

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: June 12, 2013

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Donna Bronk, Chairman
Larry McDonald, Clerk
Tom Worthen
Marilyn Donahue
Dominic Cammarano (Arrived 6:41 P.M.)
Sam Gray (Arrived at 6:45 P.M.)

Members Absent: Bonnie Cottuli
David Trudell

Also Present: Derek Sullivan, Town Administrator

III. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

No-one came forward for Citizens Participation.

NOTE: The meeting proceeded w/ item IV. Reserve Fund transfers (discuss & vote).

Present before the FinCom: Chief Richard Stanley, Wareham Police Dept.

Mr. Sullivan discussed Reserve Fund transfer request #05-13 in the amount of \$49,297.00. The purpose of the request is to fund the Police salary line item. The reason this request is extraordinary or unforeseen is since December, the Police & the Administration have been working to mitigate the issues brought forward by retirements & multiple long-term illnesses plus a six-month suspension w/in the Police Dept.. Even with efforts made, the Police Dept. salary line will end in a deficit. Mr. Sullivan stated that that \$49,297.87 is the amount left in the Reserve Fund.

He distributed a memo from Chief Stanley to the FinCom & proceeded to discuss said memo. (Attached as reference).

Mr. Sullivan expressed the importance of the FinCom voting on this Reserve Fund transfer request this evening because this week the Police salary line item will officially go into deficit. He stated if the transfer is made this evening, it will make the issue cleaner.

Ms. Bronk asked why this matter was not brought before the FinCom sooner. Mr. Sullivan explained.

Mr. Worthen stated there are two more weeks left until the end of the fiscal year & two more weeks left of payroll for the Police in which there is no money. Mr. Sullivan stated he will take this matter up at the Special Town Meeting on June 18th & this will be included in the transfers for Article 1 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Chief Stanley discussed mitigation measures taken when this deficit issue was foreseen. (See attached memos dated 12/18/13 & 4/12/13).

NOTE: Mr. Cammarano arrived at this time.

Mr. McDonald stated MA General Law states there are two main criteria to meet for a Reserve Fund transfer which he feels portions of this current request meet. He asked what would happen if this transfer is not made. Mr. Sullivan discussed an email he received from labor counsel. He read a portion of the email into the record, which in short discussed what the repercussions would be if the Police wages were not paid.

NOTE: Mr. Gray arrived at this time.

Chief Stanley stated there is a plan in place to deal with this issue going forward.

Ms. Bronk expressed concern if this request actually does meet the criteria for Reserve Fund transfers. She wishes there had been a "heads up" on this request. Ms. Donahue stated there was a "heads up". She stated the FinCom was told the matter would be handled at year end (fiscal year end).

Ms. Donahue expressed concern re: this request setting a precedent. She expressed concern w/ the overall deficit spending over the past three years by the Police Dept. She hopes measures to cure these issues are worked out.

Chief Stanley explained there is no wiggle room in the Police budget which put him in a position w/ no flexibility in case unforeseen things came up.

Mr. McDonald concurred w/ Ms. Bronk re: wishing the FinCom had this information/memos earlier. He expressed concern re: draining the Reserve Fund to zero. He noted that the requested \$49,000+ does not represent the total amount needed by the Police Dept. Mr. Sullivan explained that if a transfer to be requested at the Special Town Meeting on 6/18/13 passes, the Police Dept. deficit will be zero. He noted now there is a revenue problem. Mr. McDonald acknowledged there is a revenue problem, but there is also now an expense problem, in the short-term.

Mr. Cammarano stated that some towns in Florida get half their revenue from ticketing. He questioned if it would be possible for the Town to be more aggressive in ticketing.

Mr. Worthen stated that ticketing increases revenue, but it takes personnel for example, to go to court, etc.

MOTION: Ms. Donahue moved Favorable Action on Reserve Fund transfer request #05-13 in the amount of \$49,297.00. Mr. Worthen seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (6-0-0)

IV. BUSINESS

A. Town Administrator's Report

1. Special Town Meeting Warrant – Article 1 – Transfers.

Mr. Sullivan stated the actual transfer figures are not yet ready, but they will be ready before the Special Town Meeting on the 18th.

