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HARWICH, MA

2022 MAY 25 A 8:41

MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN HALL
GRIFFIN ROOM
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020
5:00 PM REGULAR MEETING
REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

APPROVED

RELEASED

SELECTMEN PARTICIPATING: Larry Ballantine, Michael MacAskill, Stephen Ford and Edward McManus

ALSO PARTICIPATING: Interim Town Administrator Joseph F. Powers

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Ballantine opened the Board of Selectmen's Meeting for August 18, 2020 at 5:00 PM. He explained that this is a special meeting for the purpose of reviewing Town Warrant Articles.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Discussion and possible vote on the remaining Articles for the 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant under the following Headings:

1. Administration
2. Department of Public Works
3. Cemetery Department
4. Channel 18 Department
5. Harbormaster Department
6. MGL Board of Assessors
7. Community Preservation
8. Revolving / Stabilization / OPEB Funds
9. Private Petitions
10. Customary Articles

Interim Town Administrator Joseph Powers referred to the packet which includes version 5 of the Draft Warrant and the Finance Committee's spreadsheet. He reported that Attorney Giorgio suggested that they go through and offered updates on Article 11, Capital items funded from Cash items under \$50,000, there are 2 items for the Police Department and the Fire Department which he explained.

Mr. MacAskill clarified what the wording would be on the motion.

Mr. McManus remarked that he would omit some of the wording.

Mr. Ballantine clarified that their mission tonight was to accept and adopt the Warrant Articles. Fin Com will make the motion at Town Meeting and they would read the language into the motion. Further discussion on the wording isn't necessary.

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Interim Town Administrator Powers stated that Article 9 was to demonstrate that the Wastewater Commission is in effect. He asked that they have a discussion regarding the Finance Committee and a source of funds.

Mr. Ballantine replied that they will address the Warrant first and then go back to that.

Mr. MacAskill moved that they accept, adopt and put in the Warrant Lease Purchase Agreements as listed in the Warrant, 2nd by Mr. Ford. Vote 4:0 in favor by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. MacAskill moved to accept, adopt and put in the Warrant Peg Fund Request as presented in the Warrant, 2nd by Mr. McManus. Vote 4:0 in favor by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

Interim Town Administrator Powers offered updates on DPW article.

Mr. McManus moved to support the inclusion of the purchase and equipment the vehicle for the DPW and place in the Warrant for the \$215,000, 2nd by Mr. Ford. Vote 4:0 in favor by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. MacAskill moved to accept, adopt and include in the Warrant Road Maintenance in the amount of \$350,000, 2nd by Mr. McManus. Vote 4:0 in favor by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

There were questions regarding the Perpetual Care Fund.

Interim Town Administrator Powers commented that the Finance Committee had it's as Free Cash item and he did not.

Mr. MacAskill moved to accept, adopt and include in the Warrant Memorial Tree Replacement in the amount of \$20,000 to be paid out of the Perpetual Care Fund, 2nd by Mr. McManus. Vote 4:0 in favor by roll call. Motion carried unanimously,

Mr. MacAskill moved to accept, adopt and place in the Warrant Control Room Playback Server Upgrade in the estimated amount of \$58,985, funded by the Cable Related fund established at Annual Town Meeting 2016, Article 36, 2nd by Mr. Ford. Vote 4:0 in favor by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. MacAskill moved to accept, adopt and place in the Warrant Don B, Griffin Hearing Room for improvements in the amount of \$97,000 to be paid out of the Cable Related Fund, 2nd by Mr. McManus. Vote 4:0 in favor by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion about the Harbormaster Department and the boat ramp.

Dana DeCosta Finance Committee thinks it is coming from the Waterways Fund but the Finance Committee has not voted it yet.

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Mr. MacAskill moved to approve supplemental funding for Round Cove Boat Ramp funding to be determined, 2nd by Mr. Ford. He noted that \$177,000 is being pulled from previous articles. The estimated cost of the project is \$285,000. Vote 4:0 in favor by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

Interim Town Administrator Powers spoke regarding the MGL Board of Assessors and offered details. These 3 are supporting the Assessors for legislation to be filed.

Mr. DeCosta noted the source of funding is the Overlay Fund and explained the reasoning. If this is adopted it will give seniors and veterans some exemptions and those would be covered by the Overlay Account.

Mr. McManus moved to include a Home Rule Petition to adopt MGL 90 Section 5 Clause 18 hardship under age 60 to provide for a hardship exemption for Harwich residents under the age of 60, with an estimated potential cost of \$30,000 if approved, 2nd by Mr. MacAskill

Mr. MacAskill noted that Mr. McManus mentioned Chapter 90 in his motion and it should be Chapter 59.

