



Town of Nantucket Finance Committee

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Committee Members: Denice Kronau (Chair), Joseph T. Grause Jr. (Vice-chair), Jeremy Bloomer
Chris Glowacki, Steve Maury, Peter McEachern, Joanna Roche, Peter Schaeffer, Jill Vieth

MINUTES

Saturday, January 28, 2020

ZOOM – 8:00 a.m.

Called to order at 8:02 am. by Ms. Kronau.

Staff in attendance: Libby Gibson, Town Manager; Gregg Tivnan, Assistant Town Manager; Rick Sears, Assistant Town Manager; Brian Turbitt, Director of Finance; Susan Carmel, Assistant Director Finance; Mariya Basheva, Financial Analyst; Terry Norton, Town Minutes Taker

Attending Members: Kronau, Grause, Maury, Bloomer, Glowacki, Roche, Schaeffer, Vieth

Absent Members: McEachern

Documents used: Departmental budget projections for FY2024s; Capital Program Committee Report
Adoption of Agenda

Motion **Motion to Approve.** (made by: Roche) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried 8-0//Schaeffer, Grause, Glowacki, Maury, Roche, Vieth, Bloomer, and Kronau-aye

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Norton – Announced this is her last meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

1. None

III. REVIEW OPERATING BUDGETS OF GENERAL FUND AND ENTERPRISE FUNDS

Gibson – Introduction and overview.

1. Police Department, Harbormaster & Emergency Preparedness

Dept. Head Deputy Chief Charles Gibson

Discussion **C. Gibson** – Reviewed goals: implementing changes initiated by the Police Reform Act; continue to pursue completion of on-going projects. Reviewed FY2023 initiatives that are on-going: recertification of police officers; Department Accreditation: Harbor Master building: Town pier rehabilitation; Loran barracks renovation; and Harbor Master maintenance facility.

Glowacki – Asked about timeline for the Harbor Master Building.

C. Gibson – We should have gone out to bid in 2019; when we got the bid out, responses came in \$2m over budget. In July 2022, the architect wanted a new contract. The bid is now out there. We hope to start teardown of the existing in September 2023 and to be substantially completed the following summer. We are locked in with the Conservation Commission and other permitting agencies; any changes would put us back to square one. The building is in the V-11 (Velocity) zone requiring the 1st floor to be 6’ above grade; we had that lowered 3’ with flow-through panels and putting it on piles.

Roche – Asked about the grading and potential raising of Washington Street.

C. Gibson – No grading is planned. The Harbor Master building will be dry with everything else “under water.” Upcoming initiatives: hiring, increase staff skills, and improve beach safety. Staffing is a major problem, not just for Nantucket but all of Massachusetts.

Reviewed Marine Department on-going initiatives and goals.

Roche – In regards to having 2 officers at the Airport, asked about the staffing of officers.

C. Gibson – The Airport requires officers to man Transportation Security Administration positions; we have to do it through overtime. Right now, there are 6 open positions, and we want to add 2 more.

Roche – Asked about the licensing department.

C. Gibson – There are 2 people with one who handles accounting; we want to add another fulltime position. We've consolidated some of the positions but need someone for weekends and nights.

Roche – Asked if recruiting could be outsourced.

C. Gibson – One of our officers does recruiting; Nantucket doesn't have much to offer over other communities. Housing is our biggest issue.

Roche – If you hired an outside firm to do recruitment, your officer could go back to patrolling. Asked about incentives.

C. Gibson – The problem with officers, once they have that license in hand, they are marketable to other communities in Massachusetts. We have a damaging clause of \$14,000 if an officer leaves in under 3 years of our putting them through the Academy; they can easily write the check and leave. The Community Service Officers are our biggest recruiting tool.

Schaeffer – Confirmed that we're paying our officers the same as on the mainland.

C. Gibson – The problem is our living expenses are 30% to 40% higher; the problem arises when a young officer no longer wants to rent from mom and dad or live in barracks and wants to start a family.

