

**Wellfleet Board of Selectmen**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of December 19, 2017 joint Meeting with the Finance**  
**Committee**  
**Wellfleet Senior Center 7:00 p.m.**

**BOS Members Present:** Dennis Murphy - Chair, Janet Reinhart – Vice Chair, Kathleen Bacon - Clerk, Helen Miranda Wilson, Jerry Houk.

**BOS Members Absent:** None

**FinCom Members Present:** Janet Loewenstein – Chair, Kathleen Granlund, Linda Pellegrino, Ira Wood, Robert “Bob” Wallace

**FinCom Members Absent:** Stephen Polowczyk, Fred Magee.

Staff: Dan Hoort - Town Administrator, Brian Carlson – Assistant Town Administrator, Radu Luca – Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Dennis Murphy.

**I. Announcements, Open Session and Public Comment**

Chief Ron Fisette announced that police officers grew their beards for charity and proceeds would go to the WES. “Operation Safe Ride,” implemented a few years back and proven to be very effective and successful, will be in effect again on New Year’s Eve.

Jude Ahern thanked Tom Cole for putting BOS meetings video links on the Town website, asked when the TA’s evaluation would come up and whether the public would have a chance to see / hear it. Murphy said the evaluation is done and scheduled for Jan 9, but wanted to allow the BOS to review the comments they put down in the review sheet the evaluation will also be posted online on the Town’s website before the meeting.

**II. Business – Joint Meeting with Finance Committee**

The FinCom meeting was called to order at 7:05p.m. by Janet Lowenstein.

The FinCom and BOS asked each department to come up to the microphone and present a short synopsis of their respective budgets.

The BOS decided to not take a vote tonight, but to wait for the FinCom to ask questions and take a vote at their future meeting.

**FY 2019 Budget Reviews**

### **A. Department of Public Works**

Mark Vincent and Jean Leidenfrost presented the DPW overall budget one line item at a time. New heating methods in town-owned buildings had been pursued, which helped save around \$15k in oil heat. Reinhart pointed out the \$87K budgeted for the electric bill. Operations budget helps maintain equipment and is in line with what's typically been presented. Bacon asked about possibly getting grants for storm-water runoff mitigation, which is always being looked at by DPW. Highways budget includes what's used for repairs, drainage work, future (unforeseen) projects and paving. We're ahead of the game as far as repairs go, but looking down the road, we won't be able to keep up if the budget line item isn't raised over time. Snow Removal Budget is level funded for the third year in a row and variables include the type of winter. Under MGL, this is the only budget line item we're allowed to overspend under. Murphy asked whether there's anything in the Board of Selectmen's Maintenance of Paved Private Roads policy about sweeping private roads. Mark Vincent stated that providing such maintenance is the DPW's decision. Generally, the DPW sweeps private paved roads once a year. Murphy asked about the total amount of miles that the Town is sanding on private roads. Mark Vincent stated that we have approx. 120 private paved roads that we plow and sand, and approximately 80 town roads that we plow and sand, but the lane miles of private roads might be shorter than that of public roads. The Street Lights budget is level-funded. We switched to LED lights a few years back which saved money and electricity. The Transfer Station budget saw a slight reduction compared to last year and covers recycling, trash, landfill monitoring, etc. The budget for DPW Fuel has all been consolidated and placed under the Transfer Station, and that's around \$50K.

Bob Wallace asked whether the Cahoon Hollow parking lot repair affected the budget this year. Mark Vincent said that there were staff and fuel operating costs, but that the DPW absorbed those costs.

Janet Lowenstein asked about any future concerns regarding all these line items. Mark Vincent said that National Sword (China) has become more particular about how they receive recyclables in terms of the quality and sorting of what's sent to them. Right now, our residents are required to separate recycled items. If we went to a single-stream system, China's new policy could increase the recycling budget by \$20K.

Reinhart asked whether the Transfer Station fees should be reviewed. Mark Vincent said that process is done by the Board of Health and for the time being those fees are appropriate. Bacon asked whether recycled material would be a commodity in the future and appreciate the effort DPW put into this budget.

Wilson thanked Dan Hoort and all department heads for the work they put into their budgets.

### **B. Police Department**

Chief Fisette presented the budget. The Chief used the same format as was used in the past. The department budget came in roughly below or right at Proposition 2 ½. Overall there aren't any major changes compared to the previous year. Hoort said the overall budget came in at an increase of 1.8 % in operations and dispatch was up 2.4%.

