



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

Thursday, March 25, 2021

*This meeting was held via remote participation using ZOOM and YouTube,
Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Regarding Open Meeting Law*

Called to order at 4:00 pm by Ms. Kronau

- Staff in attendance: Libby Gibson, Town Manager; Brian Turbitt, Director of Finance; Rick Sears, Deputy Director of Finance; Rob McNeil, Director Department of Public Works (DPW)
- Attending Members: Kronau, Grause, Roche, Schaeffer, Glowacki, Vieth, Harrington
- Absent Members: Maury, McEachern
- Late Arrivals: Glowacki
- Other Speakers: Dorothy Hertz, Chair Contract Review Committee; Bruce Mandel, sponsor Article 75;
- Documents used: Draft FinCom minutes; Warrant Articles for 2020 Annual Town Meeting; Nobadeer Field House PowerPoint Presentation

Adoption of Agenda.

Motion **Motion to Adopt as drafted.** (made by: Grause) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried 7-0//Schaeffer, Vieth, Roche, Harrington, Grause, Glowacki, and Kronau-aye

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

III. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

1. January 28, 2021
2. February 4, 2021
3. February 6, 2021
4. March 1, 2021
5. March 4, 2021
6. March 8, 2021
7. March 9, 2021
8. March 11, 2021
9. March 16, 2021

Motion **Motion to Approve the minutes as listed.** (made by: Schaeffer) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried 6-0//Schaeffer, Vieth, Glowacki, Roche, Harrington, and Kronau-aye; Grause-abstain

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. None

V. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF WARRANT ARTICLES FOR 2020 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING (ATM)

1. Article 14 (Appropriation: Supplemental Funding for Construction of Nobadeer Field House)
- Discussion **McNeil** – Reviewed PowerPoint presentation on the 3-season field house: 46X47 footprint on concrete pad, containing bathrooms and mechanicals and open floor space. Funding from Community Preservation Committee and previous authorization total over \$600,000; looking for \$1m supplemental funding. Will have actionable contract bid pricing in time for Town Meeting. Permits are in place.
- Vieth** – Asked if Historic District Commission had issues with the standing seam roof (no). Asked if solar panels were being considered.
- McNeil** – He has solar in mind for this; looking to get it built first.
- Vieth** – One issue was a place for visiting teams to change; asked if that is part of a longer plan.
- McNeil** – That was not part of the program.
- Vieth** – Asked if this building can be rented out to bring in income.
- McNeil** – That would be a question for Town Management. The open interior space is considered multi-functional; there is a probability to store equipment in the winter. This was pared down to bare essentials.
- Gibson** – Doesn't know what the Town would rent it out for; if we were to do that, we'd have to go through a procurement process. This is a very basic structure meant to meet basic needs.
- Roche** – Asked if a kitchen would be added on or what are some future additions.
- McNeil** – The kitchen was excluded; it is not set up to handle any cooking equipment. There is drinking fountain and water-bottle-filling station on the concrete pad. Around the perimeter is a concrete pad where there could be picnic tables and bike racks. There is a covered porch on the rear of the building, which is pretty small and meant to provide shade.
- Motion **Motion to Adopt.** (made by: Schaeffer) (seconded)
- Roll-call Vote Carried 7-0//Schaeffer, Vieth, Harrington, Glowacki, Grause, Roche, and Kronau-aye
2. Article 9 (Appropriation: Health and Human Services)
- Discussion **Hertz** – Received \$95,000 allocated for a grant for substance abuse from the marijuana tax. NAMI and Fairwinds applied; unanimously endorsed the NAMI program for people coming out of rehab; Gosnold will run the 10-week programs on Island. \$2,988.68 is left over.
- Kronau** – Thought Gosnold was leaving the Island; asked if there is any risk they won't be able to complete it.
- Hertz** – Gosnold has given their word they will do it. NAMI has integrity and we feel certain the project will go forward.
- Kronau** – Asked if NAMI can work with Fairwinds to carry this forward should Gosnold quit.
- Hertz** – Fairwinds doesn't have the clinical staff for this type of program.
- Schaeffer** – Asked the total marijuana tax generated and if they factored in the new store.
- Vieth** – That was the \$97,988.68 referenced.
- Gibson** – That money will come when it comes; we haven't factored in a projection since it's all new.
- Turbitt** – We can only authorize what's in the fund at a set point. He can't authorize out of a projection.
- Motion **Motion to Adopt.** (made by: Roche) (seconded)
- Roll-call Vote Carried 6-0//Schaeffer, Harrington, Grause, Vieth, Roche, and Kronau-aye; Glowacki recused
3. Article 75 (Bylaw Amendment: Single-Use Plastics) Bruce Mandel
- Discussion **Mandel** – After the committee discussed a motion to approve, he's worked with Town Counsel to craft a motion, which John Giorgio sent on March 11. Explained the motion moves the bylaw into Chapter 125-3(A) and scales down the verbiage: explained the impact of the language change.
- Kronau** – We did not have a motion to approve, we were waiting to hear from Town Counsel.