Glowacki – Asked if we are going with manned security at the pier or if there's technology that works. He also thinks technology works well for the beaches.

C. Gibson – That's just for the summer; people squid fish at night and do damage to boats. We have the technology but still have to chase people out. The problem with technology at the beaches is shark sightings; a sunfish looks like a shark to untrained eyes.

Glowacki – He's surprised at the over-time request. For the Marine Department, asked the amount of revenue the floating dock brings in.

C. Gibson – About \$200,000 for that section per year. We just received a \$1m grant from the Seaport Economic Council to go toward finishing the floating dock; we have to show the economic impact. The housing initiatives do little to address the young officers wanting to start a family; it's geared more to the young unmarried officer to provide a room.

L. Gibson – Retention is a Town-wide problem. She has spoken on succession planning and recruiting strategy. We will need to work seriously with compensation; it needs to be very competitive with the mainland and private sector. Reviewed steps to increase retention; much of this will be referenced under the General Fund presentation. Reviewed properties for Town employee housing. There's a change in law enforcement, and it is impacting recruitment across the State.

Bloomer – Asked how many offices we have now, open positions, and compensation relative to the highest in Massachusetts, and how much extra compensation would be necessary.

L. Gibson – That isn't answerable; we're using comparable towns across the State. We are in the middle of collective bargaining and don't want to speak to that. We can't adjust salaries without collective bargaining or ask for more money without collective bargaining.

Bloomer – Asked if it's possible to give a sense of the aggregate amount necessary.

L. Gibson – That's not answerable outside of executive session. It's also subjective to what towns we compare to; it's part of the problem in developing the Nantucket factor.

C. Gibson – Right now there are 31 officers including himself and Chief Pittman; we also have 4 in field training and 1 in the Academy. We are authorized to have 41 officers. It's not just money; with the political climate, there's not a lot of law enforcement driven programs. Money isn't going to solve the anti-police sentiment that is putting off prospective officers.

Roche – From a practical standpoint regarding bargaining budget, asked if there’s money that might be used to provide flexibility. Thinking about a chunk of money that might be budgeted in a different area.

L. Gibson – We do have money in regard to collective bargaining. Budgeted funds are centralized in a different area.

Roche – She has relatives who are police officers and struggle with the issues Chief Gibson brought up. There might be a way Nantucket could make our officers feel more comfortable.

Glowacki – The hospital did a housing survey; he thinks we could combine the various surveys to get a sense of the whole community.

Vieth – Asked how they decide how many officers the department needs; 31 sounds like a lot.

C. Gibson – We have to staff 24-7; using the full-time equivalent, you need 1.77 persons to staff 1 shift 24-7 and we need 4 officers per shift, and we have to adapt for vacation and sick leave. A big point is that there is no cooperative help coming from neighboring towns or State Police. Also, from ‘Sconset to Madaket is a long way; Nantucket is a large area. We’re also dealing with more drug and mental-health issues. We need people trained in rape and serious crime detection.

Vieth – Asked if they include social welfare workers for calls.

C. Gibson – No; we are the agency on call. Social Services is having the same retention problems as everyone else.

L. Gibson – Social services responding is coming and we will be looking at it.

2. Fire Department

Dept. Head Chief Michael Cranson

Discussion **Cranson** – Reviewed the goals: increase Advanced Life Support (ALS), effectiveness and efficiency, resource capabilities. Reviewed on-going FY2023 initiatives: advance Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification classes for all ff/EMTs, Lieutenants on each shift, and increase firefighters per shift. We’re staffed 28 FF plus 3 chiefs, that’s 7 FF per shift; we’ve hired 5 new firefighters with 3 starting soon; that will leave the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Chief position to be filled. Purchasing a new ambulance. FY2024 exceptions: addition of 4 lieutenants @ \$274,400, trench technical rescue equipment \$375,000, replace engine 1 \$850,000, and new staff F-5429 \$80,000. Plan to keep current Engine 1 as a backup.

