

## MINUTES OF MEETING OF WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: April 9, 2014

### I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

### II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Larry McDonald, Chairman  
Marilyn Donahue, Vice Chairman  
Bonnie Cottuli, Clerk  
Tom Worthen  
Jeffrey Tufts  
David Heard  
Marilyn Jordan  
Dominic Cammarano (Arrived at 8:17 P.M.)

Member Absent: Joan Fontes

Also Present: Derek Sullivan, Town Administrator  
Selectman Alan Slavin, BOS Liaison

### III. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Present before the FinCom: Chet Heitzman

Mr. Heitzman stated he understands the Town will be asking Town Meeting to vote on an override. He stated he pays approx. \$1,000 per quarter in real estate taxes. He asked what the override impact will be on his taxes. Mr. Worthen stated Mr. Heitzman would multiply the assessed value of his property by 13%. He stated in five years, the percentage would go to 14.5%.

Mr. Heitzman stated he understands an override is permanent. He questioned if there is a way to amend an override in years going forward. Mr. McDonald stated an override is a permanent increase to the tax base. Selectman Slavin explained that there is an option for an under-ride from an override which citizens need to petition for. Mr. McDonald stated the impact of the override will be spread out differentially based on other factors, such as the levy limit. He discussed the Town's growth factor. He stated the growth factor of FY 2015 is \$350,000. Ms. Donahue explained other options that may have an impact are things such as revenue sources. She stated things change in Town at will. She stated there is information on the DOR website.

### IV. BUSINESS

#### A. Recruitment and future FinCom position openings.

Mr. McDonald stated there will be several FinCom openings at the end of June. Applications can be obtained in the BOS office, on the Town's website, or contact the FinCom by email.

### V. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

#### A. Update on FY 2015 budget.

Mr. Sullivan submitted a document re: the contingent appropriation for Article 7 of the 2014 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. (Attached as reference).

Mr. Sullivan spoke re: the figures on the document. He highlighted changes to some figures.

Ms. Cottuli asked for clarification re: the increase for the library. Mr. Sullivan stated the total would be \$402,000. He discussed the library as being un-certified, but now it is being re-certified (a waiver given). The State has given a figure of \$432,000 that must be budgeted for the library to remain certified. He stated the reason the amount of \$402,000 is shown is because the Library Revolving Fund will take care of the rest. He stated this doesn't guarantee the library will be certified in years to come. He expressed concern re: how this certification process operates/runs. Mr. McDonald stated he understands the MLBC will be reviewing their formulas. Discussion ensued.

Selectman Slavin stated he is uncomfortable when the Town is pushed by the State to fund the library by "x" amount & pushing the Town to do something like this. He explained the library was not going to close. He stated there were options/ways to go about funding the library, but the certification would not be maintained. He stated the library will be funded at a level agreed to by the BOS last evening.

Brief discussion ensued re: what to show for the contingent budget in the Warrant. Mr. Sullivan reminded those present that if Article 7 passes Town Meeting, the BOS still have to vote to put it on the ballot.

Ms. Donahue stated she has heard some people say the Town is using "scare tactics", but it is a reality & there are consequences.

**MOTION:** Mr. Heard moved to reconsider Article 7 of the 2014 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Tufts seconded.

**VOTE: Unanimous (7-0-0)**

Mr. Worthen feels the Town should consider turning the library into a non-profit. Mr. McDonald stated the FinCom needs to vote on what is in the best interest of the Town, not personal interests. He stated a lot of work when into the contingent budget. He stated the School Committee is voting on the contingent budget this evening. Mr. Worthen feels libraries in general will be changing in the next ten years. He feels the library should be put into the hands of the people to do what they may. Ms. Cottuli believes the library was private in the past. She stated if this is where the leadership of the Town wants to go, she is inclined to go along with it. Mr. Heard stated he is comfortable w/ the contingency presented for the library w/ the understanding that this is part of the overall process of the Town & not necessarily how things will be done or run in the future. He feels all Town departments need to address how to best utilize the funds they have. Mr. Tufts stated w/ State oversight & decision making, this is a microcosm of all other processes (such as setting the tax rate) & going around the game board & abiding by rules that are laid out. Mr. McDonald stated w/ proper planning & execution, the library can be funded this year, but he is not sure how much support there is. He stated the contingency for the library is a starting point. He stated explorations & other decisions can be made going forward. He stated an attempt is being made to position the Town in a way that gives a foundation to move forward.

**MOTION:** Ms. Donahue moved Favorable Action on Article 7 of the 2014 Annual Town Meeting Warrant based on the numbers presented this evening. Ms. Cottuli seconded.

