

**MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING OF WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE,  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN, & SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: March 27, 2014

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Larry McDonald, Chairman  
Marilyn Donahue, Vice Chairman  
David Heard, Clerk Pro Tem  
Dominic Cammarano  
Marilyn Jordan  
Joan Fontes  
Tom Worthen

Members Absent: Bonnie Cottuli  
Jeff Tufts

Also Present: Derek Sullivan, Town Administrator  
Ms. Shaver-Hood, Superintendent of Schools  
School Committee members  
BOS members

**III. DISCUSSION RE: ARTICLES 6 & 7 OF THE 2014 ANNUAL TOWN  
MEETING WARRANT**

Mr. McDonald explained that the plan being discussed this evening is a "Town" plan rather than just the Finance Committee's plan. He stated the plan is the result of hard work & soul searching by every single department had in Town. He explained this unified plan became necessary when it became obvious that not only were Town expenditures exceeding revenues on an annual basis, but the situation has developed into a structural deficit.

Mr. McDonald explained that a budget deficit occurs when a town spends more than it receives in tax revenue, while a structural deficit is when a budget deficit persists for some time & requires definitive action to correct it. He stated without this action now, it is clear that Wareham will be in receivership within a few years, at which time the Town will have no control over its destiny or the tax rates.

Mr. McDonalds stressed that the decision to present a supplemental budget was not taken lightly & that even after it passes Town Meeting, it will require an over-ride vote at the ballots. He also noted that fiscal responsibility is in ongoing process which will require

Town management to establish benchmarks & hold quarterly or semi-annual reviews to ensure the goals are being met by each & every department.

Mr. Sullivan gave a PowerPoint presentation showing the Town budget which projects a \$16 million structural deficit over five years if action is not taken now. His presentation addressed the assumptions made in developing the forecasts as well as additional reductions in school & other Town services that would be required if the structural deficit is not addressed this year.

Mr. Sullivan emphasized the need to do the following:

- Cut expenditures.
- Increase revenues.
- Invest in the future of Wareham.

Following the presentation, members of the School Committee, Board of Selectmen, & the FinCom members commented on the PowerPoint presentation. All present unanimously concurred that actions, difficult as they may be, must be taken.

#### IV. 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, Typist (Per notes of David Heard)

Date signed: 4/16/14

Attest: Larry McDonald (KB)  
Larry McDonald, Clerk  
WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date copy sent to Town Clerk: 4/17/14