

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: September 12, 2012

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Donna Bronk, Chairman
Frank Heath, Vice Chairman
Bonnie Cottuli
Tom Worthen
David Trudell
Marilyn Donahue
Dominic Cammarano (Arrived at 6:50 P.M.)

Members Absent: Sam Gray
Larry McDonald

Also Present: Derek Sullivan, Interim Town Administrator

III. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

No-one came forward for Citizens Participation.

IV. BUSINESS

A. Discussion w/ Recycling Committee.

Present before the FinCom: Marilyn Russell, Recycling Coordinator
Earl Russell

Mr. Russell submitted documentation to the FinCom re: the Recycling Center.

Mr. Russell stated that the Recycling Committee wishes to submit an article for the fall Town Meeting Warrant. He stated the Recycling Center needs money to operate or else the center will be forced to close. He explained the reason there is an issue is because the center costs approx. \$11,000 per year to operate, but the Town only contributes \$5,000. He noted there is a revolving fund for the Recycling Center. He discussed previous funding, income, & expenses. He noted that by March of 2013, the revolving fund & the center's budget will be depleted. He stated there is a need for an additional \$3,000.

Mr. Russell stated there have been discussions on trying to come up w/ other ways for the center to make money, but to no avail.

Mr. Russell discussed how metal is disposed of that is dropped off at the center. He explained that people are charged for dropping off their white goods & then the center has someone haul them away.

Mrs. Russell stated there is an average of 100-150 people per day that come to the center which is open two days per week.

Mr. Trudell stated looking at the center's budget & looking at how the Town offers dump stickers for a fee, he feels there is a competition & duplication of effort. He asked how the center differentiates between recycling & the Town dump stickers. Mrs. Russell stated many people live in apartments, mobile homes, condos, etc. that do not have recycling services. She noted that businesses also utilize the center by bringing in various items, materials, etc.

Ms. Russell explained that the center receives a large amount of paint which the center disposes of properly & costs money to do so. She noted that the center has other programs as well, such as the taking in of mercury, thermometers, etc. She stated that the center received a mercury shed & a book shed through grants. She doesn't feel the center is in competition w/ the Town's dump sticker.

Mr. Worthen stated it seems the center is losing money. He feels the center needs to get people to donate. Mr. Russell stated the request right now is for \$3,000 & they will have to deal w/ 2014 later. Mr. Worthen noted that businesses could donate because they are creating materials that are being recycled at the center; businesses such as Wal-Mart, Stop & Shop, etc.

NOTE: Mr. Cammarano arrived at this time.

Mr. Worthen stated the center needs to approach these businesses & ask for donations. Mr. Russell stated this has been done, but the center is always turned down.

Ms. Donahue explained how the Town stopped municipal trash service previously which caused problems. She noted the center services a recycling need in Town. Ms. Bronk concurred.

Mr. Russell stated the center is asking for the money to come from available funds. He also noted that the Recycling Coordinator is the reporter to DEP, thus there are responsibilities of the coordinator as well that don't just deal w/ recycling.

**NOTE: The meeting proceeded w/ item V. Any Other Business/Discussion.
A. Fall Town Meeting Warrant.**

The FinCom & Mr. Sullivan proceeded to review the draft Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Sullivan stated that there are no money figures stated in the money articles because if

a number is given, the Town is stuck w/ that number. He noted that some numbers may change.

- Proposed Article #1 – Budget Amendments
- Proposed Article #2 – Capital Improvements
- Proposed Article #4 – Capital Improvements

Mr. Sullivan stated the Town received approx. \$127,000 in additional monies for budget amendments. He stated this money will be utilized for areas that are under-funded. He stated he will provide the FinCom w/ the budget amendments & what capital improvements are being requested to be funded, for example, IT equipment, vehicles, school buses, repairing of the High School roof, library repairs to window & doors, Town Hall security upgrades, etc.