Schaeffer – One thing brought up was capital not being spent on the Fire Department. Asked if there is sufficient capital.

Cranson – We aren’t lacking on capital investment from the Town; reviewed new capital projects which have been approved. Have had trouble getting technical equipment and training. The fleet is in good shape.

Kronau – Asked the lead time on the new fire truck.

Cranson – Lead time is 18 months; an ambulance was ordered about the time he got here, still waiting. Everything is taking longer.

Kronau – She recommends that for next year’s budget think ahead 24 months to compensate for the supply chain; she doesn’t think it will improve.

Cranson – Agrees that’s a good idea. We are actively discussing that.

Kronau – Asked if there are volunteer firefighters on Island.

Cranson – We have a call force; over the years some of that force has aged out. We’re trying to make it robust and received a grant to outfit the call force. Once we vetted the 24 new volunteers, we will put them through the academy to supplement our full-time force.

Schaeffer – Asked if any departments have paid volunteers.

Cranson – The problem is logistics; that program is paid-on-call. We are trying to attract our local people to help in the event of an emergency.

Schaeffer – Asked about the \$12,500 utility bill.

Turbitt – The Fire Department is paid through Public Safety Facility utilities.

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Schaeffer – Salary and wages are going up; asked if that assumes the 6 positions are filled.

Cranson – That assumes we are authorized to promote the 4 lieutenants and back fill the open slots and hire 4 firefighters.

Schaeffer – Asked why no overtime is budgeted.

Turbitt – Overtime is in budgeted; there is no ambulance overtime.

Schaeffer – Asked if there's a place on the mainland that does something different in terms of salaries and compensation.

Kronau – The Town's in the middle of collective bargaining so we shouldn't talk about this.

Roche – Asked if there's a junior volunteer program in the High School; they can participate once they turn 18.

Cranson – We had an Explorer Program, but during COVID it was shut down. We now have 2 fire prevention officers; one is responsible for putting that program back together with a person in the school.

Bloomer – On the new trucks, asked if they could be leased rather than purchased.

Turbitt – We've never used a lease for capital because we can borrow in a bank and much less.

Grause – Asked if there's a mutual aid agreement between Nantucket Fire Department and the Airport Fire Department.

Cranson – Yes, we work very closely. We're putting together an agreement with the Coast Guard for their help in the event of large-scale events.

3. Nantucket Water Company

Dept. Head Director Mark Willett

Discussion **Willett** – Reviewed goals: water main improvements, upgrade meter-reading equipment, complete construction on new well, and complete renewable energy project. Reviewed on-going FY2023 initiatives: replace main and services on Lily Street, replace computer equipment at towers, and complete well and pump test. Hope the solar array will be up and running at the end of this year; it will be a huge savings for us. Accomplishments: safety, quality customer service, maintained safe drinking water, and maintained and improved the water distribution system. Exceptions: part-time position salary increase \$50,000, propane increase \$41,000, repair and maintain office equipment \$20,000, repair and maintain building \$10,500, professional services increase \$25,000, inventory increase \$540,000, lead service replacement program \$1.175m, water tank \$2.24m, employee housing \$2m, and pipe and equipment storage building \$950,000.

Grause – Complimented the customer service. Asked about the FY2024 planned revenue 12.9% increase and how much is water use versus new connections.

Willett – The bulk is from water use; we have about 170 connections coming up. The last rate increase was 2016; we had a rate study completed by GBA and will need an increase in the future. We pumped more water last year than ever before.

Grause – Asked about our water supply.

Willett – The supply and aquifer are very strong; we monitor it all the time. We are getting to the higher end of our permit. In the summer we average pumping 4m to 5m gallons per day. We can take our information and negotiate with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) to increase the water withdrawal permit.

Grause – There are 4 open positions in the budget.

