mr. McDonald moved to approve the meeting minutes of January 11, 2012. Ms. Cottuli seconded.

VOTE: (5-0-2)

Mr. Cammarano & Ms. Pickett abstained

The FinCom did not vote on the minutes of February 22, 2012 because not all members had a chance to review them. They will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE & TIME

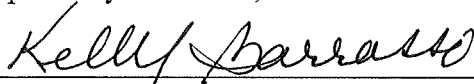
The next FinCom meeting will be held on March 7, 2012 at 6:00 P.M. in Room 225 of the Multi-Service Center.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms. Bronk moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 P.M. Ms. Cottuli seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (7-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly Barrasso, Transcriptionist

Date signed: 3/14/12

Attest: Frank Heath (H)
Frank Heath, Chairman
WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date filed: 3/15/12
Date copy sent to Town Clerk: 3/15/12