Mr. Trudell asked if the amendments are to the Town Administrator's capital plan submitted last December or is there a new capital plan that will be evolving. Mr. Sullivan stated the capital items being requested were chosen to be looked at for funding. Mr. Heath stated the Capital Planning Committee has an updated capital plan & the committee has recommendations for going forward w/ this plan. He will supply the FinCom w/ copies of the committee's recommendations.

Ms. Donahue stated there is a need to know the mechanisms as to how this capital plan will work & how it will be presented. Ms. Bronk concurred. Discussion ensued.

Proposed Article #4 – Police Transfer

Mr. Sullivan discussed this article briefly.

Proposed Article #6 – McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Transportation

Ms. Bronk asked if the School Dept. has already paid money for this. Mr. Sullivan stated this is reimbursement for FY2012, but he doesn't know what will be received back until the State informs the Town.

Proposed Article #7 – Wareham HS Gym Roof

Mr. Sullivan stated this item is also included in the capital plan. The estimated cost to repair the roof is \$110,000. Mr. Trudell asked where this money will come from. Mr. Sullivan stated from available funds.

Ms. Cottuli expressed concern re: the word "borrowing" in the article.

Present before the FinCom: Claire Smith, Town Moderator

Ms. Smith stated that in the motion for this article, the language will need to be specific as to the funding source. The article is covering all the bases.

Discussion ensued re: having the High School Gym Roof matter included in two articles & how this will be handled at Town Meeting.

Ms. Cottuli stated before voting on this article, there is a need to know the plan on how the School Dept. will use the additional funding being requested in another article. She recalled when the School Committee came before the FinCom for support of the additional money (noted in Article 5) going to them.

Mr. Heath stated there have been discussions on who owns the school buildings & the transportation dept. He feels proposed Article 7 should be withdrawn by the entity who is sponsoring the article because this matter was already defeated at the recent special election. He feels this article will cause confusion & antagonism. He feels it should be handled in proposed article #3.

Ms. Smith stated there is a State law that enables the schools to take over a building for school purposes. She stated it depends on what the original article states & what was written. She feels there is a need to be careful in generalizations & she is not sure how this all pertains to the High School.

Mr. Heath stated there is a question of ownership & maintenance of the schools. He feels this matter should be looked at by Town Counsel. Mr. Sullivan stated he will look into this matter & he stated Town Counsel is already working on this.

Proposed Article #8 – Transfer to Harbormaster Maint./Improve. Account
Proposed Article #9 – Transfer to Harbormaster Maint./Improve. Account

Mr. Sullivan there is a large explanation for proposed article #9 re: what this money will go towards.

Ms. Bronk stated the FinCom could ask the Harbormaster to come in & discuss or have documentation submitted to the FinCom as to where this money will go.

Proposed Article #14 – Recycling Committee Fund

Mr. Sullivan stated there is a \$3,000 buffer in the budget to take care of this increase.

Discussion ensued re: the operations at the Recycling Center & private trash haulers.

Proposed Article #15 – Unpaid Bills

Mr. Sullivan stated that the bills for Woodward & Curran were for the WPCF capacity assessments.

Proposed Article #16 – Purchasing Wind Power

Mr. Sullivan noted that this article doesn't deal w/ the installation of wind power.

NOTE: Ms. Bronk asked if Mr. Sullivan had any idea when the FinCom would be receiving financial reports. Mr. Sullivan read a portion of an email into the record from the Town Accountant re: the requested financial status. He noted that Powers & Sullivan will be coming in for two days at the end of the month. Ms. Bronk stated she will try to get the Town Accountant to come to the FinCom meeting next week. She stated she doesn't want to go into Town Meeting w/out figures.

NOTE: The meeting went back to item IV. Business – B. Quinn Bill Committee Report.

Mr. Trudell stated the Quinn Bill Committee held a meeting. He highlighted the following points:

- The cost of the Quinn Bill to the Town is currently \$369,000.
- The Town's liability is not just 50%. There is a 2% clause included.
- The Town is actually only responsible for \$203,000. This is if the Town pays their portion & the pre-existing 2%.

Mr. Trudell stated the committee feels the Town Meeting voters should decide what options to take re: this matter. He noted that not every town has implemented the Quinn Bill. He stated the committee also discussed moral obligations.