Willett – We are okay; he wants to hold the positions open in case a position needs to be filled. The next hire might be an engineer; we're looking at that now.

Grause – There's a \$2m request for housing; asked who it's for.

Willett – We have 1 in employee housing and 1 who needs housing. We're looking at a possible duplex.

Vieth – Asked for an update on the PFAS and work at the Airport.

Willett – We’re doing well with testing wells; it’s scary because we don’t know where it will show up. All of Madequecham has been hooked to Town water. Work west of the Airport is moving forward and about 70% complete; we’ve started ordering materials for that water main extension.

Vieth – Asked if there’s a less expensive test for PFAS testing.

Willett – No, it’s still very expensive. The lab equipment looks at PFAS in parts-per-trillion. MADEP is looking into a PFAS sampling fund to provide help for the sampling; he’d then be able to get \$50,000 to \$80,000 for Nantucket.

4. Nantucket Memorial Airport

Dept. Head Manager Noah Karberg

Discussion **Karberg** – Reviewed significant changes: increase in aviation and non-aeronautical activity; staffing availability; increased costs in PFAS Program requirement; escalating project development/inflation; and fuel uplift, price, transportation, and market volatility. Continued items of interest: stressors on Airport financial performance; pilot shortage; airline up gauging – going to larger aircraft; and Jet-A market dynamics. Reviewed budget details with actuals; explained the escalation in salary and wages. FY2024 Exceptions and Capital: Environmental Coordinator Position, Nobadeer Farm Housing \$3.885m; paint and beads & rubber/markings removal \$503,500; AIP-Terminal improvements \$9m; AIP-Runway 24 high-speed exit taxiway \$5.04m; AIP-South Apron Expansion \$22.68m; AIP-Perimeter Road and fence relocation \$1m; Jet A tank exterior painting \$96,000; Replace Airport 15 truck, repainting parking lot, and replace luggage carts \$110,000; replace Lektro tug \$384,000; and ARFF tools and equipment and PFAS decontamination \$392,000.

Bloomer – Asked about the passenger facility fees.

Karberg – Our rate is \$4.50 per plane passenger. Of that, the airline keeps 11 cents.

Bloomer – Asked if they have problems with getting air traffic controllers.

Karberg – That position is owned by the FAA; as he understands it, they have the same issues.

Bloomer – Asked why liability insurance went up and health went down.

Karberg – Liability has skyrocketed, and the other is related to congestion at the ramp.

Bloomer – Security and police went up.

Karberg – Police Department had to find a way to utilize the officer devoted to the Airport. They were able to assign it as a detail.

Bloomer – Asked how many open positions they have.

Karberg – We are having difficult filling positions; we have 6 open positions out of a total of 35. The issues are housing and competition for good people; it’s a worker’s market.

Maury – In the Professional Services budget, asked what the miscellaneous purchases are.

Karberg – We’ve assigned work to professional services, one of which is the mechanic position for critical equipment.

Maury – On revenue, it seems the Airport has been successful.

Karberg – There are more opportunities; we are evaluating lots in the buffer area and on Sun Island Road. We have about 16 acres of available land not restricted by the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act.

Maury – Asked how much of the available land is suitable for housing.

Karberg – We’ve identified a 2-acre area for housing on Nobadeer Farm Road.

Maury – Asked if the Airport is exempt from Zoning.

Karberg – He believes the Airport is exempt, but the Airport Commission wants them to go through the permitting process.

Maury – Asked if the lack of pilots will continue its downward trend.

Karberg – It’s not a revenue threat; it’s more a possible threat to customer services and the community. The community wants affordable routes to Hyannis, which aren’t profitable.

Maury – Regarding an increase in revenue from counter space, asked if they are at capacity.

Karberg – Our bag line only runs behind 50% of the counter space. The space available is in air taxi.

Maury – Asked if VTOL is something the Airport needs to be involved in.

Karberg – Yes, we've been involved in accommodating those routes; it represents a return to low-cost runs to Hyannis.

