



Town of Nantucket Finance Committee

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Committee Members: Denice Kronau (Chair), Stephen Maury (Vice-chair), Joseph T. Grause Jr., Peter McEachern, Joanna Roche, Peter Schaeffer, Chris Glowacki, Jill Vieth, George Harrington

MINUTES

Monday, January 27, 2020

4 Fairgrounds Road, Community Room – 4:00 p.m.

Called to order at 4:04 p.m.

Staff in attendance: Libby Gibson, Town Manager; Brian Turbitt, Director of Finance; Alexandria Penta, Financial Analyst; Terry Norton, Town Minutes Taker

Attending Members: Kronau, Maury, Grause, Schaeffer, Glowacki, Vieth

Absent Members: McEachern, Roche, Harrington

Department Heads: Rachel Day, Interim Manager Our Island Home (OIH) and Assistant Town Manager.

Documents used: Draft January 16 & 18, 2020 minutes; Town Warrant Articles for 2020 Annual Town Meeting (ATM); OIH FY2021 Budget; Citizen/Town Warrant spreadsheet; RORIs

Agenda approved by unanimous consent.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

III. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

1. January 16, 2020: **Motion to Approve.** (made by: Schaeffer) (seconded) Carried unanimously
2. January 18, 2020: **Motion to Approve.** (made by: Schaeffer) (seconded) Carried unanimously

IV. DISCUSSION OF OPEN ITEMS AND POTENTIAL MOTIONS FOR CITIZEN ARTICLES FOR 2020 ATM

1. Article II (80) Bylaw Amendment: Unwanted Capital Projects – Carol Butler

Discussion **Campbell Sutton** – The top portion is currently missing; read missing part. Her purpose for this is because much interaction at ATM is voters at odds with Administration; she’s heard frustration at projects coming back up after it’s been voted down. The goal is to create more collaboration between voters and administration prior to Town Meeting in the hopes of creating greater support for projects. Once a project has been twice rejected at ATM and/or the ballot box, the Town shouldn’t be able to bypass ATM by finding another funding source. People are quite clear at ATM why they don’t want something because of the design or such; it’s not just because they don’t want to pay for it.

Kronau – Asked for a specific example.

Sutton – The Old South Road Improvement turning lane and median strip has come back up again in some form. OIH came up at Sherburne Commons, and people were very vocal about wanting to stay on its current property; it came back again down on Miacomet Road. We have a lot of big, expensive projects; greater collaboration with the voters would provide end results that everyone is happy with.

Maury – He’s hearing several things. Asked for an example where voters were presented with a finished project.

Sutton – The two renditions of OIH new building. For OSR she attended two meetings where you couldn’t provide input on solutions, only the design.

Maury – OIH was a years-long process with several citizen advisory boards and a workgroup with lots of public input as well as a public information campaign. He's not sure if what's being presented is idea presented at ATM then hash those out. Asked what is being proposed for a better solution. Asked again what project has been twice voted down.

Sutton – The continued persistence on the Bartlett/Surfside roundabout; Transportation was going to bypass ATM for approval.

Vieth – Believes what Ms. Sutton did, provide an alternative, worked and now the roundabout is on the table. Now she's surprised by this article.

Sutton – The roundabout is still being engaged by Transportation.

Gibson – A roundabout has never been before the voters; what went before the voters and was approved was appropriation to purchase property for a roundabout. The Select Board took in a lot of information about stop signs at the Bartlett-Surfside intersection and decided to go with it for a while. OIH came before Town Meeting and did not proceed. There are no specific examples of the Town pushing through an article that was twice voted down.

Sutton – When the property was purchased she heard it was for a turning lane.

Maury – That's the point, the roundabout has never been voted down at ATM.

Turbitt – The way this article is written, if the Town finds another funding source, it doesn't have to go to ATM. If there were a benefactor who wanted to gift money for a particular project, under this article we would not be able to approve that.

Kronau – There is a difference between not wanting to pay for it rather than not wanting it. An excellent example is the Public Safety Auxiliary Building for the police department; that was because people didn't want to pay for it.

Maury – Pointed out that we don't know why people vote the way they do; it is a total guess to say they vote a project down twice because of money. We don't know.

Motion **Motion not to Adopt.** (made by: Maury) (seconded by: Grause)

Vote Carried unanimously

2. Article H (34) Appropriation: HHS-Transport for Behavioral Health Patients – Walter Wieners

Discussion **Kronau** – We are waiting for Mr. Wieners to address this.

Maury – They are asking for \$300,000; we should know exactly how much the hospital will cover.

Kronau – Any motion we make would change the number since they have found some alternative funding. An argument for approving this last year was that they find alternative funding.

Grause – There is another article from Fairwinds.

Maury – That article from Fairwinds will be withdrawn on Town Meeting floor.

Kronau – Fairwinds found alternative funding for their article.

Grause – He's concerned about setting a bad precedent for not-for-profits to come to the Town for funding through Town Meeting.

Gibson – Recommends a motion no to adopt.

Discussion on the motion.

Glowacki, for Nantucket Cottage Hospital – He doesn't think there was anything politically contrived about their approach; they didn't know better. This is not a hospital citizen article; it was brought forward by the Behavioral Health Task Force. There are three components behind it: First is understanding whether or not this should be a Town-funded piece; the hospital is not in the ambulance business. Second is complicated and is if this isn't funded, what will happen to the patients. The third point is it would be coming out of Free Cash over multiple years. Nantucket is the only place that has this issue because we don't have mutual aid available. An ambulance won't take a patient unless they are sectioned; at that point, it is against the patient's will and they can't leave. Our ambulances don't have the manpower to do this, and we don't have the mutual aid available.

