

**Harwich Finance Committee**  
**Thursday, October 19, 2017 – 6:30pm**  
**Harwich Community Center, Rm 1**  
**100 Oak St., Harwich, MA**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Jack Brown (Chair); Noreen Donahue; Mark Ameres; Edward McManus; Jon Chorey; Laurie Gillespie Lee

**Members Absent:** Dana DeCosta

**Others Present:** Christopher Clark, Town Administrator; Charleen Greenhalgh, Assistant Town Administrator; Robert Sanborn, Cape Cod Tech Superintendent

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Mr. Brown.

The Chair announced for the record that on the prior three meeting dates 10/2/17, 10/10/17 and 10/12/17 there was not a quorum of the Committee, therefore no meeting was held and no minutes were taken.

**Discussion and vote on Proposal to Fund and Build New Cape Cod Technical High School**

Ms. Donahue recused herself and removed herself from the table. Superintendent Sanborn provided the Committee with an update on the project and the financing. 2016 numbers were used for the original reimbursement rate; now 2017 numbers will be used which provides for an additional 5% funding. Representative Peake and Senator Cyr assisted with getting this to come through. Much work was done to get this completed and it is now awaiting the Governor's signature. It would result in a savings over 30 years of approximately \$9 million; however they are looking at a possibility of funding over 25 years. For working numbers CCTech has been using a percentage of 5% interest; however it may be lower. Mr. McManus commented about the funding and lobbying that Monomoy went through, which received smaller percentages, but it was still positive to get an increase. Ms. Gillespie Lee commented that the Eastham Selectmen (where she works) received a tour of the building and this helped them to support this project. Mr. Chorey spoke to the expected turnout for voting. It is not expected to be high per Superintendent Sanborn. Superintendent Sanborn discussed the possibility of opening discussion with communities on the 3 year rolling option. There will be a project manager for this project. Mr. Clark noted that the Board of Selectmen voted to support the project. Mr. McManus made a motion for the Finance Committee to support the building and financing of the project; seconded by Mr. Chorey; so voted unanimously 5-0.

Ms. Donahue return to the table.

**Discussion and vote of Board of Selectmen's FY19 Budget Message**

Mr. Brown briefly read from the budget message presented by the Board of Selectmen. He noted that this message speak to creating a new fund – Wastewater Revolving Fund. He commented that there is a lot in this message and some bold statements. Ms. Donahue made a motion to endorse the message; it was seconded by Mr. Ameres. The Chair than asked for discussion.

Ms. Donahue commented on the health insurance; she believes it is the best available. If the Town wants to alter the employee %, it would have to be negotiated over many years. And that in the effort to contain costs, the Town should remember that the benefit is a component of the compensation package. The town now pays 75%. Staff will provide the list of town percentages from Cape Cod Municipal Health Group (CCMHG). Mr. McManus state that the only way to reduce cost is with single provider. Mr. Clark commented that he serves on the CCMHG, which provides a very active wellness plan, proactive to keep people healthier and they rolled out a high-deductible plan.

Mr. Chorey asked what portion of retirees health plan is covered, 75% per Mr. Clark. There are over 300 retirees on the plan.

Ms. McManus stated that there are some bold statements based on doctoral beliefs rather than actuals.

Mr. Brown spoke to the creation of the new wastewater reserve fund. He expressed that they are governing in a dynamic environments, so to limit capital projects is not appropriate. Mr. Clark spoke to wastewater and funding.

Mr. McManus stated that Item 1 of the message anticipates taking less than a 2.5% increase in the budget; he suggested however that there can be cumulative negative effects to doing this. There are long lasting impacts that could result.

Mr. Brown stated that the message worries him.

There were no further comments. Mr. Brown asked for a vote on the motion. Four (4) voted to support the message (Brown, Donahue, Chorey and Ameres) and two opposing the message (Mr. McManus and Ms. Gillespie Lee).

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Charleen Greenhalgh, Assistant Town Administrator

Document: Harwich Board of Selectmen FY19 Budget Message.