- Vieth** – If this is to ban plastic nips, asked if this means there are no nips. Trying to understand how the liquor stores will handle this.
- Mandel** – The nip bottles being banned are up to 200ml (6.6oz) because it's probably one of the top 2 or 3 litter items the Clean Team picks up. Larger bottles are still allowed. It's up to the vendor to find a work-around. No objections or complaints have been filed by the vendors.
- Vieth** – Asked if any liquor stores were involved in the workgroup.
- Mandel** – They weren't in the work group, but they were individually approached and could have attended any of the public hearings. Those he talked to weren't happy and will probably vote against it. There are sustainable alternatives for this size bottle. Every item on this list has a sustainable alternative.
- Vieth** – Asked if there are cigarettes brands that will be banned.
- Mandel** – Only those cigarettes containing cellulite acetate filters will be banned. Again, there are alternatives and substitutes. The plastic filters are the number-1 litter item on the Island; they are toxic and a threat to birds.
- Vieth** – She is very concerned these stores don't know what will be hitting them. Feels like there is a lot judgement involved; there is a lot of litter. Thought the point was to reduce plastic use for the Island.
- Mandel** – The intent isn't to change a person's behavior; this addresses commercial sale and distribution. There are sustainable alternatives for all of these. Between now and Town Meeting, one or two items could be removed by amendment if concerns come up. The intent is to reduce the plastic burden on the landfill.
- Glowacki** – What would be the commercial availability for glass and plastic nips be.
- Mandel** – Larger sizes; there is boxed wine and though he's not aware of boxes that small, it is an alternative.
- Glowacki** – There are conceivable commercial alternatives but not known alternatives.
- Roche** – According to Dorothy Hertz's report, 495% of Massachusetts' liquor stores reached their goal by last July 1. Her concern is this would push people into larger sizes. Since January 1, she's picked up at least 200 nip bottles on the road she lives on.
- Vieth** – On the list of concerns is boxed water; saying boxes as for wine is an alternative, strikes her as interesting. These boxes have plastic in them.
- Mandel** – The boxed water was added because they are burden on the landfill due to their mixed components. All items on the list are driven by the Plastic Workgroup and stake-holder meetings; the stake-holders provided input into items on the list. Two items on the list are from the Sewer Department because they block equipment and have to be removed by hand.
- Schaeffer** – By his research, nip service is between 8% and 30% of a liquor store's business. His concern is that we're telling people they have to buy 200ml nips and that is encouraging people to drink more.
- Mandel** – That is getting into people's behavior. The intent is to reduce the Town's cost of items that have to be disposed of into the landfill as well as the cleanliness of streets.
- Glowacki** – Asked why these recommendations weren't made part of the initial bylaw.
- Gibson** – These were discussed by the workgroup, but we didn't get so far as endorsing them. The Select Board was asked to sponsor the article and they declined.
- Glowacki** – He has a lot of sympathy for items in this article. His primary concerns are this is fairly broad, is an outgrowth of our situation, was brought up last year, and people aren't fully aware of what it entails. He'd like to see it go forward in the future with more public discussion.
- Vieth** – Asked if there is an Island boxed-water company. Asked if they weighed in or meet the standards for the content of their box.
- Gibson** – No they do not; their boxes are no different than any others.
- Mandel** – The issue with the boxes is that they are plastic lined with different materials for the spout and cap; they can't be recycled or composted so aren't a sustainable alternative to plastic bottles. We are encouraging the use of personal bottles that can be refilled in many locations.

