



Town of Nantucket Finance Committee

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

MINUTES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Called to order at 4:00 pm by Ms. Kronau

Staff in attendance: Libby Gibson, Town Manager; Brian Turbitt, Director of Finance; Rick Sears, Dep. Viethuty Director Finance; Mariya Basheva, Financial Analyst; Terry Norton, Town Minutes Taker

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

Absent Members: McEachern,

Late Arrivals: Schaeffer & Roche

Documents used: January 27, 2022 minutes; Warrant Articles for 2022 Annual Town Meeting; Nantucket Public Schools (NPS) Budget Development FY 2023.

Adoption of agenda.

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

Roll-call Vote Carried 6-0//Vieth, Glowacki, Grause, Harrington, Maury, and Kronau-aye

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

III. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

1. January 27, 2022

Motion **Motion to Approve as drafted.** (made by: Schaeffer) (seconded)

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

IV. DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF FY2023 SCHOOL BUDGET

Speakers Elizabeth Hallett, EdD, Superintendent of Schools
Martin Anguelov, Chief Financial Officer

Discussion **Hallett** – Presented the NPS Budget Development FY2023 and background data: enrollment, English Language Learner population, and Special Education population.

Anguelov – The budget in Article 8 is \$32.7m, but there’s a new figure of \$34.4m; explained why the change. The budget has increased over \$10m over 10 years. Per-pupil expenditure is a comparison of Nantucket against other districts in the State - Nantucket \$23,863 and State \$17,511 per pupil. Explained the Chapter 7 historical comparison – from \$1.4m to \$3.96m. Explained 2021-2022 Federal grants, which have increased considerably; explained why. Broke down the NPS FY2023 budget by schools/departments and expense to payroll. Explained the Community School Revenue breakdown from 2002 to 2023.

Hallett – The District Leadership Team laid out parameters tied to school goals: building budget, essential services for students, physical and social and emotional development, actual expenditures, revenue streams, and utility. Overview: Nantucket Elementary School (NES) is asking \$105,488; Nantucket Intermediate School (NIS) is asking \$80,588; Cyrus Pearce Middle School (CPS) is asking \$89,244; Nantucket High School (NHS) is asking \$130,722 Reviewed the budget increases from the English Learner Department, Technology Department, and Special Services.

Reviewed the FY2023 Capital Projects requests: \$250,000 for roof replacement; \$300,000 for building improvements; and \$16.4m for the Campus-wide Master Plan – Phase 9.

Vieth – Asked if there is anything planned to be put in place for the gifted-and-talented students.

Hallett – We are looking at our instructional packet and following Universal Design for Learning, which allows us to create the learning around the individual student.

Grause – The \$16m Phase 9, asked if that money is included in the Capital Program Committee (CapCom) plans for next year and how it will be funded.

Hallett – It was included in the CapCom plans, it will go to ATM for a vote then the ballot; it will be debt financed.

Grause – Asked about the controversy over PFAS in artificial turf for fields.

Hallett – The plan is to follow current recommendations for artificial turf fields. We don't have the ability to maintain grass fields to set standards with our amount of play.

Maury – He always asks if the schools are getting enough money and is always told, "We get what we need." Looking at the expense per pupil and over the last 10 years, we're not keeping up with inflation. We spend more per pupil than the State but NPS isn't keeping up with the consumer pricing index.

Hallett – We always look at how we can save and our expectations. We've been fortunate with extra funding available, which has provided additional boosts. In building the budget, she feels what we have will work for our needs.

Anguelov – Chapter 70 preliminary number usually changes so it could be a positive or negative change. To Mr. Maury's question, our total expense for the schools is upwards of \$14m per year for health and retirement.

Schaeffer – Asked if there is coordination for use of fields between the Boys & Girls Club and the Schools.

Hallett – We have not brought that into play. We need standard playing fields for NHS sports.

Glowacki – Asked if they had additional resource, where would they use it. Asked if they are constrained by the physical plant regarding extra heads.

Hallett – Our English Learner teachers need increased support; we'd hire an instructional coach to work with students. Space is very tight in the NHS and CPS.

Turbitt – Regarding Health and Retirement Insurance, those are not part of the school budget and are under a separate line item in the Town budget.

Grause – Asked for a sense of staff retirements, recruiting, and how housing affects recruiting.

Hallett – Retirement is pretty average at about 10 per year. Regarding hiring, there are 13 positions that we haven't been able to fill and that's a challenge. Housing is a component to that; we've been able to assist our teachers in finding housing.

Kronau – She's thinking that hiring a school psychologist will be difficult; they are in high demand on the Island. Asked the implications of not being able to fill teacher positions.

Hallett – School Psychologists are involved in evaluation for Individual Education Plans for Special Education. With the number of requests from parents and staff and outside evaluators, there's been an overwhelming number of requests. We exceed the State recommendations regarding the case load per psychologist. We are working on hiring Social Workers, who can help fill the need.

Andy Buccino – Regarding the \$250,000 for the new roofs, at market rate that would equal the area needed to supply electricity to 25 houses. Asked if there is consideration to install solar on the schools and why or why not.

Hallett – There have been requests in the past, but specifications have not allowed for solar to be installed.

O'Neil – We went to the Historic District Commission (HDC) in 2015 but all we could use was solar shingle; the payback to recuperate the money was 23 plus years with a life expectancy

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of 20 years for the shingles; it didn't make sense to do that. Now there are different products, and the Town put out a request for proposal (RFP) and chose a vendor to do the solar farm at the water company. First step is to replace the roofs, which are at the end of their useful life, then look at energy conservation.

Turbitt – Sun Power was hired to do the water company solar and one at the sewer plant.

V. DISCUSSION OF WARRANT ARTICLES FOR 2020 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING (ATM)

1. Article 38 (Appropriation: Shredder Solid Waste) \$300,000 Waste Recycle & MRF

Speakers Clifford J. Williams, sponsor
Graeme Durovich, Solid Waste
George Aronson, CRMC consultant

Discussion **Williams** – This is to add to last year's gasification incinerator article. If you're going burn trash, it needs to be shredded first. It also shreds Construction and Demolition debris (C&D) before it goes off Island.

Schaeffer – Asked if the incinerator can work without the shredder.

Williams – It also has to do with the moisture content. He doesn't know why the shredder was considered along with the incinerator. He thinks composting is a waste of resources and creates more methane gas.

Vieth – Asked how much waste gets sent off versus what stays on.

Williams – All C&D goes off Island. We bury some of the byproduct from compost.

Grause – Appreciates this effort but Mr. Williams isn't a civil or waste engineer; this article is suggested out of personal interest. It's a big risk to make this kind of investment based upon the interest of a non-expert.

Williams – He's talked with experts. We need to do something and get the appropriation in line. The Waste Options contract is running out and if we don't start planning, we'll be in trouble.

Roche – Asked how the gasifier fits into the Town plan and how it would be integrated in the process of appropriating this.

Williams – He doesn't know of any plan; the Department of Public Works (DPW) director was going to wait for the contract to run out then decide. He hopes to get a team together that can provide the Town with a good direction.

Gibson – At 2021 ATM, the FinCom motion was not to adopt with comments. The motion was amended to recommend pursuing incineration; that passed. We've been working on dealing with Solid Waste with a workshop schedule. Our solid waste consultant, George Aronson, is present.

Aronson – Incineration is subject to a permitting moratorium. There is interest in other technologies including gasification. Reviewed the steps the Town has been going through to deal with solid waste. There are decisions to be made in the direction of where all this will go. A shredder needs to be considered as part of a system; we need to know what that system will be.

Durovich – Mr. Aronson pretty much covered it. Invited anyone to reach out to her regarding the workshop.

Kronau – Closed the public comment portion. Asked if members are ready to vote or need more information.

Discussion on motion not to adopt.

Grause – He appreciates Mr. Williams civic interest, but the Town has people who are experts in this field and feels this article is extraneous.

Motion **Motion Not to Adopt.** (made by: Grause) (seconded)

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

2. Article 80 (Home Rule Petition: Historic District Commission - Solar)

Speakers Jeffrey Booms, sponsor
Holly Backus, Preservation Planner
Linda Williams

Discussion **Booms** – We know going forward our electricity usage is increasing. If a house’s potential solar roof faces the street, Historic District Commission (HDC) will not allow the solar; that eliminates 50% of Island houses. This rule even stands outside the old historic district (OHD); the HDC requires that south-facing roof must be away from the street.

Grause – Asked if the HDC charter discourages the use of solar or is he trying to expand the number of eligible roofs.

Backus – At today’s HDC meeting, she gathered comments, which were passed along to FinCom members. Read into the record a memo from HDC regarding this article as it relates to the HDC Special Act. HDC approved a design guideline regarding integration of energy conservancy; these guidelines do work. The HDC agreed that no changes to the Special Act should be made, especially to benefit a special interest group.

Williams – She seconds what Ms. Backus said. Technology has changed since 2009 when the guidelines were created. There was a move in place to do that. “Shall” should not be used as there is no “shall” in the HDC guidebook. There is troubling language in the article. She has worked on language from Chapter 40C to be subsumed into the HDC’s Special Act. She does not support this article.

Vieth – Asked how many solar applications HDC has had and how many were denied.

Backus – The commission works with people and invites people to listen to the meeting; they’d rather not deny a project. In the last 2 fiscal years there have 136 solar applications. There are more approvals than denials.

Maury – He hasn’t seen the text of the HDC’s letter. Asked if the text Mr. Booms wants to insert is for areas outside the OHD.

Backus – All of Nantucket is a National Historic Landmark and a local historic district. The design guidelines are for the entire Island. The local 1955 OHDs have higher scrutiny; noted that HDC approved an array on a 1920 bungalow on Main Street.

Maury – He thinks Mr. Booms is looking for less scrutiny outside the OHD to allow visible arrays.

Williams – They do give a lot of latitude outside the OHD. She’s very concerns about going up to State with a single home rule petition. Also, the language isn’t correct; she’s wants to rewrite the article to include Chapter 40C language. She believes the Act shouldn’t be tinkered with one sentence at a time.

Booms – Appreciates all the feedback. The bungalow on Main Street is his client and the panels aren’t visible. He’s given up asking for solar; he has two clients at the end of Madaket Road whose panels would face the road. He’d love to talk to people about how to correct the wording. We aren’t installing enough solar to take care of the energy we need.

Kronau – If we want to amend the wording as part of our motion, we have legal counsel attending February 8th; we can discuss this as part of that public hearing.

Motion No action at this time.

Roll-call Vote N/A

3. Article 81 (Home Rule Petition: Amend the Nantucket Planning and Economic Development Commission Special Act)
- Speakers Hillary Hedges Rayport, sponsor
Linda Williams, Housing Authority and AHTF
Maureen Phillips
Fritz McLure
Emily Molden, Executive Director Nantucket Land Council
Matt Fee, Select Board
Rick Atherton
- Discussion (5:34) **Kronau** – We discussed this article at length at another meeting. Asked if the FinCom members have any questions.
Schaeffer – Asked who Ms. Rayport spoke to in State government.
Rayport – Show spoke with Dillan Fernandez via ZOOM in October. He said he would be happy to support the article if it passed. She made efforts to speak with the Planning Commission for feedback before she submitted the article.
Vieth – Asked for elaboration on how she came to the conclusions about the 3 at-large members being elected and bringing on someone from the DPW as well as removing the Housing Authority in lieu of appointing someone from Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF).
Rayport – This would return the DPW as an ex-officio member of the Planning Commission as designated by the Town Manager. The Director served on the commission for 47 years; in 2019, it was enacted to remove the DPW. Also, she looked at attendance records and found that in the 3 years prior to the DPW director’s removal, they attended 71% of the meetings. Regarding the 3 at-large members, it seems 11 members is a good number and it seemed important to have Preservation Planning and Cultural Resources on the Planning Commission. She doesn’t think all 5 members of the Planning Board need to be on this commission. The role of the Planning Board and NP&EDC are different. This commission was developed 50 years ago, and Nantucket is very different now. Reducing the Planning Board members to 3 maintains their quorum but also allows space for other views.
Schaeffer – Asked Ms. Rayport what her position would be and other commissions she’s applied or ran for.
Rayport – She has a strong interest in long-range planning and spent time getting familiar with it. If this passes she’d be proud that any individual could run, and people could vote to put someone on this commission.
Glowacki – He was surprised by the tone of the letters; they were short and to the point in supporting this article and slowing growth. Asked if slowing growth is the reason for this article.
Rayport – She believe the Town needs to have sustainable growth. We have industries that are slipping away like the scalloping industry.
Roche – Asked how long it might take to enact this.
Rayport – If we vote this at ATM and send it up immediately, it might be 2 years. She doesn’t think there will be lobbyists lined up against it. She didn’t get the sense the Legislature hates home rule petitions; we are a home rule State.
Grause – Asked what it is about the current commission that Ms. Rayport thinks it requires this dramatic change.
Rayport – She got started with political activity because of threat of demolition of our antique streets. She went to some meetings and ended up wondering where the architectural historians and preservation engineers are. She decided she had to chase down the answers to her questions to long-term planning, which doesn’t seem to be happening. This will make the Planning Commission more inclusive and is a vote for democracy by increasing the number of

elected members. She's talked to the Rotary, Civic Association and lots of others; only a couple of people she talked to don't support this.