Ms. Donahue stated the consensus of the committee after the meeting was to have the FinCom recommend to the BOS to only pay the Town's share of the Quinn Bill & not the State's portion. She stated when the Town voted for the Quinn Bill, in the Quinn Bill Act itself, it states the State should reimburse the Town. Thus, either the Town pays the State's portion or not. She stated if the Town did not pay the State's portion, it would save the Town \$160,000.

Discussion ensued re: paying the Town's share & contract issues if the Town doesn't pay the Town's share either.

Mr. Heath read minutes into the record which were taken from 9/11/74 when the Town adopted the Quinn Bill. He noted the State stopped reimbursing the Town their share in 2009.

Discussion ensued re: measures to take to stop paying the State's portion now or waiting until January or wait until the Town meets its threshold payment of \$203,000.

Ms. Bronk stated she would like a written report submitted to the BOS & the Town Accountant of what the FinCom has worked on relative to this matter & get this information out to the public. Mr. Heath stated the Quinn Bill Committee should submit their report to the FinCom & then the FinCom can submit the findings to the BOS noting the discovery of a funding discrepancy.

Ms. Bronk questioned if the FinCom should put an article together after making the BOS aware of the issue.

Discussion ensued re: the open meeting law & obtaining suggestions for the letter to the BOS w/out having the Quinn Bill Committee meet again. Ms. Donahue stated the committee just presented an oral report this evening & she will draft this letter for next week.

Mr. Cammarano noted that the issue is w/ the State not the Town. Mr. Heath concurred.

V. ANY OTHER BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

**A. Fall Town Meeting Warrant.
(DONE)**

VI. LIAISON REPORTS

**A. Quinn Bill Committee. (DONE)
B. WPCF. (NONE)
C. Capital Planning.**

Mr. Heath stated the Capital Planning Committee has an issue relative to no money has been dedicated to maintaining/fixing buildings. There are now issues that need to be addressed.

Mr. Heath briefly spoke re: the request for defibrillators.

D. School Committee.

Mr. Heath stated that the Action Committee met last evening.

Mr. Heath stated the Town Administrator will be putting an RFP out to outsource the entire school transportation system.

Mr. Heath stated continuing to run the transportation on its own & having the Town purchase & refurbishing buses is also being looked at. He briefly spoke re: a National Guard division that re-furbishes buses. Brief discussion ensued.

Brief discussion ensued re: if proposed Article 5 (unpaid bills) should be paid by the WPCF, not the Town. Ms. Donahue stated the Town commissioned this work to be done, not the WPCF.

**E. Library. (NONE)
F. Others. (NONE)**

VII. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – August 22, 2012

MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved to approve the meeting minutes of August 22, 2012. Mr. Heath seconded.

VOTE: (6-0-1)
Ms. Donahue abstained

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (Unanticipated Items)

MOTION: Mr. Heath moved to have the FinCom Chair add an addendum to the Quinn Bill Committee report based on the discussion presented this evening. Ms. Donahue seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (7-0-0)

Ms. Bronk spoke re: the two letters sent to the BOS from the FinCom a few weeks ago. She stated she has heard nothing back from the BOS.

Ms. Donahue suggested these letters be posted as public documents on the Town's website (FinCom page).

Ms. Bronk feels it is important for the public to know what the FinCom is doing. She suggested utilizing the media (as discussed previously) to put the topic of these letters out to the public. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Heath stated he received an email from the Town Accountant requesting a meeting w/ him to go over the formatting of reports to the FinCom.

Ms. Bronk stated the Association of Town Finance Committees meeting will be held on October 20, 2012. Brief discussion ensued re: cost.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE & TIME

The next FinCom meeting will be held on September 19, 2012 at 6:30 P.M.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: A motion was made & seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 P.M.

VOTE: Unanimous (7-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Barrasso
Kelly Barrasso, Transcriptionist

Date signed: 9/19/12

Attest: [Signature]
Donna Bronk, Chairman
WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date copy sent to Town Clerk: 9/20/12

