

Wellfleet Finance Committee
715 Old King's Hwy, Conference Room
Wednesday January 29, 2020; 7pm
Meeting Minutes

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

Members Absent: Jeff Tash, Sarah Robin

Others Present: Nancy Civetta, Shellfish Warden; Mike Flannigan, Harbormaster;

Chair Magee called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

Shellfish Department Budget Review

- Nancy came to the table and first reported that she received preliminary information from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Based on their preliminary 2019 reports, Wellfleet was first again for the value of its shellfish landings in the state. They are valued at 7.7 million dollars, and she went on to state that 25% of working age population is involved in the shellfish industry.
- She referenced the look-ahead memo she sent to the committee after our December 2019 meeting. She stated she had thought she would need another fulltime year-round employee, but after meeting with the shellfish advisory board, she has withdrawn that request - though still feels the need for one eventually. She is being creative and is asking for \$8,000 for a part time seasonal employee that would cover the recreational fishery for this year.
- She believes she needs a full-time seasonal employee; for the amount of work it takes to adequately monitor Wellfleet's blooming aquaculture business. Hiring someone to fill in at the recreation fishery during the busy summer months will allow her to pull the fulltime seasonal employee from commercial patrol and dedicate more time for managing grants. She stated the Town Administrator agrees with her and has put it into his budgets. She added that she believes the Shellfish Department has been overlooked in the past and her budgets are intended to 'catch up' to where it ought to be.
- Ms. Civetta spoke about needing the replacement truck for the capital improvement plan but she has since withdrawn that request. She is willing to see how the harbor dredging affects the requirement first. The maintenance of the vehicle would be alternated every five years. She explained to the committee that the three existing trucks take a beating as they are running every day. She's concerned for public safety as they are often towing people off the beaches. Chair Magee asked if there were customized vehicles that are specifically for sand and saltwater, and Civetta stated she was not aware of any.

- Wood asked Civetta asked about grants. She stated it was for an aquaculture grant for farms. She is talking about oversight of farms. They have 134 farm leaseholders for the town. The state considers that they have 90+ farms, which is double the average for the rest of the state.
- Chair Magee also asked if anything in her budget has changed from what the committee has in front of them. Civetta stated that the only number that was changed by the TA was the \$8,000 for the seasonal part-time employee. Nothing else has changed.
- She stated that last year a revolving fund was approved so that 75% of the revenue that is taken in in shellfish permits and in farm fees, as well as \$25 an acre from each lease holder, (approx. \$100,000 a year) will go into the revolving fund for shellfish propagation. Taxpayers are not paying for services. The shellfishing community is.
- She went on to discuss her budget in more detail with the committee. Polowczyk questioned her about a new person being approved by the personnel board, she explained that this isn't a new position and stated she had help from the town administrator.
- Wallace asked if there was any oversight for the propagation plan to determine whether it is a success or failure. At what point if it's not working do they back off? Civetta stated they present their plan to the shellfish advisory board every year. He said that she needs to have a report that defines whether propagation is succeeding or failing if asking the town for more monies. Chair Magee stated it sounded like there needs to be a standard to quantify. They went on to discuss the number of permits being sold.
- Chair Magee asked Civetta about looking forward to the next few years, does she see anything that will come up that will make significant impact in her budget. Civetta stated she will ask surrounding towns about their aquaculture and they may have a plan and how do they track their propagation inputs and outputs.
- Loewenstein asked about future grants, Civetta stated that she feels at this time they are maxed out with grants because there are oysters everywhere. Wood expressed his impression that the town of Wellfleet is now a year-round town and thanked Civetta for her hard work.

Wellfleet Marina Budget Review ~ Mike Flanagan ~ Harbormaster

- Flanagan sat before the board and stated there really wasn't much of a change in his budget. He stated he was given a 10% increase in pay next year to his budget. He is looking to have the unit crew positions reclassified, not because of the dredging but because of the other duties at the pier, especially at the fueling dock, which has a significant impact on his department.

- He proposed an additional \$10,000 for seasonal employees, stating that it is very busy at the pier and it is difficult to keep employees due to the part-time status. He asked to raise the \$10,000 to keep the employees for the full season. Polowczyk expressed how helpful the marina staff is. Granlund asked if the part-time seasonal employees come back year after year, Flannigan stated that the employees do come back and that is why he has asked for an increase – to maintain staff year over year.
- The committee asked Flanagan when the gas tanks that were appropriated at the last ATM would be installed – he suggested Fall of 2020 was a reasonable estimate.
- They went on to discuss fees for winter storage and collection of the fees. Wallace asked how much in retained earnings were subject to transfer. Flanagan stated he wasn't sure and would need clarification from the town administrator.
- Chair Magee asked what lines B26 to B29 in the budget. Flannigan said they are debt expenses to pay down the loan for the marina upgrade. He believes this is a twenty-year loan and thinks they are at least ten years in.
- Seasonal parking was discussed. Flanagan stated the parking task force would be meeting in the upcoming months, where fees would be discussed.
- The committee thanked Flanagan for coming in and their appreciation for his work.

Dredging ~ Chris Allgeier, dredging committee

- Chair Magee stated the reason Allgeier was at the meeting was just to update them on the status of dredging. Allgeier went on to inform the board that the Army core of engineers is working on a work plan and they expect that plan by February 20th. At that time the Dredging task force will meet with the core of engineers and go over the plan.
- GEI (the engineering company the town is working with) did the harbor survey two weeks ago and the report is due by the end of the week. He stated this is a huge report for them. They have many permits and will keep track of them. There are conditions for the permits that require follow up.
- He will have those permits in the RFP. He went on to talk about contingency planning, environmental health and safety. Who's responsible for incidents if any happen? Making sure all the equipment has food grade hydraulic fluids, so nothing is damaged if there were an accident or a hose that burst. They are developing additional items for the list.
- They are meeting with the Jack Yunits, who is the Barnstable County Administrator, on February 12th, to find out what the county is doing with respect to dredging and what other towns are doing regarding equipment.

- He stated they are doing some cost estimates and will talk to Yunits about which towns are using which contractors, equipment is a huge factor. Draft Maintenance dredging is on the plan with GEI.
- Chair Magee asked about the Army Core of Engineers and if there was a schedule of releasing the funds and if it was in Wellfleet's favor. Allgeier expressed that he is hopeful the dredging will begin in the fall. They continued to discuss funding and the migration of the sand. Wallace asked what it would take to have assistance in removal of that sand. Flanagan stated to the board that he wasn't sure that would be possible but if it was clean it might open up different opportunities for the sand. The board thanked Allgeier for his time and update.

Strategic Planning

- No strategic planning updates

Liaison Reports

- No reports given

Correspondence

- None

Minutes

- January 22, 2020 continued to the next meeting until Eldridge is back from recovery

Transfers

- No transfers

Other Business

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm