



Town of Nantucket Finance Committee

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Committee Members: David Worth(Chair), Stephen Maury(Vice-chair), Clifford Williams, Joseph T. Grause Jr., Peter McEachern, Henry Sanford, Joanna Roche, Denice Kronau, Peter Schaeffer

MINUTES

Monday, February 4, 2019

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

Called to order at 4:00 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: Worth, Maury, Williams, Grause, Roche, Kronau, Schaeffer
Absent Members: McEachern, Sanford
Late Arrivals: None
Early Departures: None
Documents used: Warrant Articles for 2019 Annual Town Meeting (ATM).

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. None

II. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

1. None

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

IV. WARRANT ARTICLES FOR 2018 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING (ATM)

Worth – On February 21, he wants to discuss the new Select Board Warrant Article to purchase the Nantucket Inn for the purpose of affordable housing; one item for a decision is whether or not to combine the discussion of Tobias Glidden’s Article 38 (Appropriation: Acquisition of Existing Properties for Affordable Housing) for \$30M with the Nantucket Inn article or keep them separate. If we do them together, he’s concerned FinCom would end up with a public policy discussion; if they are kept separate, FinCom can its financial questions answered.

Maury – The Select Board decided it would be best to allow both on the ballot; that allows voters to decide which goes forward. Most people think it’s an either-or situation. It isn’t customary for citizen articles to go on the ballot before Town meeting but the board chose to put both articles on the ballot.

Roche – Asked if FinCom should support one or both.

Worth – We have to render an opinion on both articles.

Maury – There are many questions about the Nantucket Inn purchase; it would be a different type of affordable housing.

Worth – He would like to evaluate the two projects separately.

Williams – He thought a citizen’s article had to be approved at ATM before it went onto the ballot.

Gibson – Only the Select Board can put a citizen article on the ballot; it has been the practice not to put it on the ballot until it is adopted at ATM. If it’s voted down at ATM, it’s presence on the ballot is irrelevant.

Grause – It is disturbing that there are two articles looking at \$30M with undeveloped details and a lot of other questions.

Roche – Asked if FinCom will have sufficient information on each article.

Worth – Mr. Glidden is prepared to present at the Tuesday, February 5 FinCom meeting.

Maury – Doesn't think FinCom will get a *pro forma*; no one has had time. The Nantucket Inn is not on the market; he heard, through the grapevine, Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) was contacted about the purchase.

Worth – The challenge is that someone on AHTF is a principal and may have financial interest in the sale.

Kronau – Wants to review them separately.

Consensus agrees about reviewing the articles separately.

Roche – There is a lot of information that we would want to review such as the impact on the Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI) list. In the past, FinCom has criticized AHTF for insufficient handling of their funds.

Gibson – The AHTF has spent time developing a plan; they are close to completion.

Worth – On February 21 we are schedule to meet at the Wannacomet Water Company (WWCo) conference room; asked if there is a way to get into the 4 Fairgrounds Road Community Room. If the meeting must be at WWCo, suggested adding a meeting on February 19 or 20 to review the social services article; he anticipates they will generate a lot of comment and the need to look at financial ramifications. Tomorrow we are supposed to review the real estate articles and discuss Mr. Glidden's article. An abutter also wants to speak to Steven Cohen's Article 85 (Real Estate Acquisition: Washington Avenue) and Article 86 (Real Estate Conveyance: Washington Avenue).

Gibson – Reviewed the schedule from today to March 5. There are some citizen articles that look like they won't cost money when in fact they will; those need to be discussed.

Worth – Articles we still need to make decisions on: WWCo budget, zoning article covenant program, zoning article swimming pools, and Stretch Energy code.

Gibson – REAC has scheduled their meeting to review the real estate articles, but it will be later this week.

Worth – We'll hear Mr. Glidden tomorrow, Nantucket Inn on February 21, and wait for the Planning Board decision on the Stretch Energy code. Asked a consensus for a date to discuss social service related articles – February 19 or 20.

Consensus prefers the February 20th at 4 p.m.

Worth – On the 21st we would look at the Nantucket Inn article. An invitation has been extended to us to tour the Nantucket Inn. He'll post it as a meeting; would like to do the tour this Friday, February 8 at 1 p.m.

Roche – If we take these separately and only Glidden's article passes, asked if that money could be used to buy Nantucket Inn.

Turbitt – No.

Maury – He'd like to see a way to adjust Mr. Glidden's article to allow the money to be used to purchase Nantucket Inn.

Gibson – The problem with Mr. Glidden's article is the scope; it wasn't written with the intent of something like Nantucket Inn being purchased.

Maury – Regarding the scope of Mr. Glidden's article, he had some ideas about buying deed restrictions on properties that they would make them affordable. Asked how that would be allowed.

Gibson – She can ask about that.

Grause – He spoke to John Brescher, chair of the Government Study Committee, about Article 77 (Committee Establishment: Complaints); the article last year was negotiated off the warrant with the agreement the town would review the article. Mr. Brescher said they reviewed it and decided that it would be a bad idea. It would create a committee that would have authority to override the Select Board or any Town governmental committee.

Roche – Asked what the current path for resolution of issues is.

Maury – There is none. The answer is to get involved in the Town government.

Worth – We have not taken action on Article 36 (Appropriation: Health and Human Services – Ambulance Transport Fund). Asked if there is a way to find money for this as a "one off". This problem won't go away; we need to find a permanent solution.

Gibson – FinCom could make a comment on the motion that the money is to be used for one year only.

Worth – He had a conversation with the proponent and explained there is support but this is not a responsibility the Town should take on. This problem is not going to go away.

Kronau – Once it's funded, it should be funded in perpetuity; it is not going to go away.

Roche – There is a third possibility, one of the people who applied for the second marijuana retail license said they would contribute to the Town for that use. She agrees that if the Town funds it, the Town will always fund it; they will keep coming back to the Town for money.

Gibson – The Town is providing a short video to explain debt exclusions; those are on the Town website. Also, we're putting together "big boards" as well for ATM.

Maury – Explained about paying to put the content on YouTube.

Worth – There is a public hearing on the warrant scheduled for Feb. 12.

V. NEXT MEETING DATE/ADJOURNMENT

Date: Tuesday, February 5, 2019; 4:00 p.m.; 4 Fairgrounds Road Community Room

Motion to Adjourn at 5:09 p.m. accepted by unanimous consent.

Submitted by:

Terry L. Norton