**VOTE: Unanimous (7-0-0)**

## **VI. FINANCE COMMITTEE MATTERS**

- A. Review & vote on any remaining Annual Town Meeting Warrant articles.**
- B. Review & vote on any remaining Special Town Meeting Warrant articles.**

Mr. Sullivan stated there may be one or two contracts that will be ratified before Town Meeting.

Mr. Sullivan stated there will be a need for \$31,000 for the Veterans' line item for this year due to an increase in participation.

Mr. Sullivan stated will have Article 1 of the 2014 Special Town Meeting Warrant items prior to Town Meeting.

Mr. McDonald stated he doesn't have the legal response for Article 22 of the 2014 Special Town Meeting Warrant yet & he doesn't know how to move forward w/ this article.

Present before the FinCom: Jackie Hickey, Agawam Village Director

Ms. Hickey stated she is not confident enough to know what the legal decision will be.

Brief discussion ensued re: how to proceed.

Present before the FinCom: Nan Miller, Community Preservation Committee

Ms. Miller stated this article that has been submitted by the CPC will be vetted prior to Town Meeting & if there are any issues, it will be pulled at Town Meeting.

Discussion continued re: how to proceed.

**MOTION:** Ms. Donahue moved Favorable Action on Article 22 of the 2014 Special Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Cottuli seconded.

**VOTE: (5-2-0)**

**Mr. Worthen & Mr. Tufts opposed**

- C. Review FinCom article recommendations.**
- D. Discuss Warrant setup w/ appendixes.**

Discussion ensued re: the set up of the Warrant, such as the budget, contingency budget, etc.

Discussion ensued re: noting that the contingency figures going forward should state "projected".

The FinCom reviewed the Letter to Voters & made suggested changes, edits, etc.

**NOTE:** Mr. Cammarano arrived at this time.

Discussion ensued re: speaking to the Moderator relative to grouping certain articles together, such as Articles 6 & 7 of the 2014 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

- E. Approve & vote on invoice #24900 from Wareham Week Newspaper in the amount of \$28.00 for public hearing legal advertisement.

MOTION: Ms. Donahue moved to approve payment of invoice #24900 from Wareham Week Newspaper in the amount of \$28.00. Mr. Worthen seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (8-0-0)

F. Dates to remember:

1. April 9, 2014 – Last day for FinCom to vote on Annual & Special Town Meeting Warrant articles.
2. April 28, 2014 – Town Meeting
3. On Thursday, May 15, 2014 at the Marion Music Hall there will be a long-range financial planning workshop.

VII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: MARCH 26, 2014 & MARCH 27, 2014

The Finance Committee concurred to table these meeting minutes until the next meeting.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE & TIME

The next FinCom meeting will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Heard moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 P.M. Ms. Donahue seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous (8-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Barrasso

Kelly Barrasso, Transcriptionist

Attest:

Bonnie Cottuli

Bonnie Cottuli, Clerk

WAREHAM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date signed: 5-7-14

Date copy sent to Town Clerk: 5/9/14

<b>CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION</b>		<b>FY15</b>	<b>FY16</b>	<b>FY17</b>	<b>FY18</b>	<b>FY19</b>
Stabilization Fund until approx 5% of operating budget.		500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	-
Town and School capital improvements.		1,197,004	1,250,000	865,000	50,000	20,000
Recreation & Lifeguard Program (includes summer youth jobs)		140,000	142,800	145,656	148,569	151,541
6 Police recruits (FY15 Start including salaries, benefits & expenses)		475,000	440,000	462,000	485,100	509,355
Police Cruiser Replacement Program		200,000	200,000	200,000	210,000	210,000
Library		277,996	283,556	289,227	295,012	300,912
Council on Aging		100,000	102,000	104,040	106,121	108,243
Additional maintenance staff (salaries and benefits)		150,000	153,000	156,060	159,181	162,365
2 floating clerical staff for town part time (salaries no health)		45,000	45,900	46,818	47,754	48,709
School and Town shared HR Director (salary and benefits)		98,000	100,940	103,968	107,087	110,300
4 additional math and reading specialists for grades 1 to 3 (salaries and benefits)		402,000	414,060	316,233	325,720	162,073
Improved technology infrastructure for schools		200,000	100,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Student 121 IT program		200,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	100,000
Convert Multi Service Center to accommodate Coop and West Academy schools		100,000				
Restore School's Round 3 Cuts - Salaries		365,000	375,950	387,229	398,845	410,811
Restore School's Round 3 Cuts - Other Expenditure		50,000	51,000	52,020	53,060	54,122
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>4,500,000</b>	<b>4,309,206</b>	<b>3,828,251</b>	<b>3,086,450</b>	<b>2,398,430</b>