Mr. McManus corrected his motion to include Chapter 59 instead of Chapter 90, 2nd by Mr. MacAskill. Vote 4:0 in favor by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. MacAskill moved to accept and adopt MGL 50, 5 Clause 41 a tax deferral and include it in the Warrant, 2nd by Mr. McManus. Vote 4:0 in favor by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. MacAskill moved to accept and adopt MGL 50, 5 clause 56 assessment of local taxes property exemptions, 2nd by Mr. McManus and he noted that this is to provide up to 100% abatement of the total tax assessed to members of the Massachusetts National Guard and to Reservists on active duty in foreign countries for the fiscal year they perform such service subject to eligibility criteria. Vote 4:0 in favor by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

Interim Town Administrator Powers noted that the Community Preservation issue was previously decided. Next is the Revolving / Stabilization Fund, he asked that they hold off as they are still working on the language.

Mr. MacAskill moved to accept, adopt and put in the Warrant fund prior year's unpaid bills for a total of \$7,595.83, 2nd by Mr. Ford.

Interim Town Administrator Powers noted that the amount has been changed and the Finance Committee will make their corrections to \$7,595.83.

Vote 4:0 in favor any roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. MacAskill moved to accept and adopt defray the expenses of the Chase Library and Harwich Port Library in the amount of \$20,000.00, 2nd by Mr. Ford. Vote 4:0 in favor by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. MacAskill moved that they support promote the Town of Harwich in the amount of \$30,000. This is the Harwich Chamber of Commerce Article, a customary Article. 2nd by Mr. Ford. Vote 4:0 in favor by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. MacAskill commented that Article 39 as listed is going to take up a lot of time at Town Meeting, it will be a heavily debated Article and at this time he cannot support it.

Mr. Ballantine also said he would not support it at this time. It is in the Warrant was a Citizen's Petition.

Mr. MacAskill asked that the Town of Harwich bring this back next year. He does believe this will be heavily debated at Town Meeting which they are trying to get away from.

Mr. McManus asked if they intend to do a presentation before the Board of Selectmen. He would like to hear them out before making a decision.

Mr. Ballantine will ask.

Mr. DeCosta commented that his concern is that they haven't done any research at all on a town level. There is a national, Cape wide and state effort. They did not research what effect the by law would have on the Town of Harwich. They voted against it 7:0.

Mr. Ballantine commented that it would be fair to have them come before the Board. It also applies to Article 40 as they are the same, recent action taken at the Annual Town meeting last year, plastic straws and plastic bottles, basically the same subject.

Mr. MacAskill confirmed that the intent is to ask "40" to come back and do a presentation as well.

Mr. Ballantine commented that on the next Petition Article 41, they can come in and present their case. He does not see it as being a town article but rather a political statement.

Mr. DeCosta noted that they are wrong with the Moderator to make this a Resolution rather than a bylaw.

Interim Town Administrator commented that policy development creation has been the purview of the Board of Selectmen. They are looking to create a bylaw that would cause the Board to develop a policy. He asked how it has been done in the past in Harwich.

Discussion followed as to the Board's involvement in Town policy. They agreed to leave this as a Resolution.

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Mr. MacAskill moved to accept, adopt and place in the Warrant the Annual Allocation of Mass Cultural Council for Local Cultural Council Grants in the amount of \$3,900, 2nd by Mr. McManus. Vote 4:0 in favor by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. MacAskill moved to accept, adopt and place in the Warrant the Herring Fisheries Article, 2nd by Mr. McManus. Vote 4:0 in favor by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

Interim Town Administrator Powers asked if there is an expectation that these may come up earlier in the Warrant, recognizing that these require 2/3's vote. He asked a few other procedural questions regarding placement of articles and language for the Warrant and he received answers.

Mr. McManus asked if they had taken action on Free Cash items under \$50,000.

Interim Town Administrator Powers replied there was no action on the first 11 items.

Mr. McManus referred to the airlocks which are over \$50,000 themselves, they are a half million dollar purchase. He asked how they were categorized.

Mr. Ford replied that it was based what the Town will be called upon to appropriate.

Mr. McManus noted that it's Free Cash for items under \$50,000 not contributions of under \$50,000.

Mr. Ballantine commented that in the past they've always listed the total amount and the funding sources. He feels it should be consistent with the Capital Plan.

It was discussed that it could be best done as a separate article.

Mr. MacAskill suggested they mirror what was done last year.

Mr. DeCosta noted that they don't have under 50K on the Capital Plan anymore because the new rules voted June 30th changed that.

The Board gave Interim Town Administrator the discretion to use the wording "under 50K"

Mr. MacAskill moved to adjourn, 2nd by Mr. Ford. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith R. Moldstad
Recording Secretary

August 18, 2020

