

**Wellfleet Selectboard
Virtual Meeting ~ Zoom
Monday April 5, 2021; 6PM
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Michael DeVasto, Chair; Janet Reinhart, Vice-Chair; Justina Carlson, Ryan Curley, Helen Miranda-Wilson

Others Present: Maria Broadbent, Town Administrator; Heather Michaud, Town Accountant; Rebekah Eldridge, Executive Assistant; Rich Pauley, Fire Chief; Michael Hurley, Police Chief; Mark Vincent, Director of DPW; Jennifer Wertkin, Library Director; Suzanne Grout-Thomas, Director of Community Services; Becky Rosenberg, Recreation Director; Nancy Civetta, Shellfish Constable; Robin Robinson, Chair of the Library of Trustees.

Chair DeVasto called the meeting to order at 6:02PM

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.

- Selectboard Member Wilson announced that tick testing program is no longer functioning, she is looking for other options.

II. Business

A. Review and vote to recommend or not to recommend General Government Budgets

- Chair DeVasto stated he didn't feel the budget is adequate to approve and send to the taxpayers, stating it is in deficit \$330,000. He asked Broadbent to present the budget to the board. She began by explaining they have been working very hard to get the budgets ready for the board. She continued to explain that she and the town accountant were waiting for the auditors to come back with actual numbers. She explained why she is presenting the budget to them as it is right now.
- There were many questions from Selectboard members regarding procedures and discussing what that procedure might be. They discussed the administration's budget at great length. Including using free cash once it is certified by the state, using the stabilization fund, or using the finance committee's reserve fund to try and offset the budget.
- The Board was in unanimous decision that more information was needed to approve this budget.
- Chief Pauley spoke to the board stating how important it is to have this discussion so that all the numbers match with the accounting office. He stated he spoke with the Town Administrator and feels they can work together to get this budget on track.
- Michaud began explaining to the Board that she has reached out to many experts to help with the development of this budget. The Board discussed refinancing these loans and Michaud explained that they are working with their financial experts to figure out what is the best option.
- **Chair DeVasto moved, Board member Curley seconded; and it was voted to appoint Harry Terkanian if so willing to serve as a consultant to the town on the FY 2022 Budget to advise and administrate as necessary in order to complete and submit a final budget for the Annual Town Meeting effective immediately. 5-1**

- There was more discussion on the budget and how to balance it. Administrator Broadbent explained that she was looking for more guidance from the Board in moving forward with the budget. Chair DeVasto stated he would have liked to have the conversation sooner than now. Administrator Broadbent explained to the Board that she doesn't have a specific date on when the budgets would be certified by the state and the auditors. Michaud also explained that she was very conservative with the budget not knowing the free cash and what the auditors will come back with. The Board wants Terkanian to sit with Heather and go over budgets to see if he can offer any help.

B. *Review and vote to recommend or not to recommend Police 2022 Budget.*

- Chief Hurley began his presentation to the Board discussing his body cam budget and stating that after his budget went to the Finance Committee and Maria in February and looking at what the Board was sent was not what he had submitted. He continued that in speaking with Broadbent he was told that his body cameras that were originally in his budget have been moved to the Capital Improvement and he was concerned with that. He stated he objects to having the body cameras to capital as he needs a full-time staff person to cover just the body cams public records request. He was concerned about his salaries budget line. He continued to express how stressed and overloaded his department is, stating it will only get busier as the summer seasons approaches.
- Chair DeVasto stated he feels the body cameras belong in his budget and not on the Capital Budget. They continued to discuss the body cameras and how important they will be for the police department. Chair DeVasto asked if he was aware this was moved, Chief Hurley stated that he spoke with Broadbent and it was explained to him that it was moved to the Capital Budget to try and lower the overall budget. Chief Hurley explained that he feels there is a lack of communication and there needs to be improvement there.
- **Chair DeVasto moved, Selectboard Member Wilson seconded; and it was voted that both the Body Cameras and the Salaries and Wages in the amount of \$12,000 that was presented originally be moved back into the budget. 5-0.**
- Chief Hurley continued with his explanation for additional academy trained officer due to the phasing out of special officers by the state of Massachusetts. The Board continued to discuss with the Chief his budget in detail.
- Chief Pauley spoke to the Board about Chief Hurley needing another staff and to be placed into the warrant for town meeting.
- **Selectboard Member Curley moved, Selectboard Member Wilson seconded; and it was voted to insert and recommend an article in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant reallocating \$58,369.00 in the police department budget from SW specials to SW full time. 5-0**
- There were no changes in the Communications Budgets.
- **Selectboard Member Curley moved; Selectboard Member Carlson seconded, and it was voted to approve the Town Administrators Budget for FY 2022 for Communications and dispatch. 5-0**

C. *Review and vote to recommend or not recommend Fire 2022 Budget.*

- Chief Pauley began his presentation that he was disappointed with the way his budget was presented to the Board. He was upset about the lack of communication between him and administration. He continued with the cut in his salaries and needs more detail about these cuts and his concern for other cuts in his budget. He continued to express his concern and disappointment in the budget that the Board received in their packets. He explained certain things in his budget to the board.
- **Selectboard Member Curley moved, Selectboard Member Wilson seconded; and it was voted to remand the Fire Department's Fiscal Year 2022 budget to the Town Administrator and the Fire Chief. 5-0**

D. Review and vote to recommend or not recommend Public School 2022 Budget

- No action taken.