Some of the new concerns are the cost of the new building and retention of good staff people, especially those with families. We're a small town. Larger towns that pay higher salaries and have more activity. Asked about possibly recruiting people who didn't want more excitement, the Chief said we try to find the best staff that we can, but sometimes they need higher salaries because they are getting married, or still going to school, etc. The Animal Control Officer is a part-time position, but it is marked as a full-time position in the FY19 budget. We will need a full-time Animal Control officer. Officer Keogh, who currently serves as our ACO, is a great asset. Houk inquired about recent events at the Marketplace. And whether the Police Department encourage businesses to have cameras and alarms. Technology can work to our advantage. The Marketplace robbery is still being actively investigated.

### **C. Fire Department**

Chief Pauley presented the Fire Department budget. He summarized the recent reorganization of the Department. The Chief spends a good deal of time responding to fire prevention questions, making inspections and related issues. This is something that has to happen consistently. There are now two people in training to be firefighter/paramedics, one of whom will be promoted to that position. Otherwise, the Department is right on target and going at the right pace. Promoting a fourth lieutenant comes with a price tag. Also, the Administrative Assistant position needs to be brought up from thirty-five to forty hours per week. We're competing with other Cape towns to hire full-time firefighters. Chief hopes to retain good quality staff, but also recruit new ones.

There was a question from the Fin Com as to whether Eastham's Fire Department budget was comparable to Wellfleet's. Eastham received a grant to fund four additional staff.

Other concerns include the replacement of the aerial ladder truck which could cost approximately \$875K. The body and chassis of the one we have now, which is a 1986 model, has deteriorated. The Department's radio system needs to be replaced which could cost \$250-300K. The Department has been aggressively seeking grants through the Assistive Firefighter Grant Program. The Chief hopes we'll be successful. He will come before the BOS in the future, requesting permission to apply for these grants.

Murphy asked how often the aerial fire truck was used this year. The Chief responded by saying the ladder was unavailable for at least 90 days this year, and was mainly used for chimney fires.

Wilson asked if the Department had regular ground ladders that can be used. Chief explained that all trucks are equipped with ground ladders. She asked whether there was a more inexpensive vehicle that could meet our needs. The Chief explained that the truck is a multi-purpose vehicle. It has a fire pump, a holding tank and a pre-piped water way, as well as the 185' aerial ladder. It's something that's needed, especially in the downtown area and around commercial buildings, and it's instrumental in maintaining our ISO rating.

An average fire incident requires a minimum of 14-15 Department personnel to show up. We can use help from neighboring towns, but it doesn't take much to utilize all Fire Department staff all at once in case of an incident. Sometimes it's challenging to deal with the situation at hand and assign tasks.

Reinhart would like to commend both the Fire and Police Departments for an incident that happened the previous week. The Department handles calls very well and has very good employees who risk their lives.

Houk inquired about the recent accident at Outer Cape Health. On duty during the incident were the crew, the Chief, one off-call, and two on-call people: six total. Three patients needed to be transported from the site of the motor vehicle crash and required nine people to tend to them. Any motor vehicle incident can eat up the Department's resources quickly. Houk inquired about the request to hire another lieutenant. The Department's requested budget increase over last year is 3.8 %.

#### **D. Shellfish Department**

Nancy Civetta and John Mankevetch presented the Shellfish Department budget. Nancy would like to thank the people in the room who are members of the Shellfishing community for showing up at the meeting. The budget is very small compared to that of the Town's other departments. This year, they are asking for some increases based on strategies to best perform the Department's responsibilities and for maintaining our natural resources. There is a need for the Deputy Shellfish Constable to take on even more propagation work, which explains the proposed increase in salary. There is a recreational fishery that is open twice a week at Indian Neck, for three months of the year, for which we need another seasonal, part-time person for at least four hours a day, four days a week, on Wednesdays and Sundays. Mankevetch discussed propagation plans for quahogs and oysters. For the past years, propagation has been level-funded at \$6k. The Department is asking for an additional \$19K in FY19 to bring the budget to \$25K.

Lowenstein asked whether the request for the purchase of bigger seed would be needed in years to come. The answer was no. A goal is to propagate-shellfish that are predator-resistant. If larger quahog seed were purchased, the price per thousand would go down significantly. It was established that the Town has two existing pits for overwintering oysters already.

Wallace asked where the pits are located and mentioned that bigger oysters don't always survive well when pitted. The purchase of more seed for commercial and non-commercial harvest would be economically justifiable. About 70% of it would be raised for the commercial fishery and 30% for recreational harvesters. This year, there is little clam seed in the harbor and so the Department wants to focus on propagating clams for the time being.