Turbitt – Explained the reduction in health care insurance. In the Airport General Operating Budget, the Airport takes in more than \$2m in fuel revenue; it actually references the overflow in fuel revenue. The Airport current level of spending in the fuel revolver fund is \$9.5m and will be recommended for FY2024. The Airport does a lot of work on the go-forward prediction of fuel prices.

Karberg – Agrees with the \$9.5m

Glowacki – We will be entertaining proposals to change our form of government and doing away with Town Meeting. Asked about how the Airport is constrained by Town Meeting and missed opportunities.

Karberg – We have been constricted in taking advantage of federal funding opportunities. We've worked with the Town, Town Counsel, and our counsel to give the Select Board authority to grant permission for us to respond to funding opportunities.

Grause – Looking at Open Gov, asked if the Airport is a profitable entity or running at a loss and what the Airport owes the Town.

Karberg – The \$400,000 doesn't show the annual transfer from our passenger facility fund to the Town. The Airport has been in the black for several years.

Turbitt – The balance of the Airport's debt to the Town is \$1.9m and the repayment date is 2/30 of 2030.

Bloomer – Asked about anticipated growth and raising the passenger facility fee.

Karberg – Expect about 3% growth. The passenger facility fee is capped at \$4.50 by federal legislation.

5. Sewer Enterprise Fund

Dept. Head Director David Gray

Discussion **Gray** – Goals and Initiatives are much the same. Update on Surfside Road area sewer project; pump station is running and taking 100% of the flow. South shore road gravity sewer is almost complete; the pump station is the last stage. Sea Street is coming online; it's currently undergoing testing. Reviewed Accomplishments: sewer permitting; increase in sanitary sewer installation inspection; and staffing and licensure. Utilities have gone up; most of his operational exceptions have to do with increasing utility lines. Capital items include CMOM \$2m, Surfside WWTF upgrade Phase 2 \$7m, replace F-550 dump truck \$115,000, new F-35 pickup 4X4 with plow \$85,000, and replace F-550 utility truck with crane \$200,000. Looking into changing staff vehicles to electric. We are currently fully staffed; have 3 new hires out of high school who are now fully certified.

Bloomer – The debt service number went up; asked why.

Turbitt – Explained the increased debt service relative to sewer.

Bloomer – So we were funding short and now funding long. When we pay our water company bill, it includes Sewer; asked how that works.

Gray – They do our billing because they have the total flow going into the home. They've been doing our billing for about 15 years.

Bloomer – The projects near the waterfront, asked if they will survive sea-level rise.

Gray – All those projects must have Coastal Resiliency built into them. We look at that very closely.

Bloomer – With all the underway projects and expected Island growth, are there any expected capital projects.

Gray – For our 2021 Storm Master Plan, we went lot by lot to predict the build out and when and where we would need to expand. Madaket is potentially Nr. 1 on our list of needs areas. All those projects are progressing in the design phase.

Vieth – Asked if they are still doing PFAS testing and results; the other questions, on the Shimmo extension, asked if its' finished.

Gray – Shimmo is completed; 90% of the lots are connected and we gave everyone a 2-year period to connect. The PFAS and PFOS, we're working with the Town taskforce and are on our 3rd round of testing. We test anything that comes into the plant and try to pinpoint where it is coming from. We test every individual stream. Most test results are posted on the Town website. Carpet cleaners and Landfill leachate are high. We are now testing our sludge; we're finding that PFAS is captured in the foam. Treatment will cost a lot. He's working with the Landfill. We aren't required to report but continue PFAS and COVID testing.

Bloomer – Asked if they test beyond COVID.

Gray – No, but it's been discussed; there is some testing for a contagious disease that would be tested by the Federal government only.

