

**Wellfleet Finance Committee
Virtual Zoom Meeting
Wednesday April 28, 2021 7:00PM
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Fred Magee, Chair; Ira Wood, Jenn Rhodes, Bob Wallace, Linda Pellegrino, Jeff Tash, Stephen Polowczyk, Kathy Granlund

Members Not Present: Sara Robin

Others Present: Karen Plantier, Committee Secretary: Scott Horsley, Water Resources

Consultant: Curt Felix, Wastewater: Moe Barocas

Chair Magee called the meeting to order at 7:09

There was some discussion of some of the overall issues with the operating budget. It was recommended to wait until the operating budget was put together and given to the Finance Board from the Select Board. The budget will be compared to what was previously reviewed and voted on back in January.

Minutes

- March 10, 2021 ~ **Board Member Polowczyk moved, Board Member Granlund seconded; and it was voted to accept the minutes as printed. 8-0**

Review Warrant for 2021 Town Meeting

- Town meeting has been moved to June 26, 2021.

Wastewater Articles - Curt Felix and Scott Horsley will be speaking about the wastewater works. There are 8 articles from Curt Felix. [Article Numbers 13-21 in the Warrant]

Chair Magee highlighted that Curt Felix would speak to the articles for general understanding.

- Sewer system to be installed.
- Qualify the transfer station site to handle the entire towns wastewater load.
- Design mains and extensions and components of where the sewer system will go in Wellfleet.
- Nitrogen reduction target through various systems. (Traditional and non-traditional).
- Meets DEP guidelines and what that want us to meet.
- Alternatives - sewer connections
- We will figure out which of the alternatives are working as expected, worse than expected, or better than expected.
- Scott Horsley will present context.

Chair Magee-For the presentation could you focus on the cost of project– net it down to focus on the budget.

Horsley: Started the presentation: We are not just complying with the regulatory requirement guidelines, but, going above and beyond.

- Clean water act which is the back stop to the lawsuit that the conservation law foundation filed.
- Quicker results in the Bay. Groundwater moves slowly about 1 foot per day. The building of the sewer may take 10 years to see benefits.
- Alternative systems may show faster results and are less costly.
- Help to clean up Duck Creek.
- Make water quality better in bay. Cleaning up the water quality and affordable housing award is a goal for the project.
- The plan looks at long-term effects on climate change, sea level rise.
- Mayo Creek restoration is part of the plan. We proposed to build a permeable reactive barrier project along the shoreline along duck creek. Mass DEP may want to fund it.
- GHD Engineers have completed a study of the transfer station. Mass DEP will require a backup plan which include building a sewer and that the site has proven to be able to take the capacity.
- Downtown sewer areas that have been identified as part of past studies by Woodard and Curran Engineering firm, and Environmental Partners – those plans are a part of our backup plans.
- Route 6 improvements. Storm water projects upgrades. Storm water in addition to wastewater is a significant source of nitrogen. We are lobbying the D.O.T. and the DEP to integrate the “green infrastructure solutions into the project which is part of the plan.
 - o – Shellfish Aquaculture. Our plan is to have that to be a very small part of the plan. There are seven towns on Cape Cod who have it as part of their plans. Wellfleet is a leader in the stat on shellfish.
- Innovative and alternative septic systems there is a new generation of systems that has efficiently removing Nitrogen using wood chips. There is a tank between your standard septic tank and your leaching field, and that tank is filled with wood chips, limestone, and a low power aerator that brings the nitrogen removal from 25–30 percent up to around 90 percent. Approved by DEP today and much a part of the plans. It is a much more cost-effective approach.
- Hybrid approach – 95 Lawrence project, PRB, storm water improvements, Salt water, including mayo creek, herring river, and then the shellfish program, cumulatively these add up to enough nitrogen removal to satisfy the clean water act MASS DEP. The cost range of \$30-\$60 million.
- There are some grants programs so-called loan forgiveness to supplement the funds.

Curt Felix: They have put together a 5-year plan to go and get grant funding.

- On the maintenance side of the project are ongoing costs to the town.

- operations
- maintenance
- monitoring & reporting

All this work to implement, operate and manage the wide variety of different projects.

Scott Horsley: We are unique, most of the other towns have opted for sewer systems.

- Orleans have alternatives.
- Wellfleet is heavy on alternatives rather than traditional. Lighter on the central sewer but providing the option to change that at any point in the future.

Chair Magee and Scott Horsley:

- 20K/ kg nitrogen to remove – for full build out.
- Now its 9K/kg nitrogen

Chair Magee: Regarding monitoring – where is the DEP on this. Is there a grace period?

Scott Horsley: There is a 30year plan which is divided into 5 Year segments. The DEP agreed with the program as it is designed and agreed to proceed. All programs must be monitored. After 5 years it needs to be assessed.

Then look at what is working to check in on the progress.

The results are measured in kilograms per year. All Nitrogen Kg result driven. Then verify removal rates.

Chair Magee: Looking at article 14; is the management and operational side of it.

- The term Water “czar” was used in the past.
- Article 14 is to create a position as a water “czar” manager.

Scott Horsley: looking at working with Truro and Eastham sharing in the management of the system.

Curt Felix: A project manager for this position. At the end of the day someone needs to make major decisions on this project. Consultant will need to have someone over them.

- The funds for the project manager might come from the increase in Air B&B tax which would increase from 4% to 6%.
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Warrant Articles:

- **Article 1-12: These articles will remain the same as originally voted on.**
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- **Article 14: Wastewater Dept and Project Management - Reserve recommendation at town meeting**

Move: Polowczyk: Second: Granlund

Voted 8/0

- **Wastewater Articles (13, 15-21)** need additional time to be discussed. The articles will be reserve recommendation to town meeting.
- **Chair Magee:** We have made recommendations on 27 articles and reserved our opinion on 22.

Liaison Reports

- No reports

Correspondence

- No correspondence

New Business

- Alternate will be Melanie Lord.
- Moe Barocas will be on board.
- At this point we will be fully staffed.

Committee Member Polowczyk moved, Committee Member Tash seconded; and it was voted to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned 8:44 PM

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