Wood inquired about the discrepancy between the Shellfish Department's and the TA's budgets. The TA's budget is the one presented for approval.

Particulars about having found a good source of cultch and getting it here were given by Mankevetch. Asked whether procuring the cultch for next spring's propagation program was put out to bid, he said "Not as of yet". He thought that the Town was getting a good deal, given the regular price of trucking. The TA said that the contract would be put out to bid before FY19 started. The figures used were just estimates. He would like to see more seed being used for recreational purposes. With the added investment we're proposing, he thinks we should be able to achieve success. Since she began as Constable, Civetta has implemented daily patrol reports. For commercial data, she uses what is available from what is reported from Wellfleet to the Division of Marine Fisheries. Information has been collected as accurately as possible.

Bacon would trust our Wellfleet shellfishermen, whose livelihood depend on the health of the product, to follow and comply with all State regulations regarding vibrio and now Shellfish is an ever stronger three-person department and questions the need for another individual. The real issue at stake is the dredging of the Harbor and how that might affect recreational and commercial shellfishing as well as the propagation program. Bacon is concerned about the open slips due to black mud and said they are an environmental issue. Bacon asked whether, going forward, Shellfish developed a site plan for an upweller, a Shellfish Management Plan draft, and formalized job descriptions. Civetta said the Shellfish Department has three staff people, but they each have two days odd and can only work at low tide, and they need an extra person on the field, especially if we expand our seed and propagation program. Mankevetch said dredging affects our recreational and commercial areas, and cultching in Chipman's Cove would be counterproductive while dredging takes place. He added the department is pursuing grant money from SPAT for acquiring Chinese Hats and they're committed to taking the seed the seed that is caught in the Cove and putting it in the Cove. After dredging is completed, propagation efforts can proceed after cultching. That'll be an impetus for acquiring an upwelling system. Civetta said she's on the Harbor Dredging Task Force, which is currently working with the Shellfish Advisory Board on a draft letter which is a template that fishermen can use and address with the elected officials and decision-making bodies. Bacon added she's looking forward to seeing that draft letter. Civetta also said she had been working on Mankevetch's job description and wanted to see whether Shellfish would get approval for a fourth person before drafting that job description.

Lowenstein asked whether the Constable can supply the FinCom with information pertaining to acquiring a new upweller, including a rough estimate.

The Shellfishing Management Plan and the job description for the new position are the responsibility of the Shellfish Advisory Board. They are currently working on revisions.

Wilson mentioned that it would be a good idea for the Department to get part time help. She supported the Department's asking to add a new employee. She questioned the 70% commercial/ 30% recreational allocation of seed and would like to see some hard data about whether the recreational program pays for itself.

Civetta believes we can develop the Wellfleet brand and use ambassadors to promote the brand.

Murphy emphasized that recreational permit holders contribute extensively to the budget.

Reinhart mentioned possibly raising the Shellfishing fees. A percentage of permit sales could be placed into a rollover fund and the moneys could go towards propagation. Permit sales have been on the decline in the past years, which suggests there is room for growth.

Wallace mentioned that the Department used to have an upweller, but it's been disposed of.

Jude Ahern expressed concern regarding the addition of a fourth, full-time staff member and asked how many recreational permits were sold this year. 850 recreational permits were sold this year.

#### **E. Water Enterprise Fund**

The TA gave a brief overview of the Water Enterprise Fund, which might need an increase in subsidy from the General Fund in the future.

#### **F. Marina Enterprise Fund**

The Harbormaster, Mike Flanagan, presented an overview of the Marina Enterprise Fund budget. The revenues for the Marina are down this past year, which explains the budget being level-funded, except for increases in teamsters' fees.

Bacon and Houk commended Flanagan for his service to the Town.

Wilson asked about the \$5k Shellfish line item and Flanagan clarified that it was rent paid by the Shellfish Department for use of a portion of the beach sticker building.

### **III. Adjournment**

**Move to adjourn.**

**Motion: Pellegrino**

**Second: Granlund**

**5-0-0.**

**Motion carries.**

The FinCom meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**Move to adjourn.**

**Motion: Reinhart**

**Second: Wilson**

**5-0-0. Motion**

**carries.**

The BOS meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Radu D. Luca, Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator

**Public Records Material for the Meeting of 12/19/17**

1. Memo to BOS from Christine Bezio, Parent and Wellfleet Recreation Committee Member 12/19/17