Break 10:43-10:59

6. General Fund

a. Town Administration

Dept. Head Ms. Gibson

Discussion **Gibson** – Town Administration exceptions: Facilities maintenance study \$75,000; professional services increase \$50,000; Baxter Road relocation \$150,000; Select Boards Strategic Planning \$300,000; NCTV support \$30,000; Communications Office professional services \$235,000; DEI professional services \$13,000; capital Town-wide document management system \$500,000; Coastal Resiliency Planning (CRP) \$1m; and EV charging stations \$100,000. The Select Board Strategic Plan is mostly addressing employee retention planning. We are in the 3rd year of the document management system; this year we're targeting PLUS. CRP has been put into our budget for \$1m annually.

Roche – About CRP, the bit in the budget is earmarked for Millie's Bridge; she doesn't think the \$1m is sufficient.

Gibson – We are looking at other coastal resilience measures to build up the beach area for more protection.

Sears – This \$1m is separate from Millie's Bridge, which has a separate \$1m request under Natural Resources.

Grause – Asked if EV charging stations are a profitable investment.

Gibson – Hopefully some of the installation will be offset by grants; the fees are intended to offset the electricity.

Bloomer – Asked why the Town is subsidizing that fuel.

Gibson – Having EV charging stations is a requirement as a Green Community, and we want to encourage people to use electric vehicles for pollution and environmental reasons.

Tivnan – The first 6 stations we put in paid for by a State grant, which required the electricity be free and be reimbursed by the State for 3 years; Now we're at the end of the 3 years. Explained the Energy Coordinator is looking at plans to recommend something to Town Administration and the Board about how we can charge. Hopefully, the new charging stations will be covered by the \$4m State grant. Our program will change to a pay-as-you go program.

Kronau – Asked if the Town has enough to make it economically interesting; asked if they looked into creating more available work by joining with larger businesses so we can have it managed by an off-Island company.

Gibson – We can have our consultant look at that. We have tried that with landscaping; we found we had to break up the properties since no landscaper could take on all of them.

b. Housing

Dept. Head Tucker Holland, Housing Specialist.

Discussion **Holland** – We are slated to add a rental property manager to the department. For the Rental Subsidy Program, a workgroup is assessing how the program can be implemented.
Glowacki – Asked if FinCom will get an update on the program in February.
Holland – Yes, right now we’re trying to get the Union to buy into it.

c. Finance

Dept. Head Mr. Turbitt

Discussion **Turbitt** – Exceptions: new Accounting Clerk \$69,742; Professional Service \$65,000; and no capital projects. Debt service has gone up; explained why. General insurance will increase 8.5% because we’re lumped in with other areas that have suffered catastrophic locations. Group insurance is increasing slightly but the number will be lower based upon the actual census. Currently the town has \$360m on the books with \$7m in bonds; we have an exceptionally low debt service.
Bloomer – Regarding insurance, it seems we are spending \$16m but the brokerage is skewed to the experience in the Southeast. Asked why not go to Lloyds.
Turbitt – The \$16m is health insurance. Property is part of the largest municipal program in the country. We insure about \$365m in property value. None of Lloyd’s carriers were interested when we last put it out to bid.

d. Human Resources

Dept. Head Director Amanda Perry

Discussion **Perry** – Three exception Items are Professional Services \$30,000; employee recognition \$36,500; and other recruiting expenses \$30,000.
Grause – Asked how many employees live off Island and the number of jobs that can be done remotely.
Perry – Only a handful commute from off island; there are several levels of off-Island commute. We have additional requests for remote work.
Bloomer – Asked if there’s merit in coordinating with other departments for professional services.
Perry – The position requirements are different.

e. IT & GIS

Dept. Head Chief Technology Officer Karen McGonigle

Discussion **McGonigle** – Exceptions: Professional Services \$132,395; maintain network infrastructure \$50,000; and replace Town computers \$69,000. Replacing Town computers is an annual request.