E. Review and vote to recommend or not recommend Shellfish 2022 Budget.

- Civetta presented her budget stating that it isn't what she had put before the finance committee and stated that she would like to meet with administration to go through her budgets. She discussed the needs for her department explaining she feels it will be a very busy 2021 season. She also discussed her propagation budget with the Board. The Board discussed this budget with Civetta asking and answering questions. Discussing the need for this department to flourish. The Board discussed with Civetta the need for signs to be hung for tourists and residents.
- **Selectboard Member Curley moved; Selectboard Member Reinhart seconded; and it was voted to remand the Shellfish Fiscal Year 2022 budget to the Town Administrator and the Shellfish Constable. 5-0**

F. Review and vote to recommend or not recommend Harbormaster/Marina Enterprise Budget 2022 Budget.

- Sullivan presented his budget to the Board explaining that there are a lot of changes this year as there haven't been many changes in the past years. He began with his salary line has increased. He stated he has been working very closely with the accounting department. Sullivan talked about hiring more seasonal employees as the harbor will be very busy this year due to the dredging that took place in October. He continued to discuss his budget and explaining the changes that were made on each budget line. The Board continued to discuss the budget with Sullivan. There was no Town Administrator's budget with this budget, the Board discussed remanding the budget.
- **Selectboard Member Curley moved, Selectboard Member Reinhart seconded; and it was voted to remand the fiscal year 2022 Marina Enterprise Budget back to the Town Administrator. 5-0**

G. Review and vote to recommend or not recommend DPW and Building Department 2022 Budget.

- Vincent presented his six budgets to the Board. He explained that he worked hard to keep his budgets level funded. He began with facilities, which he explained maintains 6-year-round town building and 7 seasonal buildings including utilities.

- **Selectboard Member Curley moved, Selectboard Member Reinhart seconded; and it was voted to approve DPW's facilities Fiscal Year 2022 budget with the total budget of \$340,950.00. 5-0.**
- Vincent continued to his next budget, operating. He explained his expenses and what this budget maintains around town. There is an increase of \$13,000 which he explained is a result of increasing the fire department repairs for fire vehicles.
- **Selectboard Member Curley DeVasto moved, selectboard member Reinhart seconded; and it was voted to approve the Town Administrator's DPW Operating fiscal year 2022 budget. 5-0**
- Vincent moved on to his highway budget he explained how this budget works and explained that he gets chapter 90 funds, so this budget is level funded.
- **Selectboard Member Curley Selectboard Member Reinhart seconded; and it was voted to approve The Town Administrator's DPW Highway Fiscal Year 2022 budget. 5-0**
- Vincent moved on to his Snow and Ice Budget. He explained plowing of town roads and some private roads. This is a level funded budget. He stated how he comes to this budget as it all depends on the weather. Chair DeVasto asked the salt to sand ratio, Vincent explained that it depends on the circumstances, but his usual ratio is 3-1, 3 sand and 1 salt.
- **Selectboard Chair DeVasto moved, Selectboard Member Reinhart seconded; and It was voted to approve the Town Administrator's Snow and Ice Fiscal Year 2022 Budget. 5-0**
- Vincent moved on to his Street Lighting Budget and explained that pays for electricity associated with the streetlights. Board Member Curley asked if the town needed all the lights. It was explained that the lights were put up by requests from residents.
- **Selectboard Chair DeVasto moved, Selectboard Member Reinhart seconded; and it was voted to approve the Town Administrator's DPW Street Lighting Fiscal Year 2022 Budget. 5-0**
- Vincent moved on to this transfer station budget and he explained each line of the budget. He explained that he also level funded this budget. The Board didn't have many questions for Vincent. Chair DeVasto asked about purple bags and will they begin again Vincent stated those receipts go into the general fund but they haven't been. He explained that the Board of Health voted to have the return of purple bags June 1, 2021.
- **Selectboard Chair DeVasto moved, Selectboard Member Reinhart seconded; and it was voted to approve the Town Administrator's DPW Fiscal Year 2022 budget. 5-0**
- The Board moved on to the building budget for fiscal year 2022.
- **Selectboard Member Carlson moved; Selectboard Member Reinhart seconded; and it was voted to approve the Town Administrator's Fiscal Year 2022 Recycling Committee Budget. 5-0**
- **Selectboard Chair DeVasto moved; Selectboard Member Wilson seconded; and it was voted to approve the Town Administrator's Fiscal Year 2022 Building Department Budget.**

