

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF HARWICH  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
Harwich Community Center, Channel 18 Studio  
100 Oak Street Harwich, MA 02645  
March 14, 2023 , 6:00PM - 08:00PM**

**MEMBERS PARTICIPATING:** Peter Hughes, Chairman, Dan Tworek, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres and Bob MacCready Participating remotely were Michele Gallucci, Dana DeCosta and Karen Doucette.

**ALSO PARTICIPATING:** Scott Carpenter, Superintendent of Monomoy Schools and Michael McMillan, Monomoy Schools Business Manager

Chairman Hughes read the Open Meeting Law information.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Hughes called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order in the Channel 18 Studio on March 14, 2023 at 6:00PM. He acknowledged the members participating remotely and noted that there would be a presentation of the Monomoy Regional School District Budget. A discussion and possible vote will follow the presentation. He introduced Scott Carpenter, Superintendent of Monomoy Schools.

Superintendent Carpenter introduced Michael McMillan, Monomoy Schools Business Manager and Terry Russel in the audience, a Monomoy School Committee member from Harwich.

Mr. McMillan began the presentation by sharing information on his screen and by distributing handouts. He stressed student needs coming out of Covid, the financial pressures and the reasons for them, what their budget request is and the assessments for Harwich and Chatham. The assessments are broken up into Transportation, Capital Debt and Operating Expenses. It is not just based on enrollment. The presentation continued with Mr. McMillan describing what their goals are and what is needed to achieve those goals. There was conversation about preschool and how it is set up financially.

Mr. Carpenter will share the research and the benefits of the Child Care Early Intervention Support Program with the Finance Committee in support of the Board of Selectmen Article in the Warrant.

Chairman Hughes explained that is the Article is not part of the school program Budget but it integrates to an extent that it prepares kids to get into school better prepared to succeed. The \$250,000, assuming it passes, will not be spent within the school system.

March 14, 2023

Mr. McMillan continued describing the Budget and line items in detail.

Mr. Carpenter described in detail the other program enhancements that they are requesting and the reasons for those enhancements. He noted how the Esser Funds have been used during COVID including some staffing positions and what they anticipate the needs to be when the Funds are no longer available. He showed the MCAS results, how COVID effected them and explained how the numbers and results can be improved on and increased.

Mr. McMillan described in detail the Capital process, highlighting specific items. He explained how the Excess and Deficiency Funds are used, issues with the buildings and that they are preparing for replacements and repairs. Also discussed in detail was the revenue available to offset some of those costs. There was conversation and a description of school choice and how much it cost the school system when a student chooses another district. Mr. McMillan noted the calculation of the budget, less the General Fund Revenue and State Aid to be 31.18 million which has to be split between Harwich and Chatham. He described the elements, the percentage of student enrollment in the district or in other schools. He shared a slide with members showing enrollment and why cost keeps shifting towards Harwich. He continued and explained the State's assessment process and how the minimum contribution is calculated for each town. He noted the numbers for each town. Mr. McMillan showed the Monomoy School District five year outlook.

Chairman Hughes gave Committee members an opportunity to make comments and ask questions. Questions were asked and answered. He also requested that the presentation and a copy of the Budget be sent to him. The presentation and discussion ended.

### **APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Chairman Hughes noted a correction that Ms. Gallucci has not yet completed the Ethics Training. He noted the correction to be that members were reminded to complete their training by April 7th.

Mr. DeCosta moved to approve the Minutes of March 9, 2023 as revised, 2nd by Mr. Kelleher. Vote unanimous in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Hughes referred back to the presentation and the Momomoy School Budget and also the Tech School presentation. He would like to vote those at the next meeting.

### **FY 2024 Annual Town Meeting - DRAFT - WARRANT**

Mr. Hughes asked Mr. DeCosta and Ms. Doucette to work together on the spreadsheets that each had created for tracking the Budget/Warrant process. He stressed that not only the votes but also their comments as to why they support an Article or not, are important. They will be going through the Draft and voting on each Article. He noted a recommendation that he made to the

March 14, 2023

Town Administrator, to include the Personnel Article, which they are not doing. Chairman Hughes made suggestions as to what their choices for working on the Draft Warrant are and what their discussion and decisions could be.

#### Discussion and/or vote on Articles

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt the first three Articles on Reports of Town Offices, Committees and Elected Officials Salaries, seconded by Mr. Ameres. Vote by roll call: 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt the Article to fund the Cape Cod Community Center Media Center for \$157,037 from the Cable Access Fund. Seconded by Mr. Ameres. Vote by roll call: 8:0 in favor. Voter carried unanimously.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt the Article items funded from the Cable Fund for \$47,222. Questions were asked and they were answered by Jamie Goodwin, Director of Channel 18. The numbers may change and the Committee opted to not vote on this Article this evening.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt the Article on the Land Bank Debt Service for \$166,650 coming from CPC Funds. Seconded by Mr. Ameres. Vote by roll call: 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously. This is the final payment left over from the original Land Bank.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt the Article to fund the Mass Cultural Center for \$4,000 from Free Cash Supplemental Annual Allocation Mass Cultural Council for Local Cultural Grants. Seconded by Mr. Ameres. Vote by roll call: 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt the Article to defray the expenses of the Chase and Harwich Port private libraries for \$20,000 from Free Cash. Seconded by Mr. Ameres. Vote by roll call: 7:0:1. Motion carried.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt the Herring Fisheries Article, seconded by Mr. Ameres. Vote by roll call: 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Doucette moved to accept and adopt the Article on Tech Enhancements at the Brooks Free Library for \$25,000. After discussion the Committee opted to wait to vote until they know the funding source.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt the Article for the Cape Cod Regional Vocational Technical High School for \$2,014,200, the Town of Harwich's share from Raised and Appropriated. Seconded by Mr. Ameres. Vote by roll call: 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt the Article for the Monomoy School District Budget

March 14, 2023

for \$28,469,466 from Raised and Appropriated. Seconded by Ms. Doucette. Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion followed regarding the items in the Warrant that are less than \$50,000 which are not “Capital” and also additional information that they need to move on other Articles.

Chairman Hughes suggested that they not meet on Saturday. He will see when next week the members of CPC can meet with the Finance Committee and then schedule a meeting. Members agreed.

Mr. MacCready is hoping to get a better draft of the Warrant and also a final, current Appendix B. The portion that was in last night’s packet was not complete.

Chairman Hughes summarized that when he gets the Warrant, the School Board presentation and the rationale for the Early Childhood Program, he will pass them on to Committee members.

Mr. Ameres moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. MacCready. Vote: 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Moldstad  
Recording Secretary

March 14, 2023