

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: February 26, 2014

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Larry McDonald, Chairman
Marilyn Donahue, Vice Chairman
Bonnie Cottuli, Clerk
Dominic Cammarano
Tom Worthen
Joan Fontes
Jeffrey Tufts (Arrived at 6:41 P.M.)

Members Absent: David Heard
Marilyn Jordan

III. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Present before the FinCom: Bob Brousseau

Mr. Brousseau stated he is aware of the fiscal problems the Town is dealing with. He stated he taught in the school system for many years & was a prior School Committee member.

Mr. Brousseau expressed concern re: the Town's serious fiscal crisis & the impact to services provided by the Town & the School Dept. He expressed concern re: credibility. He questioned what type of crisis there is if there was an approximate \$3.3 million deficit, but now it is down to an approximate \$232,000 deficit. He stated townspeople don't understand the issue of structural deficits. He stated part of the Town's responsibility is to make townspeople understand the issues. He stated townspeople don't feel there is a fiscal crisis when the deficit drops down like it did. He stated townspeople don't believe there is a fiscal problem.

Mr. Brousseau stated he is the Treasurer of the Library Association. He expressed concern re: the potential cuts to the library.

Mr. Brousseau stated townspeople aren't feeling a sense of urgency. He questioned how the Town gets through the issue of credibility.

NOTE: Mr. Tufts arrived at this time.

Ms. Donahue noted the newspaper article that "truncated" the Town's deficit matter. She understands the Town needs to explain the issues & show plans to deal with them. She stated the matter is the Town is still in the planning process.

Ms. Donahue explained that the Town has to go before Town Meeting w/ a balanced budget which will not include many services. She stated there will also be an alternative budget w/ plans going forward for a revenue adjustment (override). She stated the issues are still be worked on for plans/projections moving forward. She stated the budget is still a work in progress.

Mr. Brousseau stated townspeople are asking how the Town went from an approximate \$3.3 million deficit to an approximate \$232,000 deficit, but in the same breath they are seeing a proposal for lighting upgrades for buildings & money being spent elsewhere.

Mr. Brousseau again stated there is a crisis in credibility in Town.

Ms. Cottuli stated she understands that in past years there was a "rabbit coming out of the magic hat". She stated this is not the case this year. She stated cuts in services are going to happen. There is no going back.

Ms. Cottuli spoke re: how to educate people. She stated she has asked several newspapers to attend FinCom meetings or to speak w/ her. She stated no-one has ever shown up. She stated any suggestions for helping people understand & for getting the facts are welcome.

Mr. McDonald explained that lighting upgrades will be paid for through Free Cash. She discussed where Free Cash comes from. He stated the lighting upgrades for buildings.

Mr. McDonald spoke re: the \$3.3 million deficit going to a \$232,000 deficit. He stated this deficit reduction includes 30-40 personnel cuts. He stated there was no plan of action prior to deal w/ this deficit. He stated now there is a framework & a plan is being developed to deal w/ these issues. He stated the budget does not include any new capital (except a lease for three police cruisers). He stated there is no stability in the budget. He stated the Town is not just looking at the matter at an operational standpoint, but an all over standpoint.

IV. BUSINESS

A. Recruitment and future FinCom position openings.

Mr. McDonald stated there will be two to three FinCom position openings come June. He stated applications are available on the Town's website or in the BOS office.

V. FINANCE COMMITTEE MATTERS

A. Review & vote on Annual Town Meeting Warrant articles:

1. Article 14 – Cemetery Sales

Present before the FinCom: David Menard, Municipal Maintenance Director
Nancy Miller, Cemetery Commissioner

Mr. Menard spoke re: the request for \$122,000 & what this money will be used for. (Attached as reference). He stated if all the funds aren't utilized, they will be rolled over.

Ms. Miller discussed how the (Cemetery Dept.) has been working w/ "bare bones". She stated this results in a lack of maintenance. She stated this money is being requested to get ahead w/ upkeep.

Ms. Miller stated the money would come from the Sales of Lots & Graves account. She discussed the three available accounts, what they are, & balances in each account. She stated the Cemetery Commissioners are looking at the Sale of Lots & Graves account to fund the proposed projects. She stated the money would only be utilized for cemeteries. She explained that the Perpetual Care Trust Fund is money from anyone who has purchased a cemetery plot. She stated this money is not used. She stated the interest from this fund is used for perpetual care, but the interest at this time has been depleted.

Brief discussion ensued re: the amount being requested & taking this money from the account.

Mr. Menard discussed what the garage is used for (included in the request for repairs).

Ms. Donahue congratulated Mr. Menard on his appointment as Municipal Maintenance Director.

Ms. Miller again stated these monies can only be utilized for cemeteries. She stated whatever monies are not used will go back into the account.

Mr. McDonald expressed concern re: the request of \$90,000 because it may be considered a capital expense. He stated this may have to be broken out because of the dollar amount being requested.