Since Nantucket passed its single-use plastic ban, many mainland towns have adopted a similar ban.

Vieth – If you can't have water in a box or glass, we can't buy water over the counter.

Mandel – The ban is on smaller-sized bottles. There are still the larger bottles and water coolers.

Kronau – Closed the public comment portion.

Schaeffer – This is too complicated and prohibitive, and people don't know it's coming.

Vieth – She's not comfortable until we hear comments from local businesses. She's all for banning the "flushable" wipes.

Kronau – We could adopt this provided Items K and L come off: K is the nips and L is boxed water.

Grause – Asked if the Town has a comment on whether or not this enhances the Town bylaw.

Gibson – It would help the landfill and solid waste operations. She can assure not many people know about this; Town Administration hasn't reached out about it because it is a citizen's article. It is good for the environment and landfill, but it will be difficult to enforce; I don't have a dedicated staff person to enforce this.

Vieth – She'd like to know if we are sending less waste off Island; without that information, she's not comfortable making a decision.

Gibson – The less plastic sold, the less goes into the landfill, and the less that's shipped off Island. It's hard to tell if we have sent less off Island because the Town bylaw only been in place since June and it hasn't really been put into effect because of COVID.

Glowacki – Asked if there has been an analysis that confirms there would be a savings of \$300,000.

Turbitt – He hasn't seen the analysis.

Glowacki – If we could do just wipes on this, he'd support this. Wipes in fact are not flushable.

Roche – Trying to qualify the amount of plastic used over this past year would be very hard because of COVID. She knows that 80% of all plastic water bottles end up in the landfill, so if we ban plastic water bottles, we will reduce the amount of plastic going into the landfill. We've had these conversations before; if we don't protect the infrastructure of our Island, we will suffer. You can't change people's behavior, but you can put out information to make them more aware.

Vieth – This is just for sales from Island commercial businesses; people could still order on line. She's not going to support this, even with just wipes, without input from the Select Board.

Kronau – In addition to not adopt or take no action, here is the potential to adopt excluding K and L or with just the flushable wipes.

Discussion on Mr. Grause's motion to adopt.

Glowacki – He's still very concerned about lack of information. He would support a motion to adopt with only Item G (wipes) or not to adopt.

Motion **Motion to Adopt with the modification of deleting Items K (nips) and L (water boxes) from the text.** (made by: Grause) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried 4-3//Harrington, Grause, Vieth, and Kronau-aye; Schaeffer, Glowacki, and Vieth-nay

4. Article 2 (Appropriation: Unpaid Bills)

Discussion **Turbitt** – Asking for a positive motion on \$28,838.08 in General Fund unpaid bills, which would come from Free Cash, and on \$5,222.78 from Enterprise Fund unpaid bills, which would come from retained earnings.

Motion **Motion to Adopt.** (made by: Schaeffer) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried unanimously//Schaeffer, Grause, Harrington, Vieth, Roche, Glowacki, and Kronau-aye

5. Article 4 (Revolving Accounts: Annual Authorization)

Discussion **Turbitt** – There are a couple of changes to this: Beach Improvements increased to account for additional staffing, Solar Rebate Program increased to \$150,000, Airport Aviation Fuel increased to \$4m.

Motion **Motion to Adopt with the Airport Aviation Fuel Revolver Fund at \$4m.** (made by: Schaeffer) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried unanimously//Schaeffer, Glowacki, Harrington, Glowacki, Vieth, Roche, and Kronau-aye

6. Article 16 (Appropriation: Fiscal Year 2022 Enterprise Funds Capital Expenditures)

Discussion **Turbitt** – This is in concert with Capital Program Committee recommendations. Changes include: Airport Groundwater Soil Investigation increased to \$8m and added Sewer New Centrifuge System for \$1.5m for emergency replacement of the current system funded through the Sewer Enterprise Fund. The only other change is Wannacomet Water Company; it is the Water Department Enterprise Fund because the State legislature and governor signed the home rule petition merging the departments; also, their capital requests will come from the now combined retained earnings.

