

**Wellfleet Finance Committee
Virtual Zoom Meeting
Wednesday June 24, 2020, 7:00PM
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Fred Magee, Chair; Kathy Granlund, Vice Chair; Janet Loewenstein, Ira Wood, Bob Wallace, Jeff Tash, Linda Pellegrino

Members Absent: Stephen Polowczyk, Sarah Robin

Others Present: Dan Hoort, Town Administrator; Rebekah Eldridge, Committee Secretary

Chair Magee called the meeting to order at 7:01

Minutes

- January 2020 – May 2020
- Wood moved to approve all the minutes as written; Granlund seconded the motion; Motion Passed 7-0

Discussion with Town Administrator ~ Impact of pandemic on Wellfleet financial planning

- Chair Magee began the discussion with the committee about the role of the fincom with the upcoming town warrant, what areas will be affected by the pandemic. He went on to state that at the previous night's selectboard meeting many people who attended the meeting wanted the finance committee's opinion. Chair Magee stated that there are a lot of uncertainties with the covid virus and the town could face the same budget issues.
- Hoort discussed with the committee the budget for the town moving forward. The uncertainty of the pandemic makes a solution for the budget more difficult. He stated that some items may be covered by the CARES Act from the state but there are items that won't be. He stated he believes there could be a hit to the revenue. Hoort went on to say he feels the FY 21-22 budget will see the effects from this pandemic, he named the beach department, the DPW with the purple bags. He reiterated that this is his best guess as far as knowing what will happen in the coming years. Hoort explained to the committee that he is trying to get things in order for the incoming Town Administrator beginning of August. He continued to discuss cutting some expenses and refining the budget for FY 21. Hoort stated his last day with the town is July 31, 2020 but plans to be available for the new town administrator.
- Furlough of employees was discussed at great length. Tash asked if Hoort if Wellfleet was susceptible to financial cuts from the state. Hoort stated he hasn't heard any discussion about cuts at this time, but it isn't out of the question. He stated there are a lot of questions that need to be answered and no one is answering them.
- Granlund stated that she thinks this pandemic will be an issue that the town will be dealing with for years to come. Income is an issue. Discussion on income coming in this summer was discussed and how the effects of the pandemic will not only influence on this summer's revenue but into the fall. Granlund proposed that the town needs to consider a multi-year budget plan, because she feels things won't be "going back to normal" by next summer. The committee discussed cutting the OPEB for the next few years.
- The committee agreed that they realize the pandemic will impact the town but don't know how much the town will be affected now. Hoort told the committee that the selectboard is looking for the finance committee's input on the budget. Hoort explained that the FY 2021 budget has not been approved and

won't be until town meeting, so they are working with a one twelfth budget. The committee discussed the current warrant articles and had questions about maybe removing some articles and what needed to stay on the warrant. What would be considered the needs verses the wants for the town.

- The committee continued to discuss revenue and the impacts of the pandemic in detail, all members making suggestions on ideas to help the budget and ideas for new sources of revenue.
- Hoort went over the revised budget with the committee and they continued to discuss certain line items. The committee discussed having town groups donate to the town to help get through this tough time. The committee went on to discuss different ways of raise money. Chair Magee asked the committee within the next few days to come up with ideas on how the town can begin to help the budget by raising money. Chair Magee asked the committee to come up with two scenarios, a short term and a long term for fundraising. How each scenario will be affected with certain issues, for example tax revenues from businesses. The committee suggested to Hoort that each department go to their employees and ask employees if they would like to work at 80% still working full time but only receiving 80% of the pay. Chair Magee reminded the committee that they would still have to deal with the union and that could be a possible issue moving forward. The committee continued to discuss asking people to volunteer for possible positions.

Liaison Reports

- Tash reported that he attended the energy and climate impact committee and they are currently looking at the plans for the new high school. He stated the explained that he is unsure that the new high school will be on the warrant.
- Chair Magee stated he spoke with the superintendent of school Tom Conrad and stated that there was a request for an extension for the grant for the high school given the current situation with the pandemic. Chair Magee also stated he is uncertain if the school will be on the warrant. He should have better knowledge at the next meeting.

Schedule July meeting for Transfer Votes

- The next meeting will be held on July 15, 2020 at 7PM

Wood moved to adjourn the meeting, Pellegrino seconded, motion carried 7-0

Meeting adjourned 8:40PM

**Public Documents for this meeting:*

The financial impact of Covid – word document

Impact of Covid – PDF

Revised Fiscal Year 2021 Budget