

***Wellfleet Selectboard
Hybrid Meeting: Zoom/ 715 Old Kings Highway
Tuesday March 14, 2023; 7pm
Meeting Minutes***

Members Present: Ryan Curley, Chair; Michael DeVasto, Vice Chair; Barbara Carboni, Kathleen Bacon, John Wolf

Others Present: Rich Waldo, Town Administrator; Rebekah Eldridge, Executive Assistant (Virtually); Michael Hurley, Police Chief; Dick Elkin, Kristy Senatori, Cape Cod Commission; Lili Ann Green, Renee Davis, Powers and Sullivan; Laura Stone, Powers & Sullivan; Daniel Silverman, Town Moderator; Joe Aberdale, Chair of the Marina Advisory Committee; Brooke Clenchy, superintendent of Nauset Schools; Mary Beth Rodman, Principal Wellfleet Elementary School; Brian Easley, Nauset School System; Giovanna Venditti, Finance director for Nauset School System, Tim Sayer.

Chair Curley Called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

I. *Announcements, Open Session and Public Comments*

Note: Public comments must be brief. The Board will not deliberate or vote on any matter raised solely during Announcements & Public Comments.

Elkin spoke to the public about the community forum that will be held for town meeting, a meet the candidates night.

II. *Consent Agenda*

A. Harbor to the Bay Charity Ride ~ David Whitman ~ September 23, 2023; 12pm-5pm

Chair Curley Moved; Board Member Bacon Seconded, and it was voted to approve the use of town property as described in the packet for the Harbor to the bay charity ride, David Whitman on September 23, 2023; for a fee of \$500.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

III. *Cape Cod Commission*

A. Presentation Year in Review ~ Kristi Senatori

Senatori spoke to the board giving an overview of the year 2022. She gave some highlights where the commission is focusing their efforts. Water quality was discussed, climate change, and housing throughout the cape. She discussed the freshwater initiative throughout the community and the challenges that they are facing. She continued discussing with the board the need for housing and the lack of diversity in the market throughout the entire cape. She thanked both Lili Ann Green and Dick Elkin for their dedication to the commission. The board had some comments and questions for Senatori regarding housing and climate change.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

IV. *Powers and Sullivan*

A. Presentation of the audit

Waldo introduced the two auditors that have been working on the audit from Powers & Sullivan, he explained this audit is from 2021, things have been changing and are in the process of changing. He reminded the board and the public that this is over a year old and the town is moving in the right direction. Davis began the presentation of the 2021 audit giving a breakdown of the 2020 and then moving into 2021. She stated there was a \$325,000.00 variance, which she explained should have been reconciled. Chair Curley questioned if the variance was in the towns favor? She explained that it was in the town's favor, meaning that the bank balance was higher than the town's balance. Support for accounts receivable is an issue in the letter. She explained why. Internal Controls over the general ledger was discussed and the deficiencies with it. Chair Curley had some intense questions for Davis wanting to understand the letter and report. There was a lot of discussion with the representatives regarding the audit of 2020 and 2021. The transition from the old accounting software to the new software vadar and the issues that happened. Staff training was discussed. Chief Hurley spoke to the payroll issues.

V. *Barnstable County Retirement*

A. Selectboard will vote on increase in retirement benefits. ~ Please see packet for information.

Chair Curley explained this and Silverman spoke to the board asking them to vote for this increase, explaining to the board that it helps those that are retiring and those that have retired. The board discussed it. Silverman helped to explain to the board what COLA is.

Board Member Bacon Moved; Board Member DeVasto Seconded; and it was voted to approve the increase in the Barnstable County Retirement Association retirees COLA from 3% to 5 % as signed by the governor in November of 2022.

Roll Cal Vote: 5-0

VI. *Board/Committee Appointments and Updates*

A. Marina Advisory Committee Charge Amendment ~ Joe Aberdale

Aberdale spoke to the board regarding the new charge for the Marina Advisory Committee. He explained that it was shown and approved by the Town Administrator and the Selectboard Chair.