- The emergency management budget was discussed, and it was found out that this budget belongs with the Police Department Budget. The Police Chief explained that this money has been used for signs to be placed on the highway.
- **Selectboard Member Carlson moved; Selectboard Member Curley seconded; it was voted to remand the Fiscal Year 2022 Emergency Management Budget back to the Town Administrator to find the extra money that is being requested by the Police Chief. 5-0**
- **Selectboard Chair DeVasto; Selectboard Member Curley seconded; and it was voted to approve the Town Administrator's Traffic and Parking Fiscal Year 2022 Traffic and Parking Budget. 5-0**

H. Review and vote to recommend or not recommend Human Services 2022 Budget

- The Board brought up the conservation committee budget and expressed it was out of order. Eldridge explained that she put them together because Hillary Lemos oversees both. Hillary was not on the meeting due to a surgery.
- **Selectboard Member Reinhart moved; Selectboard member Carlson seconded; and it was voted to remand the Health and Humans services fiscal year 2022 to the Town Administrator and the Department Head. 5-0**
- The Board discussed that they would like the old budget sheets as the newer ones are harder to read.
- **Selectboard Member Reinhart moved; Selectboard Member Curley seconded; and it was voted to remand the Fiscal Year 2022 Community Services Budget to the Town Administrator and Department Head**
- **Selectboard Chair DeVasto moved; Selectboard Member Curley seconded; and it was voted to approve the Town Administrator's Fiscal Year 2022 Veteran Services Budget. 5-0**
- **Selectboard Member Reinhart moved; Selectboard Member Wilson seconded; and it was voted to remand the fiscal year 2022 Historical Commissions budget to the Town Administrator.**
- **Selectboard Member Reinhart moved; Selectboard Curley seconded; and it was voted to approve the Town Administrators Holiday Celebrations Fiscal 2022 Budget in the amount of \$1,200. 5-0**
- **Selectboard Member Reinhart moved; Selectboard Member Curley seconded; and it was voted to approve the Town Administrator's Fiscal Year 2022 Cultural Council's Budget.**

I. Review and vote to recommend or not recommend Library 2022 Budget.

- Wertkin presented her Budget to the Board. She explained there were some discrepancies in her budget that she originally submitted to the Finance Committee, she explained that her book budget was reduced greatly, and her part-time staff budget was eliminated. She continued to discuss her needs at the library and the process of reopening the library to customers. She stated the cuts that were made she couldn't work with.
- **Selectboard Chair DeVasto moved; Selectboard Member Reinhart seconded; and it was voted to remand the fiscal year 2022 Library Budget back to the Town Administrator and Department Head. 5-0**

J. Review and vote to recommend or not recommend Recreation 2022 Budget.

- Rosenberg presented her budget to the Board. She stated that the budget before the board is not the budget she presented to the Finance Committee. Her race budget was cleared. She explained why these budgets can't be eliminated from her budget. She explained to the board more of her issues with her budget.
- **Selectboard Chair DeVasto moved; Selectboard Member Curley seconded; and it was moved to remand the Fiscal Year 2022 Recreation Budget back to the Town Administrator and Department Head. 5-0**

K. Review and vote to recommend or not recommend Beach, Council on Aging, & Community Services 2022 Budget

- Thomas presented her budgets to the Board. She began with her Community Services Budget, she explained that it was under the amount than last year because the state has allowed them to use free standing bathrooms. So the budget is lower than anticipated
- **Selectboard Member Janet moved; Selectboard Member Curley seconded; and it was voted to remand the Fiscal Year 2022 Community Services Budget back to the Town Administrator and Department Head. 5-0**
- Thomas moved on to her beach budget to the Board. She explained her credit card fees were zeroed out because the customers will be paying for their own fees.
- **Selectboard Chair DeVasto moved; Selectboard Member Reinhart seconded to approve the Town Administrator's Fiscal Year 2022 Beach Budget. 5-0**
- **Selectboard Member Reinhart moved; Selectboard Member Wilson seconded; it was voted to approve the Town Administrator's Fiscal Year 2022 Council on Aging Budget. 5-0**

L. To Review the Debt Services budgets including insurance and benefits for fiscal year 2022

- **Selectboard Member Carlson moved; Selectboard Member seconded; and it was voted to remand the fiscal year 2022 Debt Services Budget. 5-0**

M. To Review and recommend or not recommend Capital Improvement items for 2022 2021 Town Meeting Warrant Articles (2020 articles that were deferred and new articles for 2021)

- Review of the warrant will be postponed to the next meeting.

III. Selectboard Reports

- There were no reports at this meeting.

IV. Topics for Future Discussion

- The Board discussed having additional meetings. They decided there will be additional meetings in April. April 20, 2021 will be budget related; April 22, 2021 will be for the warrant; and the regularly scheduled meeting on April 27, 2021.
- The Capital Budget and Warrant will be reviewed at upcoming meetings/

V. Adjournment

- **Selectboard Member Reinhart moved; Selectboard Member Carlson seconded; and it was voted to adjourn. 5-0**
- **Meeting adjourned 10:15PM**

DRAFT *a full recording of this meeting can be found of the Town's website*

****Public Records:***

Fiscal Year 2022 Department Budgets