Kronau – If this were to pass on ATM floor, where would you get the money.

Turbitt – He doesn't know. If it's raise and appropriate, that would be cutting it close.

Vieth – It seems like we have more and more well-trained people. She's shocked they wouldn't want to make extra money doing this.

Glowacki – We need the ambulance to come the moment a bed is found for the patient. That makes it hard to retrofit someone into the system. Another point is that there would be no insurance reimbursement while the wheels aren't rolling; that means there is no reimbursement during the time the ambulance is on the ferry. Noted that it is hard to find a grant for this since this problem is unique to Nantucket.

Gibson – To pay for this, we would have to cut from something else. They should be encouraged to find alternative funding through grants and such.

Grause – It isn't the Town's responsibility. They need to find funding elsewhere.

Schaeffer – Asked about using tax money from the marijuana outlets.

Turbitt – We have to see how much we receive from them.

Kronau – We need a comment referencing the lack of funds and that it isn't the Town's job and that it isn't because we are unsympathetic to the situation and encourage them to continue seek funding. Next year they should go through the Contract Review Board.

Motion **Motion Not to Adopt.** (made by: Grause) (seconded by: Maury)

Vote Carried 4-1//Glowacki recused

3. Article MM (68) Compliant Committee – Theresa Williams

Discussion **Turbitt** – He is trying to reach her to set up a time for her to address the Committee.

Kronau – This is word-for-word the same article as that submitted last year. She doesn't see spending a lot of time on this unless there is some brand-new information. If we haven't heard from Ms. Williams by Thursday, we'll vote on this.

Motion No action at this time.

Vote N/A

4. Article JJ (73) Bylaw Amendment: Plastics Ban – Bruce Mandel

Discussion **Kronau** – The Select Board put in Article 72 their own board. Mr. Mandel has asked for take no action and to select Article 72.

Motion **Motion to Take No Action.** (made by: Maury) (seconded by: Grause)

Vote Carried unanimously

V. REVIEW AND DISCUSS OUR ISLAND HOME ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGET

Sitting Kronau, Maury, Grause, Schaeffer, Glowacki, Vieth

Discussion No budget received.

Motion N/A

Vote N/A

VI. OTHER FINCOM BUSINESS

1. Update on Capital Projects Recommendations:

Kronau – Provided a brief description of her meeting with Stephen Welch, Capital Program Committee (CapCom) Chair.

Turbitt – Reviewed CapCom Recommendations Report.

Glowacki – Asked about CapCom's review process.

Turbitt – All recommendations are entered into the software and made available to CapCom. Our recommendations ultimately depend on funding sources. Finance and Administration go through the same RORI process as CapCom.

Gibson – Every now and then a project comes up that wasn't previously known or expected for various reasons. Generally, it is a practice not to put forward one of those projects.

Discussion about the, number of, purpose of, and locations for the traffic data collection systems.

Gibson – We aren't ready for the design for a new OIH building, but we need the \$0.5m to be added to the \$1m already appropriated to allow us to continue looking at models.

Schaeffer – The \$2m for a Marine Department storage shed seems excessive.

Turbitt – Not considering it would be used for doing mechanical repair work on equipment; also, it has to be heated. When the bid was put out, the lowest was much more than anyone anticipated.

Glowacki – Asked why the schools are asking for \$750,000 per year for the campus-wide improvement plan.

Turbitt – Without the Master Plan, this allows them to start the process and not have to ask for \$3m or \$4m every year.

We are working on breaking out Hazard Mitigation and Coastal Resiliency to its own department.

Gibson – The Children’s Beach Pump Station is intended to pump the entire Brant Point-Easton Street area.

Vieth – She thought there were people on Brant Point willing to provide funds for this.

Turbitt – He hasn’t heard that; no one has approached him. Someone has approached about providing funds for the Fulling Mill Road design.

We have a supplemental request from the Marine Department for a wave attenuator to deflect the force of waves away from the Town Pier.

Kronau – We asked Noah Karberg about Airport Capital projects. Asked if there were further questions.

Maury – We had asked Mr. Karberg about the reimbursement of security projects.

Turbitt – He was referring to the security upgrades where Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will pay for some aspects of security upgrade and the Transportation Security Administration will pay for other aspects. The FAA won’t approve funding until they know exactly what they will be paying. Before they proceed further, we will have a commitment on what will be reimbursed for how much and by whom.

Vieth – The Airport requested a lot of money for the groundwater sampling and testing.

Turbitt – They are required to do that.

Our Island Home had two requests but that depends on whether or not there will be a new building approved.

Grause – Regarding Sewer, in the text it states the South Valley Pump Station Upgrade will be paid for in part by Richmond Development; asked how much they are to pay.

Turbitt – Richmond has agreed to pay \$150,000.

Grause – Surfside Area Road Reconstruction and Waitt Drive/Amelia Drive, the totals look bigger than the request.

Turbitt – Those both have previous appropriations.

2. Town Warrant:

Kronau – The first 12 warrant articles are all appropriation but have no funds attached.

Gibson – We will be giving you those numbers over the next few weeks.

3. Next meeting: Tuesday, January 28, 2020; 4:00 p.m.; 4 Fairgrounds Road Community Room
Open Items

Motion to Adjourn at 5:45 p.m. accepted by unanimous consent.

Submitted by:

Terry L. Norton