Chair Curley Moved; Board Member Wolf Seconded; and it was voted to approve the amended Marina Advisory Charge as presented in the Selectboard Packet.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

VII. *Business*

A. School Budgets

- **Wellfleet Elementary School District**

Rodman read a statement to the board regarding the elementary school and they're vision for their students and the proposed budget, explaining the high quality education for their students. She explained there have been state funding and grants given to the schools.

**Chair Curley Moved; Board Member Bacon Seconded; and it was voted to approve the FY24 Wellfleet Elementary School Budget.
Roll Call Vote: 5-0**

- Clenchy and Easley spoke to the board by presenting a slide show to the board explaining the vision of the Nauset School System and the challenges the district is facing and the budgets that they have created for the upcoming year. He spoke to the mental health of the students and the working environment that the teachers had to adjust to the changing environment with the COVID-19 pandemic. HE explained to the board that education is in a crisis and that there were over 70 employees that left their positions as teachers, aids, and other school staff in the last year. He explained that its how they respond to this crisis and with this budget they are looking to invest in the teachers, the mental health in the students, and the curriculum within the Nauset school system. Clenchy took over the presentation. She explained that the regional budget is more in depth than the elementary school budget. She went into detail about the budget and how it was created. She explained to the board and public the need for professional development and the need for the region's students. Venditti spoke to the board about the budget and gave details. A few board members had questions at the end of the presentation. Chair Curley spoke to the lateness of the school's budget.
**Chair Curley Moved, Board Member DeVasto Seconded; and it was voted to approve Nauset Regional School District's FY24 Budget as presented.
Roll call Vote: 5-0**

B. Warrant Article – Capital Project – Middle School Fire Alarm System Replacement

Chair Curley took this item out of order explaining that it had already been discussed a little in the budget presentation. The funding was discussed.
NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

C. Part-Time Assistant Accountant ~ Chair Curley, Town Administrator Waldo

A Part time position was discussed for the town to help with the town's finances. Waldo gave an update on the thoughts behind this position and how he feels it will work for the town. Stability in the accounting department is what is needed, and he made that point to the board.

**Board Member Bacon Moved; Board Member DeVasto Seconded; and it was voted to approve the part time accountant for the Wellfleet FY2024 Budget.
Roll Call Vote: 5-0**

D. Residential Exemption Increase Warrant Article ~ Chair Curley

Board Member Bacon expressed her concern for the nonresident taxpayers with this article. Chair Curley explained it was a \$50 increase. The board discussed the burden for taxpayers and the change this article would make for the residents of Wellfleet.

Chair Curley Moved, Board Member DeVasto Seconded, and it was voted to insert the article in the warrant for a residential exemption increase into the 2023 town meeting warrant.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

Chair Curley Moved; Board Member Wolf Seconded; and it was voted to recommend the residential exemption increase in the 2023 warrant.

Roll Call Vote: 5-1-0 (DeVasto Abstained)

- E. Year-Round Deed Restriction Home Rule Petition ~ Board Member Bacon**
Board Member Bacon explained how this petition came to be before the board. Explaining that the town of Provincetown also has this and she explained that it is in conjunction with the state to allow a year round deed restriction for affordable housing. She gave details on how this would affect the town if it was passed at the town meeting. Sayer spoke to the board about trying to make Wellfleet a year-round town and spoke to the deed restriction.

Board Member Bacon Moved; Board Member DeVasto Seconded, and it was voted to insert and recommend the year-round deed restriction home rule petition into the annual town meeting warrant.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

- F. FY 2023 Warrant ~ *CONTINUED TO MARCH 16, 2023***

- G. Home Rule Petition Articles (continued from March 9, 2023) ~**

CONTINUED TO MARCH 16, 2023

VIII. *Selectboard Reports*

Chair Curley explained he was a liaison for the Commission on Disabilities and was having a hard time attending their meetings.

IX. *Topics for Future Discussion*

X. *Adjournment*

Chair Curley Moved; Board Member Bacon Seconded, and it was voted to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

Meeting Adjourned 10:50pm

Public Documents:

Application from Harbor of the Bay Road Race for Use of Town Property

Cape Cod Commission Year in review presentation

Powers & Sullivan Audit

Barnstable County Retirement documents COLA

Marina Advisory Committee Charge Amendment

Nauset School System Budgets for FY 2024

Warrant Articles for 2023 town meeting warrant.