

Harwich Finance Committee
Thursday, November 9, 2017 – 6:30pm
Harwich Community Center, Rm 5
100 Oak St., Harwich, MA
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jack Brown (Chair); Dana DeCosta; Edward McManus; Jon Chorey; Laurie Gillespie Lee

Members Absent: Mark Ameres

Others Present: Christopher Clark, Town Administrator; Charleen Greenhalgh, Assistant Town Administrator; John Rendon, Harbormaster; Larry Ballantine, Selectman

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

Meeting Minutes: On a motion from Mr. McManus; seconded by Mr. DeCosta the minutes of October 19, 2017 were approved unanimously

Sign Appointment for Ed McManus to serve as 2nd Representative from Finance Committee – originally voted June 22, 2017. The Committee agreed to sign the letter to appointment Mr. McManus. DeCosta motion, Chorey Second, so voted unanimously.

Chair's Remarks

- i. Resignation of Noreen Donahue: She had been thinking of leaving to serve on the Waste Water Group, she has been a conscientious member.
- ii. Need for three new FinCom Members – Discussion and Next steps.
This now leaves the Committee 3 members down. Brown asked that the Committee members reach out to members of the community who might be interested. Discussions have been had with the Moderator; there are a couple of applicants for the vacant seats. Brown will discuss this Monday night at the Annual Report to the BOS. It is important to get these seats filled as this is an important time of the year.

Saquatucket Harbor Update – John Rendon, Chris Clark

The waterside project is underway. The pilings have been pulled, etc. The Contractor is doing a great job. The dredge is now on-site and has begun the bucket dredge work, the first load has gone out. The dredge materials are muck and cannot be used for nourishment they must be disposed of out in the water, in this case off Rhode Island. The piles will be installed when the Time of Year (TOY) allows.

The landside project has been delayed due to some changes in design. Eastward Company has been working with the Town to value engineer some aspects of the project. There has been some private company interest in leasing the property and building a restaurant. There were no questions.

Wastewater Update – Chris Clark

He met with the consultant a couple of weeks ago. They are a little bit behind schedule, the surveying took longer than anticipated. Phase 2 will be the design work. He hopes that they will be before the BOS early to mid-December. He is pushing the engineer to come up with better designs to eliminate pump systems – gravity system. Eliminating machines will make the system last longer. DeCosta asked if there will be more solid numbers for the Town Meeting. Clark explained the two amounts that will be requested (see the Capital Plan for numbers.) Tie-in costs with Chatham and the actual construction (pipes in the ground). DeCosta commented that a lot of spring catch basin work has been done along Queen Anne Road, the Gas Company has also been doing a lot of work, and water will be put in updated lines. Is there discussion about having the sewer lines outside of the road pavement? Clark explained that there have been conversations with all parties to coordinate the work and roadway plans. In East Harwich, the roads will not be paved/improved until the sewer work is completed.

Chorey asked about the progress of Cold Brook. The Town is still working with HTC. There is a bit of difference in philosophy of how Cold Brook should be restored. McManus is pleased to hear that they are looking at gravity feed and as long as it is built properly and with proper materials it will last. Gravity feed will face issues where topography comes into play. Can always go deep enough to hook every home up to the pipes to maintain the gravity feed.

DeCosta asked if a vacuum system is being proposed, as was used in Provincetown. The response was no. Brown, asked what is being done about critical spares and parts for the system. Clark explained that there will be backups for the electricity. Coordinating the pumps/parts used by the Water Department and the Chatham system. Brown, emergencies, cost and times of operation. This is important to coordinate critical systems particularly in bad weather, such as hurricanes. The system is being designed to allow for change out relatively quickly.

DeCosta, asked about a problem that occurred in Chatham where the system could not accept the flow. Clark, the system will be designed to have a hook-up in front of every property for future hook ups.

DeCosta asked about new homes being built that would not be on the sewer line. Clark said each property owner will receive a notice and it will be up to the home owner to let the town install the line or if they will not allow the town on their property it will be up to the home owner to do on their own.

Version 10 - Capital Outlay Summary Report – Discussion

Clark explained that CPC Chair asked that he provide a recommendations on CPC requests. The Capital Plan provides this information. Everything has been funded, except for the Saquatucket project, which we hope to fund with grants. Waiting for final numbers from the state as to their portion of the CPC funds. \$3.5 Million in Free Cash, he explained his recommendations on the use of the funds. COC hope to have their recommendations by December 5th. Futher discussion will take place at the next meeting.

Selectmen's Salaries - Discussion and Next Steps – DeCosta

This has been kicking around for a couple of years. He believes this warrants discussion. DeCosta believe that there should be a decision made on this. His fear is that someone makes a

motion to raise the salaries, however the Moderator has determined that this is outside the scope of the article. Perhaps all appointed positions should be looked at. The \$1500 for BoS has been around since 1987; since then the ability to get health insurance has been eliminated. Brown suggested that the discussion should be salary and benefits. DeCosta did survey the Cape, several have \$1500, some have \$2000 and some to \$3500. A few were over \$5000. He will provide these notes for a future meeting. 8 towns have eliminated benefits. He believes that it is up to the FinCom. Questions are: do they deserve a raise? If so, how much? The FinCom could put into its motion what it recommends for salaries. Discussion ensued about salaries for all the elected officials. DeCosta will put together a report for the next meeting. Laurie will work with DeCosta. When the benefits went away, upward of \$21,000 was lost to the elected official, this number is now closer to \$31,000 for a family plan.

Next Meeting December 14, 2017

Adjourn at 7:25pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Leah McPherson