

**Meeting Date:**

August 29, 2018

**Wellfleet Finance Committee  
August 29, 2018 7:00PM**

**Wellfleet Senior Center, 715 Old Kings Hwy**

**Present:** Chair, Janet Loewenstein; Ira Wood; Kathy Granlund; Linda Pellegrino; Stephen Polowczyk, Robert Wallace, Jeff Tash, Fred Magee

**Others Present:** Town Administrator, Dan Hoort; Dick Elkin, David Mead-Fox, Lili Green, G.B. Brigham, Mike Simons, Harry Terkanian

Chair Loewenstein called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**Minutes**

Polowczyk moved, Woods 2<sup>nd</sup>, to approve the minutes of June 27, 2018 as presented. Motion carried 7-0

(Note: Wallace arrived after the minutes had been voted on)

**Special Town Meeting warrant recommendations**

The Committee began their review of the September 24, 2018 Special Town Meeting warrant which was approved and closed by the Selectboard on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Articles 1, 2 & 3 are all related to the solar array proposed to be installed on the capped landfill at the Transfer Station. Article 1 requires a two-thirds vote at town meeting and is to lease the property for twenty years which is the maximum permitted by the governing legislation. Article 2 allows the Selectboard to enter into a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreement and article 3 authorizes the Selectboard to enter into a solar power purchase agreement for up to twenty years.

**Polowczyk moved, Pellegrino 2<sup>nd</sup>, to recommend articles 1, 2 and 3. Motion carried 8-0**

Article 4 is to approve invoices unpaid from FY 2018. The Committee discussed how this cost might be reduced in the future. It was noted that the cost of portable restrooms increased dramatically when it became subject to prevailing wage laws through procurement.

**Polowczyk moved, Loewenstein 2<sup>nd</sup>, to recommend article 4. Motion carried 8-0**

Article 5 seeks town meeting approval to transfer funds from the on-call budget to the full-time staff budget to hire an additional full-time firefighter/paramedic/emt. The Town is unable to fill the open positions on the call firefighter staff, to fill that void the Fire Chief is requesting authority to transfer funds and hire a full-time firefighter/paramedic/emt. The Committee acknowledged that this is permanent change

**Polowczyk moved, Loewenstein 2<sup>nd</sup>, to recommend article 5. Motion carried 8-0**

Article 6 requests authorization to use beach funds to purchase 4 new anodized aluminum lifeguard stations. The Committee discussed whether this could wait until the April Annual Town Meeting. If there were better policing in the evening at the beach perhaps the current wood lifeguard stations would be subject to vandalism. Hoort mentioned that a Wellfleet tradition is for night workers to head to the beach after work to relax. There is no police presence late night on the beaches.

**Loewenstein moved, Polowczyk 2<sup>nd</sup>, to NOT recommend article 6. Motion carried 6-0-2 (Wood, Wallace abstain)**

The Committee briefly discussed Article 8 which would allow the Selectboard to set limits on the number of marijuana dispensaries in Wellfleet. Although this could be looked at from a position of a revenue generator for the Town, the Committee agreed to make no recommendation on this article.

The Committee discussed Article 9 which would authorize the purchase of the property at 3 Kendrick Avenue. Hoort mentioned that while there was no current plan for the property the Selectboard and many staff department heads felt the opportunity to purchase this property was too good to pass up. The Committee expressed concern that spending money on this property would lead to more requests for funds to expend on this property. Members also stated this property would become less valuable as waterfront flooding becomes more commonplace.

**Polowczyk moved, Pellegrino 2<sup>nd</sup>, to not recommend article 9. Motion carried 8-0**

### **Discussion-Strategic Planning**

Magee discussed the Strategic Planning document prepared by the Finance Committee prior to Annual Town Meeting last April. Do we want this document to be an annual thing? The Committee agreed that it was well received by the community. People appreciated the educational value of the document and the fact that it was looking forward into the future. The Committee agreed it has value and should be kept on their agenda.

Hoort mentioned the possibility of filming a discussion using the document so residents could be kept informed.

### **Discussion of possible allocation of new revenues**

Hoort mentioned that possible new revenues would include the expansion of the room occupancy tax and the revenues from marijuana dispensaries located in Wellfleet. The room occupancy tax has four components:

- 5% State tax
- 2.75% Cape and Islands Water Protection Tax
- 0 – 6% Local Options Tax – Wellfleet currently has adopted a 4% tax
- 3% Community Impact Tax – would require adoption by town meeting voters

We the local options tax proposed to be expanded to all short-term rentals and the new revenue receipts from the sale of adult use recreational marijuana Hoort recommends these new funds be designated for a specific use such as capital improvements, dredging or perhaps a tourism/economic development fund.

The Committee discussed the fact that our harbor drives much of our tourism that designating some of the room occupancy receipts for dredging would make sense. The Town must get the harbor dredged, the longer it is not dredged the great the negative financial impact of fewer boats in the harbor.

### **Next Meetings**

The Committee agreed to meet on September 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm prior to the Special Town meeting. If there is nothing to be addressed this meeting may be canceled. Next regularly scheduled meeting will be October 24<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm

### **Public Records Material of 8/29/18**

1. September 24, 2018 Special Town Meeting warrant