Present before the FinCom: Selectman Alan Slavin, BOS Liaison

Selectman Slavin stated this may have to go on the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Mr. McDonald stated a legal opinion may be needed for this.

Brief discussion ensued re: the repairs to the garage.

Ms. Miller discussed the proposed article for the Special Town Meeting Warrant. (Attached as reference).

Ms. Cottuli asked if there is a Workmen's Comp. quota for these hirings. Mr. Menard stated students would have to have it on their own. Ms. Miller explained it is a program through the schools. She stated this will all be hammered out before it is brought to Town Meeting.

Brief discussion ensued re: utilizing the inmate program. Mr. Menard explained this program was cut back by the Sheriff's Dept. last year.

2. Articles 15-17 – CPC articles

These articles will be handled later in the agenda.

3. Article 18 – Charter Change re: Budget Submission Dates

Present before the FinCom: Selectmen Alan Slavin, BOS Liaison

Selectman Slavin discussed Free Cash & explained that DOR is very specific as to what Free Cash can be utilized for. He explained the lighting project is a one time expense & is a project Free Cash should be used for.

Mr. McDonald suggested that a dictionary of certain definitions should be placed in the back of the Warrant.

Selectman Slavin discussed the intent of Article 18. He stated by having the start date of Town Meeting commencement be April 1st, days have been gained to deal w/ the School Dept. budget, the Town Administrator's budget, & the Capital Plan. He stated the dates stated in the Charter currently affect the budget process. He stated w/ the proposed change, it will help w/ deadlines & the flow of the budget process.

MOTION: Mr. Tufts moved Favorable Action on Article 18 of the 2014 Annual Spring Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Donahue seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (7-0-0)

4. Article 22 – Transfer Development Rights

Present before the FinCom: Selectman Alan Slavin, BOS Liaison

Selectman Slavin stated there will be a public hearing on TDR on 3/24/14.

Selectman Slavin explained that this article is a simplified version of what was presented last year.

Brief discussion ensued re: sending vs. receiving areas & the process that will be followed relative to TDR.

Brief discussion ensued re: what tax benefits to the Town if TDR is implemented.

Mr. Tufts expressed concern re: piece-mealing zoning vs. a whole package, such as in the Master Plan.

5. Article 20 – Street Layout – Bachant Way & Lynne Road
6. Article 21 – Street Layout – Cranberry Lane

Present before the FinCom: Selectman Alan Slavin, BOS Liaison

Selectman Slavin stated Article 21 is in order.

MOTION: Ms. Cottuli moved Favorable Action on Article 21 of the 2014 Annual Spring Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Donahue seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (7-0-0)

Selectman Slavin stated the Town is still waiting for engineering work to be done re: Article 20 to make sure all requirements have been met. He discussed the process for street acceptance.

Brief discussion ensued re: the previous discussion held on Article 14 & the \$90,000 being requested to repair a cemetery building & if this amount requested makes this fall into a capital category.

Present before the FinCom: Claire Smith, Town Moderator

Ms. Smith stated she has questions re: this article which she noted. She feels there are issues w/ the scope of the article.

NOTE: The meeting went back to item 2. Articles 15-17 – CPC Articles.

MOTION: Mr. Tufts moved Favorable Action on Article 15 of the 2014 Annual Spring Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Donahue seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (7-0-0)

MOTION: Ms. Donahue moved Favorable Action on Article 16 of the 2014 Annual Spring Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

Mr. Tufts asked re: the possible payoff of this debt by CPC. Selectman Slavin stated this is a possibility the CPC may put an article on the Special Town Meeting Warrant re: a payoff.

VOTE: Unanimous (7-0-0)

MOTION: Ms. Donahue moved Favorable Action on Article 17 of the 2014 Annual Spring Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

Selectman Slavin discussed the reasoning for a study & how this item (building) is included on the Capital Plan.

VOTE: Unanimous (7-0-0)

7. Any other articles.

Article 19 – Bylaw Amendment – Animal Control

MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved Favorable Action on Article 19 of the 2014 Annual Spring Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Cottuli seconded.

Mr. Tufts stated he is looking for the financial impact of this article.

Mr. McDonald expressed concern re: the wording of this article. Ms. Donahue concurred. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Cottuli stated there are situations where an animal may be a therapy animal vs. a licensed service animal.

Mr. McDonald stated this article doesn't have a financial impact.

VOTE: (2-2-3)

Article 1 – Election of Officers

MOTION: Ms. Donahue moved Favorable Action on Article 1 of the 2014 Annual Spring Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Fontes seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (7-0-0)

Article 11 – Rescind Previous Town Meeting Article Re: Purchase of School Buses

MOTION: Ms. Donahue moved Favorable Action on Article 11 of the 2014 Annual Spring Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (7-0-0)

VI. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

VII. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: JANUARY 29, 2014, FEBRUARY 12, 2014, & FEBRUARY 19, 2014

MOTION: Ms. Cottuli moved to approve the meeting minutes of January 29, 2014. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (7-0-0)

MOTION: Ms. Cottuli moved to approve the meeting minutes of February 12, 2014. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (7-0-0)

MOTION: Ms. Cottuli moved to approve the meeting minutes of February 19, 2014. Mr. Cammarano seconded.

