

**MINUTES
TOWN OF HARWICH FINANCE COMMITTEE
SMALL MEETING ROOM AT TOWN HALL
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023 6:00PM - 8:00PM**

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Peter Hughes, Chairman, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Dan Tworek and Bob MacCready

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING REMOTELY: Dana DeCosta, Karen Doucette and Michele Gallucci

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hughes called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 6:00PM on Wednesday, March 29, 2023. He read the open meeting notice and noted all members present and those participating remotely for the record. The Chair declared a quorum was present.

Vote minutes of previous meetings

03/04/23 Joint meeting Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee

Mr. MacCready moved to approve the minutes of the Joint Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee Meeting held on March 4, 2023, seconded by Mr. Ameres. Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. MacCready moved to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of 03/22/23, seconded by Mr. Ameres. Vote 7:0:1 with Mr. Tworek abstaining.

Discussion and possible votes on FY2024 Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Hughes noted that he emailed the last version of the Warrant that he received from the Selectmen's Office that included their votes, to all Committee members.

Mr. DeCosta moved to reconsider Article 23 CPA - Housekeeping Expenses, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt the Article with \$399,000 being pulled from CPC Funds in 3 ways: \$198,700 going to Open Space Reserve, \$151,200 going to Community Housing Reserve, and appropriate from FY2024 estimated annual revenues of \$50,000 for administrative purposes, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Mr. MacCready asked for clarification on how the numbers were generated noting that the three 10% set asides are required by the Act. Mr. DeCosta suggested that they ask the BOS to clarify. Mr. Hughes noted what it could be, no recommendation pending further information.

Mr. DeCosta withdrew his motion. Mr. Ameres withdrew his second.

Mr. DeCosta moved no recommendation pending further information NRPFI, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

March 29, 2023

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt Article 4, FY2024 Operating Budget for \$43,130,177 coming from: taxes, raise and appropriate, \$25,716,548, local receipts \$15,782,472, other receipts \$1,631,157. Seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Discussion followed regarding the list of full-time and part-time positions. Mr. Hughes stated that, in his Budget Message at Town Meeting as Chairman of the Finance Committee, it is his intent to identify these positions and costs.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. MacCready pointed out a change in Article 17.

Mr. Hughes asked Mr. DeCosta to revisit his write up on the Water Department Budget, there is a possible sequence error. He suggested that Article 17 is one to reconsider.

Mr. MacCready moved to reconsider Article 17, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. MacCready moved to accept and adopt Article 17 for \$775,000 from Water Retained Earnings, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt Article 11, Lease Purchase Agreements, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt Article 14 Opioid Settlement Distribution \$60,000 from Free Cash, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt Article 35, MGL C41 s110a, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt Article 36 MG Bylaws C300 Water, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr DeCosta moved to accept and adopt Article 37 Accessory Dwelling Units, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt Article 38 Flood Plain Regulations, seconded by Mr. Kelleher.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt Article 39 Large Scale Solar Arrays, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

March 29, 2023

Mr. DeCosta moved no recommendation on Article 40 Monomoy Regional School Agreement pending further information NRPFI, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt Article 42, \$10,000 from Free Cash, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt Article 43, \$10,000 from Free Cash, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt Article 44, \$5,000 from Free Cash, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt Article 45 Authorization Payment in Lieu of Taxes, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt Article 47, \$575,000 from Land Sinking Funds, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

There was conversation about the Fund and other Articles that noted Brooks Academy Renovations.

Vote 6:0:2 with Mr. Ameres and Mr. MacCready abstaining. Motion carried.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt Article 48, \$400,000 from Free Cash, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt Article 49, \$1,200,000 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt Article 50, \$10,696 from Free Cash, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt Article 545, MGL C59 s5 c56, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeCosta moved to indefinitely postpone Article 55, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 7:0:1 with Ms. Gullucci abstaining. Motion carried.

Mr. DeCosta moved to indefinitely postpone Article 56, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

March 29, 2023

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeCosta moved to indefinitely postpone Article 57, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeCosta moved on Article 58, no recommendation pending further information, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Gallucci moved to accept and adopt Article 59, seconded by Mr. Hughes.

Discussion followed addressing the positives and negatives of this Article

Vote 3:5. The positive votes are from Ms. Gallucci, Ms. Doucette and Mr. Hughes. The negative votes are from Mr. DeCosta, Mr. Kelleher, Mr. Ameres, Mr. MacCready and Mr. Tworek. The motion did not carry.

Mr. DeCosta moved to indefinitely postpone Article 59, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 6:2 in favor. The negative votes are from Ms. Gallucci and Mr. Hughes. Motion carried.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt Article 60, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt Article 61, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hughes asked Mr. Kelleher and Ms. Doucette, who are FinComm reps on the Capital Outlay Committee, for their thoughts on the Capital Outlay Plan specific to Article 15.

Ms. Doucette gave a description of the process of creating a Capital Plan and noted one item, 204 Sisson Rd. that she objects to. She supports the programs but would like more definite answers on the cost of renovating the building.

Mr. Kelleher commented that the Plan is mostly very good, his objection is with 204 Sisson Rd, the same as Ms. Doucette.

Mr. Hughes commented that, after last year's Town Meeting, the Finance Committee expected to be part of the discussion regarding 204 Sisson Road. He suggested what the options could be, working toward a having a business plan.

Discussion followed with members voicing opinions and concerns.

Mr. DeCosta moved to indefinitely postpone FY24 Capital Plan, seconded by Ms. Doucette.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion followed regarding Article 16, Capital Outlay Plans items funded from Free Cash. Ms. Doucette commented and shared her thoughts and opinion about the Capital Plan. Mr. Hughes requested that she put a couple of paragraphs in writing reflecting what she had just said.

March 29, 2023

Mr. DeCosta moved to accept and adopt Article 16, \$4, 906, 922 from Free Cash, seconded by Mr. Ameres.

There was a lengthy discussion about what the Committee's options are and the impact of each at Town Meeting.

Vote 2:6 The negative votes are: Mr. Ameres, Mr. Tworek, Mr. Mac Cready, Ms. Doucette, Ms. Gallucci and Mr. Hughes. The Motion does not carry.

Mr. DeCosta moved no recommendation on Article 16 pending further information NRPF, seconded by Mr. Ameres. Mr. DeCosta will put in his explanation that the Committee would like a comprehensive business plan for 204 Sisson Rd. He will also add that the Finance Committee does support many items on the list but without a business plan, they cannot move forward.

Vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and possible votes on FY 2024 Operating Budget

No discussion

Adjournment

Mr. Ameres moved to adjourn, vote 8:0 in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith R. Moldstad
Board Secretary

March 29, 2023