

Wellfleet Finance Committee
Zoom meeting
Tuesday April 7, 2020 7pm
Meeting Minutes

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

Others Present: Rebekah Eldridge, Committee Secretary; Tom Conrad, Nauset School's Superintendent; Giovanna Venditte, Director of finance and operations;

Chair Magee called the meeting to order at 7:03PM

Review Highschool Renovation Questions ~ Tom Conrad – superintendent to answer any questions

- The committee began to discuss what the school's upcoming budget. Conrad presented the Nauset High school budget to the board. The board looked over the high school budget. They also went over the full region budget, which was a little over \$24 million dollars.
 - Wellfleet's portion of the fiscal 2021 budget, including the debt, capital plan, and operating assessment is a little over three-million dollars, Chair Magee asked what the total increase in the budget was for this year, which is a 2 ½% percent increase.
- Polowczyk asked if the school committee could go back and shave a few things from the budget due to the current pandemic, he feels strongly that the revenue being brought in this coming summer will be less than normal. Supt. Conrad said every effort will be made to adjust budgets to whatever shortfalls accrue from the pandemic, but that they would need more information in the coming months to assess its impact.
 - Granlund agreed with Polowczyk that when they agreed on the budget originally there was no pandemic and given the current situation, she feels uncomfortable voting on the budget due to the revenue that will be lost. She is concerned surviving this as a town. There should be a decrease in the budget.
- The committee continued to discuss budgets and the concern for revenue. Stating that they don't know what the summer will look like and what will be allowed to be open. Will the schools be open in the fall? At this point Chair Magee stated he doesn't have any issues holding off on voting due to the current circumstances. Most budgets need to be looked at again.
- Superintendent Conrad spoke to the committee and stated that no votes have been taken by the school committee relative to the new school project, bonding issues or warrant issues included. They are meeting within the week to discuss the next stages of this project. He stated they are planning to ask the MSBA for an extension of this project.

Conrad stated he does not see this in all the town's upcoming meetings due to the current pandemic.

- Conrad went on to discuss remote learning and how things are unfolding, how in the future they will deliver education to students in the future. He discussed that because they have put so much time, money, and effort into technology that it was a smooth transition for the school system to move from classroom learning to remoter learning, Robin stated her gratitude to Conrad for the great efforts that the staff are putting into virtual learning. He stated his concerns for the future and being able to virtually learn for the students will help in the fact that school days won't be missed.
- Chair Magee stated that the FinCom can't easily gauge whether the high school budget is appropriately sized without knowing more about the upcoming impacts on attendance and services. How can they evaluate the budget given the uncertainty of the future?
- Loewenstein stated that she feels the committee should wait on voting on any budget until they get further instructions from the Town Administrator and the Governor
- Chair Magee asked if Conrad could anticipate reviewing the budget and maybe making some changes, Conrad stated the hope is to slow this project down for now.
- The committee continued to discuss the budget and issues that could arise in the future.

Transfers

- Chair Magee began discussing the new sign that the Police Chief has asked for. Loewenstein expressed she thought that the town owned the sign and Eldridge informed her and the committee that the town rents the sign from the county and that it is outdated.
- Granlund asked how the Fincom reserve fund gets funded, Polowczyk explained it is in the budget. Polowczyk asked about leasing a sign rather than buying one. Eldridge said she would investigate it.
- **Polowczyk moved to approve the transfer for the purchase of a new sign to be owned by the town, Granlund seconded the motion, motion passed 9-0**

Warrant Review

- The warrant at this time isn't written or ready to be reviewed. Town meeting was postponed. This will be put on hold.
- Polowczyk moved to approve holding off on voting for any warrant article until the May meeting which could be right before town meeting. Granlund seconded the motion, motion passed 9-0

Strategic Planning

- Nothing to report given the current situation with Covid-19

Liaison Reports

- No reports given

Minutes

- Several sets of minutes are being edited for grammar and accuracy. They will be reviewed and voted on at a future meeting.

Business for future meetings

- The committee will discuss the change of town meeting and how they will proceed with voting on warrant articles.

May 27, 2020 will be the next meeting

Loewenstein moved to adjourn, Polowczyk seconded, motion passed 9-0

**public documents provided to FinCom: Nauset Regional School budget*