f. Natural Resources

Dept. Head Director Jeff Carlson

Discussion **Carlson** – Exceptions Repair & maintenance equipment at Brant Point Shellfish Facility \$25,000; Millie’s bridge structural, sustainability, and access \$1m; Miacomet Pond dredging Phase 2 \$4m; harbors plan implementation year 3 \$100,000; baseline environmental data program \$500,000; and Polpis & Madaket Harbors permitting, planning and dredging \$555,000.

f. PLUS

Dept. Head Assistant Director Leslie Snell

Discussion **Snell** – Exceptions: overtime increase \$15,000 and senior planner \$95,671. The senior planner has been vacant for some time and is important for long-term planning.

g. Town Clerk

Dept. Head Town Clerk Nancy Holmes

Discussion **Nancy** – Exceptions: High-speed tabulator and pool pad \$9,500 and Kofile Vital Records \$10,000.

Grause – Asked if anyone in the Clerk’s office has had to deal with threats regarding elections.

Holmes – During election time we get angry phone calls about process, nothing on the level of a threat. It has happened to other Town Clerks in Massachusetts. Our processes are legislated by the State.

h. Culture and Tourism

Dept. Head None

Discussion **Kronau** – Shantaw Bloise-Murphy has had to deal with Influencers and **members of the public criticizing Influencers**; she’s handled those very well

i. Health & Human Services

Dept. Head Health Director Roberto Santamaria

Discussion **Santamaria** – Exception is adding a Volunteer Coordinator part time \$34,871; the position will help with the Passport Program and Senior Center.

Kronau – Asked Mr. Santamaria to give a quick over of department responsibilities.

Santamaria – Listed all the responsibilities covering Environmental Health, Community Health, Saltmarsh Center, Cannabis control, short-term rentals, and others.

7. Department of Public Works (DPW)

Dept. Head Director Facilities Maintenance Paul Berard

Discussion **Berard** – Reviewed current year accomplishments. Exceptions: add 2 facility technician \$122,885; add 1 central fleet clerk \$69,742; central fleet repair & maintenance vehicle \$100,000; central fleet repair & maintenance equipment \$100,000; central fleet professional services \$27,000; central fleet supplies \$30,000, central fleet in-state travel \$20,000; security cameras and lighting \$70,000; replace DPW fuel tank \$375,000; sidewalk improvement plan \$1.125m; Island wide road improvement \$2m; multi-use path maintenance \$1m; cobblestone improvements \$550,000; Wauwinet Road multi-use path \$4.61m; Surfside area road reconstruction \$13m; and Nobadeer playing field additions and expansion \$3m.

Glowacki – Asked if the DPW is keeping up with staffing and the status of building maintenance.

Berard – Most of our buildings are old and at the age where improvements need to be made. Everything we do we haven’t had to contract out, but it is expensive. Growing the Facilities Maintenance Department is important.

Glowacki – There was an ask for \$3m in road improvements and the Capital Program Committee recommended \$2m; asked what we would give up.

Turbitt – Town Administration recommended \$2m because we have funds to offset it.

Glowacki – Multi-use path, asked if the \$1m will be sufficient to keep those clear.

Berard – The multi-use path project is on-going annual maintenance; broke down the work to be done and costs.

Gibson – The DPW does do brush cutting; that’s a major complaint. It will take more people.

Glowacki – The \$10,000 for the ‘Sconset foot bridge, asked if that’s for the structure.

Gibson – Hoping to get that structure repaired in the current fiscal year.

Turbitt – The \$1m for multi-use paths is \$750,000 more than last year.

Glowacki – If we don’t spend the \$80,000 for plowing, asked what happens to it.

Turbitt – The difference would fall to free cash.

8. Solid Waste Enterprise Fund

Dept. Head Mr. Turbitt

Discussion **Turbitt** – Exceptions: Collection & Disposal professional services \$958,226; Collection & Disposal freight increase \$392,871; recycle/MRF professional services \$66, 863; Landfill closure Phase 1 \$5m; Purchase 3rd baler at the materials recovery facility \$380,000; purchase 2nd scale for transfer station \$210,000; and paving and storm water improvements Phase 2 \$500,000.