VOTE: (6-0-1)
Mr. Tufts abstained

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE & TIME

Mr. McDonald stated the FinCom will not formally meet next week, but the FinCom members are encouraged to attend the School Committee meeting next week. It will be held at 7:00 P.M. The FinCom's next meeting will be held on March 12, 2014 at 6:30 P.M.

Brief discussion ensued re: the public hearing on the Warrants/budget.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Cammarano moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 P.M. Ms. Donahue seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (7-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Barrasso
Kelly Barrasso, Transcriptionist

Date signed: 3/12/14

Attest: Larry McDonald (KEB)
Larry McDonald, Chairman
WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date copy sent to Town Clerk: 3/13/14

ATRUE COPY
ATTEST

May Ann Scler
TOWN CLERK

For Regular Town Meeting

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Sales of Cemetery Lots and Graves, the sum of \$122,000. Said sum to be expended by the Cemetery Commissioners for the care, improvement, embellishment or enlargement of Town Cemeteries, subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen as provided by MGL 114:sect. 27 or to do or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation

The \$122,000 will be used in the following way

\$90,000	Garage repairs - Centre Cemetery
\$10,000	Headstone repair
\$10,000	Survey, -- Agawam Cemetery - Annex
\$ 5,000	Materials as needed, - stone, fertilizer
\$ 5,000	New signage, Public Notices, Postage
\$ 2,000	Office, -- folders, copies, pres.of records

Parameters: Fiscal Year: 2014 Start Date: 7/1/2013 end: 6/30/2014

Ledger History - Variance - Revenue Ledger

Account Number	Encumbered	Transfer:		Journal Entry:		Receipt:		Payment:		Ending: % Var.
		Budget	This Period To Date	This Period To Date	This Period To Date	This Period To Date	This Period To Date	This Period To Date	This Period To Date	
10000-4-4910-0-0000-0000-432221-00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,650.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GF - Fees Cemetery Internment		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,650.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1 Account(s) totaling:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,650.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	n/a

Parameters: Fiscal Year: 2014 Start Date: 7/1/2013 end: 6/30/2014

Ledger History - Variance - Revenue Ledger

Account Number	Encumbered	Transfer:		Journal Entry:		Receipt:		Payment:		Ending	% Var.
		Budget	This Period To Date	This Period To Date	This Period To Date	This Period To Date	This Period To Date	This Period To Date	This Period To Date		
10000-4-4910-0-0000-0000-432222-00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,655.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,655.00	0.00
GF - Fees Cemetery Foundation		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,655.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,655.00	0.00
		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,655.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,655.00	0.00
1 Account(s) totaling:		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,655.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,655.00	n/a

Parameters: Fiscal Year: 2014 Start Date: 7/1/2013 end: 6/30/2014

Ledger History - Variance - General Ledger

Account Number	Transfer:		Journal Entry:		Receipt:		Payment:		Ending	% Var.
	Budget	This Period To Date	This Period To Date	This Period To Date	This Period To Date	This Period To Date				
26008-0-0000-0-0000-0000-104000-00	190,208.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,400.00	0.00			198,608.00	-4.42
RRFA Sale of Lots And Graves - Cash Unrestri	0.00	0.00	190,208.00	0.00	8,400.00	0.00				
	190,208.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,400.00	0.00				
	0.00	0.00	190,208.00	0.00	8,400.00	0.00			198,608.00	-4.42
1 Account(s) totaling:										

Ledger History - Variance - General Ledger

Account Number	Encumbered	Transfer:		Allocated	Journal Entry:		Receipt:		Payment:		Ending % Var.
		Budget	This Period To Date		This Period To Date	This Period To Date	This Period To Date	This Period To Date	This Period To Date	This Period To Date	
81002-0-0000-0000-104000-00		333,241.00	0.00		0.00		4,200.00		0.00		
NET Cemetery Perpetual Care - Cash Unreser		0.00	0.00	333,241.00	0.00		4,200.00		0.00		-1.26
		333,241.00	0.00		0.00		4,200.00		0.00		
1 Account(s) totaling:		0.00	0.00	333,241.00	0.00		4,200.00		0.00		-1.26

Special Town Meeting

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Sales of Cemetery Lots and Graves, the sum of \$15,000, said sum to be expended by the Cemetery Commissioners for the care, improvement and embellishment of the Town's Cemeteries, subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen as provided for by MGL 114:sect 27 or to do or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation

The \$15,000 will be used to hire students to assist the Maintenance Department in maintaining the 3 Town Cemeteries. They will assist in mowing and trimming the grass; cleaning debris; maintaining the landscape and whatever else the Cemetery Dept. needs help with in order to properly maintain Centre Cemetery, Agawam Cemetery and Long Neck Cemetery.