2. Revenue/Expense Reports for April.

Mr. Sullivan submitted the revenue & expense reports for April to the FinCom members. (Attached as reference). He discussed which accounts will be in deficit & various accounts that will be included in the Article 1 – Transfers.

3. Director of Inspectional Services.

Mr. Sullivan noted the hiring of the new Director of Inspectional Services.

NOTE: Discussion ensued re: the deficit in the street light account.

4. Union agreements w/ EMS & Municipal Maintenance/Custodians.

Mr. Sullivan distributed information re: the agreements w/ the above unions. (Attached as reference). He noted there will be a need for a transfer at the October Town Meeting in the amount of \$5,200.00 for these agreements.

Article 7 – Collective Bargaining – Wareham Municipal Maintenance Dept. & Town Custodians Union.

Mr. Sullivan explained the value of this agreement is \$440.00 per employee over a two-year agreement. He noted that all employees agreed to increase in their cost of healthcare.

MOTION: Mr. McDonald moved Favorable Action on Article 7 of the 6/18/13 Special Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (6-0-0)

Article 10 – Collective Bargaining – Wareham Professional Firefighters EMT Association

Mr. Sullivan explained eight (8) members true cost is \$200.00 for clothing & cleaning benefit. The cost is \$1,600.00, but he will not be asking for a transfer.

MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved Favorable Action on Article 10 of the 6/18/13 Special Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. McDonald seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (6-0-0)

Article 2 – Police Cruisers

Brief discussion ensued re: the proposed police vehicles.

NOTE: Mr. McDonald noted that there will be a pre-Town Meeting in the Town Hall auditorium on 6/13/13 at 6:30 P.M..

Mr. Sullivan departed at this time.

B. Any updates on 6/18/13 Special Town Meeting articles (discuss & vote). (DONE)

C. Reserve Fund transfers (discuss & vote). (DONE)

D. Open positions on the FinCom.

Present before the FinCom: David Heard, Applicant

Ms. Bronk noted the Appointing Authority will be meeting on 6/25/13.

Ms. Bronk noted Mr. Heard's resume. She asked him why he wishes to serve on the FinCom. Mr. Heard stated he has a history of contributing in the towns he has lived in. He noted former committees he has served on as well as being on the Board of Directors of Jordan Hospital. He stated he is a mechanical engineer by trade & has a Masters Degree in Business.

Mr. McDonald told Mr. Heard that public vs. municipal rules are different. Mr. Heard stated it will be a learning experience.

Ms. Bronk noted that the FinCom is not political in any way & the FinCom are a hard working group.

Present before the FinCom: Joan Fontes, Applicant

Ms. Fontes stated for the past few years she has been involved w/ the Contract II sewer matter. She discussed her work experience in the legal field. She expressed concern financially for citizens of Wareham.

Ms. Donahue stated there are big differences between private & municipal. She stated the FinCom's financial decisions are made for the good of all the Town. She stated ultimately, the BOS has to act on the issues. She stated the FinCom is only an advisory board & the FinCom doesn't have the power to change something.

Ms. Bronk noted there is a third applicant that is not present & she noted this applicant's experience.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. McDonald stated the BOS voted on a policy re: funding the Stabilization Fund w/ a portion of Free Cash.

VI. LIAISON REPORTS

There were no liaison reports.

VII. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: MAY 29, 2013

MOTION: Mr. McDonald moved to approve the meeting minutes of May 29, 2013. Ms. Donahue seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (6-0-0)

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE & TIME


The next meeting date will be June 18, 2013 at 6:00 P.M. in the High School cafeteria. The next meeting after that will be on June 26, 2013 at 6:30 P.M.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: A motion was made & seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 P.M.

VOTE: Unanimous (6-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,


Kelly Barrasso, Transcriptionist

Date signed: 6/26/13

Attest: Larry McDonald
Larry McDonald, Clerk
WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date copy sent to Town Clerk: 7/1/13