Grause – In the Open Gov budget, asked what the \$9.725m is for and confirmed current trends. The overall budget is \$14.15m, the revenue is only \$11m and is down 11%; asked how that difference will be funded.

Turbitt – The gap should be \$3.75m; it will be in the warrant as an override and requires a ballot vote.

Grause – The 2 open positions, with the contract ended, asked where the hiring is.

Turbitt – The manager’s position has been advertised and we’re working through the candidate pool. Once the manager is on board, we go for the next position.

Roche – In terms of planning for the future, asked if outside consultants are being hired.

Turbitt – Yes, Town Administration has created a long-term planning group for solid waste.

Roche – Asked if we’ll have a plan by this time next year.

Turbitt – Yes.

9. Our Island Home (OIH) Enterprise Fund

Dept. Head Bob Eisenstein

Discussion **Eisenstein** – Reviewed the goals; we’re gearing up for a new building. Working with the hospital to ensure patients are stable enough for us to take care of them. Compared the FY2023 versus proposed FY2024 budget. Staffing is a problem; we’ve had to contract for travel-agency nurses who are more costly than permanent staff. Reviewed budget detail with actuals. Exceptions: administrative assist \$63,398.40; social worker part-time to full-time increase by \$18,383.04; Food general increase \$15,000; and replacement van \$197,000.

Grause – Asked if new admissions is demanding skilled nurses or are we looking for more patients.

Eisenstein – There are 2 types: chronic long-term and critical short-term (32 days). There’s an opportunity to market and recruit patients to come back before they require chronic care. Chronic care is more expensive.

Grause – Asked the status of the new building.

Gibson – It went out to bid for an owner’s project manager (OPM); hope to make an officer soon. We have a workgroup that’s a combination of the OIH and Senior Center; once we have the OPM, the pace will pick up.

Bloomer – As he sees it, the town is spending \$10m for 42 beds; it seems less than half of that is being reimbursed. Asked if there’s a way to mix services so we can do to get closer.

Kronau – The Town has voted consistently to retain and subsidize OIH; we are the only community that runs a nursing home.

Gibson – These are at the forefront of discussion; it will entail additional services and a new facility.

Eisenstein – Our goal is to close the gap in anticipation of the new building. A way to do that is create new programs such as 5-day physical therapy and orthopedic recovery; those will bring in larger Medicare revenue. Also, Medicaid is expanding.

Schaeffer – The \$68,000 in other charges, asked what that is. You’re missing 3 out 3 kitchen staff, 2 out 3 housekeeping, and an activities director; asked how they find those.

Eisenstein – We just found a dietary aid. We’re looking at an activity’s director. We’re also looking at a program with the High School for certified nursing care. There are opportunities for training volunteers now that the pandemic is over. The pet program has restarted.

Turbitt – Miscellaneous expenses, we added lines for settlements and other expenses. We will update the committee as necessary.

IV. REVIEW AND DISCUSS ATM APPROPRIATIONS ARTICLES

Discussion **Turbitt** – Reviewed articles requiring appropriations - purposes and funding sources. Article 28 will eventually be passed over and not needed. There will be no appropriation for Article 32.

Gibson – We only need to review the Town articles, not the citizen articles.

Grause – Regarding the \$6.5m for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, asked if there's been a conversation with Mr. Reade about dropping his article.

Turbitt – The Affordable Housing Trust Fund might want to reach out to Mr. Reade but he hasn't.

Roche – She wonders about that as well; wants to discuss it further at another meeting.

V. OTHER FINCOM BUSINESS

1. Next meeting: Tuesday, January 31, 2023; 4:00 pm.

2. Adjournment

Motion **Motion to Adjourn at 12:50 pm.** (made by: Schaeffer) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried 7-0//Schaeffer, Maury, Bloomer, Glowacki, Grause, Roche, and Kronau-aye

Submitted by:

Terry L. Norton