Glowacki – Asked if Mr. Turbitt has a view on the capital choice.

Turbitt – It is a better alternative.

Harrington – Asked if there is redundancy out of the sewer rebuild.

Turbitt – That is part of Phase II upgrade; this addresses a critical need.

Motion **Motion to Adopt.** (made by: Glowacki) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried unanimously//Grause, Schaeffer, Harrington, Vieth, Roche, Glowacki, and Kronau-aye

7. Article 30 (Appropriation: Special Purpose Stabilization Fund for Airport Employee Accrued Liabilities)

Discussion **Turbitt** – They are recommending \$100,000 from retained earnings.

Motion **Motion to Adopt.** (made by: Grause) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried unanimously//Grause, Schaeffer, Glowacki, Harrington, Vieth, Roche, and Kronau-aye

8. Article 31 (Appropriation: Special Purpose Stabilization Fund for Town Employee Accrued Liabilities(\$500k))

Discussion **Turbitt** – Asked for a motion to take no action; the Town is not recommending the \$500,000 transfer. The only risk is delaying the process of setting the money aside and continuing to take it out of retirement.

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

Roll-call Vote Carried unanimously//Grause, Schaeffer, Harrington, Glowacki, Vieth, Roche, and Kronau-aye

9. Article 73 (Bylaw Amendment: Animals)

Discussion **Gibson** – This came about from Select Board discussion about dog behavior: loose dogs and the leash law. The leash law has not been actively enforced around the Island. It increases the fine for any loose dog which creates the need for a nuisance dog hearing.

Motion **Motion to Adopt.** (made by: Glowacki) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried unanimously//Grause, Schaeffer, Harrington, Vieth, Roche, Glowacki, and Kronau-aye

10. Article 93 (Home Rule Petition: Amending the Town Charter Relative to the Audit Committee)

Discussion **Gibson** – This was in the 2020 warrant and has a positive FinCom motion. There is no motion to reopen so the motion stands.

Motion No motion to reopen.

Roll-call Vote N/A

11. Article 110 (Adopt Indigenous Peoples' Day Locally in Place of Columbus Day) Emily Osley

Discussion **Kronau** – When this was first discussed, Mr. Schaeffer noted the lack of an educational component.

Grause – He doesn't know why the FinCom needs to make a motion on this since it has no financial impact on the Town. If voters want to make that swap, they can do it. He would take no action.

Roche – Agrees with Mr. Grause.

Discussion on motion to take no action.

Vieth – She's open to a motion not to adopt. This is a National Holiday, not a local holiday.

Kronau – Take no action lets the voters decide what they want to call the day. Sponsors said as a locality, we can make changes to how we celebrate it; other municipalities have made the change.

Glowacki – There is no difference between not to adopt and take no action.

Grause – Doesn't agree; not to adopt is a recommendation that he feels FinCom doesn't need to weigh in on. Take no action leaves it up to the voters.

Vieth – There probably isn't a financial implication but the Town would have to change a lot of signs regarding they market Columbus Day.

Harrington – This is not uncommon for much New England; there would be some printing expenses but it's not unknown.

Schaeffer – Stop & Shop and stores will continue to run a Columbus Day sale.

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

Roll-call Vote Carried unanimously//Roche, Glowacki, Harrington, Vieth, Schaeffer, Grause, and Kronau-aye

VI. NEXT MEETING DATE/ADJOURNMENT

Date: Monday, March 29, 2021; 4:00 p.m.

Finish up articles on March 29 and March 30.

Adjournment:

Motion **Motion to Adjourn at 5:43 p.m.** (made by: Vieth) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried unanimously//Grause, Schaeffer, Harrington, Glowacki, Roche, Vieth, and Kronau-aye

Submitted by:

Terry L. Norton