

Town of Wellfleet Finance Committee
715 Old King's Highway, Conference Room
Wednesday January 22, 2020, 7:00pm
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Fred Magee, Chair; Kathy Granlund, Vice Chair; Janet Loewenstein, Ira Wood, Bob Wallace, Linda Pellegrino, Sarah Robin, Stephen Polowczyk

Members Absent: Jeff Tash

Other Present: Mark Vincent, Department of Public Works; Jean Leidenfrost, Department of Public Works; Jim Hood, Chair Board of Water Commissioners; Helen Miranda-Wilson, Wellfleet Selectboard member, Curt Felix, representing Wastewater Committee

Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

DPW Budget Review ~ Mark Vincent

- Chair introduced Mark Vincent. Chair Magee explained that the finance committee will wait to recommend on any budget until they have met with all the department heads. Vincent explained he had six budgets to go through and that he was able to level fund five out of the six budgets. He began with facilities, he explained that facilities budget is used for town buildings and pays utilities, HVAC, and plumbing bills. Along with the six seasonal buildings. He told the board that a big change is that all the buildings have switched from fuel oil to propane thanks to a grant from the green activities act. The only building that is still on fuel is the library. He explained two boilers had to be replaced in the fire building which was an unexpected expense. The committee asked if the electricity would come from the new solar panels, Vincent stated he hasn't budgeted for that because he wasn't sure when it would be up and running. He explained to the committee that the energy committee is working hard to get that all set up. Vincent explained that the police building is all electric and that budget increased due to that.
- Vincent moved onto DPW operations budget, he explained this is mainly related to equipment and fire department vehicles. He stated he is level funded. Vincent explained that the DOW is finding that the fire department vehicles are being tracked individually, the actual expense was doubled due to inspections and repairs on any one fire vehicle. He explained that he is working with the fire chief to try and spread out inspections and maintenance on the vehicles.
- Vincent talked about his employee contracts and explained that for the first time in seven years the DPW is now fully staffed, which explains the increase in the budget.
- Vincent moved on to highways, he explained this is used for storm projects they do in house, patching of roads, and minor road repairs. He stated these are level funded as well. He explained with snow removal this is the only budget that he can go over budget per a state law and isn't allowed to cut the budget. Vincent said every five years he goes over and averages out to make the budget. Miranda- Wilson through the chair explained the selectboard policy gives the DPW discretion to plow the roads they feel are most necessary.

- Loewenstein asked about the streetlights, Vincent explained that all the lights have been switched to Led lights that has cut the budget significantly, but they have to budget for fixing the lights.
- Vincent moved on to the transfer station. The town has a contract with New Bedford Waste for waste removal at \$53 a ton for the waste. Vincent explained that now the cost of disposal has gone up, due to fuel costs, landfill closures. He stated that now the waste must be trucked away as far as Virginia. He explained that the contract has gone up. He said that at this point this is still the better deal as far as the budgeting. Recycling was discussed.
- Chair Magee asked Vincent if there is anything in the next 3 to 5 years that he sees coming up. Vincent explained that the demands of the department are going up because of more buildings. Keller's corner will be worked on in a year or two. Grants were discussed, coastal zone funding was discussed. Vincent explained that there are grants that he will investigate.
- The committee thanked Vincent for his updates.

Water Commissioners ~ Jim Hood, Chair of the Water Commissioners

- This budget is an enterprise fund, which the town administrator budgets for. The committee welcomed Hood to the meeting. Hood explained that he has looked at the budget and although the full report for 2021 isn't out he doesn't see too many changes from one budget to another. He explained that the concerns are for infrastructure for pumps at Coles Neck. He said to replace the pump there was \$9,000. It was an original pump. Hood went on to explain that when Cumberland Farms came to the Water Commissioners the board asked them to bring the lines across the street so the neighbors could connect in the future. Hood explained that the town did pay for a fire hydrant which was a cost of \$4,500.
- Hood stated in the coming year, there was an issue with the Scada system, and has been repaired intermittently. He explained that to upgrade the entire system that will bring the town into compliance with DEP will cost \$45,000. Loewenstein asked if that was going to be in the capital budget, Hood expressed that yes it was, and he would give the committee a write up of exactly what was going to be done.
- Polowczyk asked if there was a balance in the water enterprise fund and what that balance was. Hood explained that he is asking for that and there is currently an issue with the software, but he will continue to investigate.
- Hood was asked if the commissioners have used the money that was granted to them at last year's town meeting for a consultant. Hood explained that they are in the process of interviewing a consultant.
- Chair Magee stated that the committee will have Hood come back once the actual budget has been set and have a better idea of what money will be spending. Hood agreed to come back to the committee to give a better update.
- Felix explained to the committee that the water commissioners are working diligently on moving forward to work on the rate structure for the water system. Chair thanked them

both and the committee agreed to table this until a consultant has been hired and they have better knowledge of finances.

Wastewater ~ Curt Felix

- The committee welcomed Felix to the table. Felix explained to the committee that the DEP is requiring the wastewater committee to investigate having the whole town of Wellfleet hooked onto a sewer system. Felix stated they are working with their consultant on how they would go about doing this. Felix said the bad news is the cost of a sewer is going up and the cost of the consultant is being used. Felix also stated that they have declining water quality in the harbor, a significant increase in nitrogen in the harbor.
- Felix discussed dredging and he feels that once the dredging begins the town will see significant improvement in the harbor and immediate benefits. He stated they need to get serious about a healthy eco system in the harbor and it is a critical piece. He stated in terms of looking in the next two to three years there needs to be budgeting for wastewater. He talked about advanced septic systems. Introducing carbon and denitrification. Felix stated he will bring Scott Horsley their consultant into the next meeting to better inform the committee. Felix also talked about the water shed permit, which he explained the DEP is requiring of Wellfleet at this time. Felix stated that there has never been a budget for wastewater but moving forward there needs to be a budget for wastewater. The committee went on to discuss budgeting for wastewater.
- The committee thanked Felix for his time and update. Chair Magee asked Felix and Hood to come back on February 26th to give a more definitive update for the committee. Hood Explained he is unavailable; the committee will look to get the water budget. Felix will attend the meeting on the 26th. Loewenstein asked if wastewater would be at town meeting requesting anything, Felix expressed that this year they will not be on town meeting floor. The committee decided that because these will not be issues at town meeting they will wait until March to meet with both wastewater and dredging.

Strategic Planning

- This was discussed earlier in the meeting

Liaison Reports

- No reports currently

Correspondence

- No correspondence

Minutes ~ January 15, 2020

- Polowczyk moved to approve the minutes as printed, Wood seconded the motion, motion carried 8-0

Transfers

- No transfers

Other Business

- Granlund, stated that she feels it is important that the committee does initiate discussions as far as strategic planning, so the town sees what's coming up in the future for budgets.

Loewenstein moved to adjourn, Granlund seconded the motion, motion carried 8-0

Meeting adjourned 8:47pm