Williams – Said she spoke to Mr. Fernandez, and he does not support this. The boards which appoint members are all elected members. Said Ms. Rayport did not get support from the groups she talked to. The Housing Authority does not support this; we are an elected board and don't answer to the Town but are under State and Federal Law. The AHTF is a political body. She was on the bylaw committee when she was on the Planning Commission and felt 12 members was inappropriate and decided members should not be an employee of the Town.

Phillips – She's the ConCom representative on the NP&EDC. The surprise to her is that they aren't set up to do long-range planning. The points Ms. Rayport brought up about preservation and water quality do need to be talked about. As is, the Planning Commission is a very old structure; she feels a more diverse group would be helpful and adding 3 elected people is a good idea. The Island needs to be open to new ways of doing things because if we don't do long-range planning, the Island will lose what makes it special.

McClure – He supports this article because the Planning Board functions as a zoning board reviewing applications for subdivisions. The NP&EDC is the original planning agency created under State law. He agrees that not all 5 Planning Board members need to sit on the NP&EDC. He believes the article will expand the role of the Planning Commission.

Schaeffer – Asked how long he's been on the Planning Committee. In that time, asked why no one brought up this idea.

McClure – He's been on the Planning Board and Planning Commission for 4 years. A lot of people talked about it. but no one did anything until Ms. Rayport.

Molden – She supports this article; it will build on the existing foundation of the Planning Commission and encourage them to extend their role.

Fee – He supports this article as well. He's been trying to make changes from the inside for a while. Over time, he feels the NP&EDC has morphed into a transportation committee. We identified and worried about some of the things Ms. Rayport mentioned, but those ended up on a to-do list and are not coming to a head. Ms. Rayport has done excellent work in pursuit of bringing this article forward.

Williams – Reviewed all the plans she supported moving forward and that the Planning Commission isn't sitting around doing nothing. The Housing Authority wants to maintain its position on the Planning Commission. Said Ms. Rayport has no right to take it out.

Atherton – He supports this article. He likes the changes in the charter that would help set a tone important to our community. The current charter is too limiting; broadening the membership in our regional planning commission will help the entire Island.

Rayport – In response to Ms. Williams allegations, Mr. Fernandez said he'd support this article if it passes ATM, and she spoke with Renee Feeley of the Housing Authority. Everyone would look to the AHTF regarding planning for housing; the AHTF didn't exist when the Planning Commission was created.

Kronau – Closed public comment. Asked for FinCom deliberation.

Glowacki – Confirmed that the motion comes from FinCom, not the Planning Board. He'd like to see the Planning Board discussion before he votes on this.

Kronau – We've spent nearly 2 hours on this, but she was hoping to draw a line under it at this point and close the discussion.

Maury – He agrees with Mr. Glowacki, he wants to hear from the Planning Board. A lot of good points were made but feels there is still much to be learned. Thinks there is a lot of good laid out in the article whether or not it gets a positive recommendation.

Vieth – The people talking to this are individuals with an agenda; that makes her uncomfortable about the letters being sent. Feels this is the sort of suggestion that should have come out of the Government Study Committee. She's looking for some kind of institutional support.

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Roche – We have 6 home rule petitions on the warrant; that weighs a lot. Wonders if there is some strategy or power grab going on. She wonders if there is a way to get the same impact sooner than it would take to get this through the home rule process.

Grause – He appreciates the discussion and was impressed by Ms. Rayport’s presentation and comments. When you find a smart person with energy, you want to get them involved. This has been a good conversation.

Kronau – The Planning Board recommendations will come to us February 15th. There is no reason the NP&EDC couldn’t be doing all these things that the article encourages. The people in leadership who oversee these committees can encourage moving the good points of the article forward. We will deliberate on this again on February 15th.

Motion No action at this time.
Roll-call Vote N/A

VI. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF FY2023 FINANCE DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET

Speakers None
Discussion **Kronau** – We will hold this for another meeting.
Motion No action at this time.
Roll-call Vote N/A

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. None

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE/ADJOURNMENT

Date: Thursday, February 8, 2022; 4:00 p.m.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

None

Adjournment:

Motion **Motion to adjourn at 6:36 pm.** (made by: Vieth) (seconded)
Roll-call Vote Carried 8-0//Glowacki, Grause, Roche, Schaeffer, Maury, Vieth, Harrington, and Kronau

Submitted by:

Terry L. Norton