



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

Tuesday, March 30, 2021

*This meeting was held via remote participation using ZOOM and YouTube,
Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Regarding Open Meeting Law*

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

Staff in attendance: Libby Gibson, Town Manager; Brian Turbitt, Director of Finance; Rick Sears, Deputy Director of Finance

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

Late Arrivals: Roche

Early Departure: McEachern

Documents used: Draft minutes as listed; Warrant Articles for 2020 Annual Town Meeting.

Adoption of Agenda.

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

Roll-call Vote Carried unanimously//Harrington, McEachern, Schaeffer, Grause, Maury, Vieth, Glowacki, and Kronau-aye

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. **Bruce Mandel** – Regarding the FinCom’s motion on Article 75 and the deletion of two items from the list, asked the committee to reconsider the deletion of Item K, Nip bottles. Suggested a compromise focusing on the size of the container, to 100 ml; these containers are non-recyclable, non-compostable.

Schaeffer – Most nips are 50 ml; he doesn’t see what the 100 ml will eliminate.

Mandel – Could reduce it further to 70 ml. He has picked up some large nips, more than the 50 ml.

Maury – Asked where the line is between bottles and nip bottles; large nip bottles are bottles.

Harrington – We’re talking about a supply problem – getting rid of plastics – on one side; he doesn’t think we’ve looked at the demand side well enough. He thinks we should have more information on how this has been shown to work in other locations. He’s concerned that if nips aren’t available, the consumer will go for the next thing; that’s not healthy and we don’t know if it will be easier on roadside trash.

Mandel – The plastic bylaw isn’t really intended to alter behavior other than to reduce the consumption of single-use plastics. That’s why it’s focused on the vendors to offer less plastic. The intent is to get people to maintain the spirit of cleaning our environment and protecting the aquifer.

Grause – Asked if Mr. Mandel is looking for a modification to the article to ban nip bottle of 70 ml or less or 100 ml or less.

Motion **Motion to reopen discussion on Article 75.** (made by: Grause) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried 6-1//McEachern-recused; Grause, Maury, Schaeffer, Harrington, Vieth, and Glowacki-aye; Kronau-nay

Dave Lower – In regard to the size of the plastic bottles, the 50 ml are almost always plastic; if those are taken from the retailer, the consumer will trade up in size to 100 200 or 375ml. Almost all liquor manufacturers, when the size is above 50 ml, they go to glass; that means there will be more glass around. The litter will now be broken glass. It also promotes irresponsible consumption.

Maury – If people always trade up to the large size, distributors wouldn’t want to sell the smaller bottles.

Kronau – Maybe they make more margin on the smaller bottles.

- Glowacki** – Regarding the cellulos acetate cigarette filters portion of the article, asked if we know what percentage of commercially available filters have cellulos acetate.
- Mandel** – His research is that is over 50%. There are other filters available; the article would ban plastic filters.
- Vieth** – She thought this banned glass as well.
- Mandel** – The language does say plastic and glass; the language could be to ban plastic containers of 70ml or less.
- Vieth** – Asked if there is a biodegradable alternative at that size.
- Glowacki** – He asked that at the last meeting and the answer was there were theoretical concepts not commercially available.
- Vieth** – We’ve gotten hung up on nip bottles; there are other products we haven’t delved into. She doesn’t support a motion to adopt.
- Maury** – The absence of local business owners is notable.
- Glowacki** – Given this is an odd year and the usual pattern is off, people might not be aware. Suggested the article be pushed off to a year when the cycle is more typical.
- Maury** – He thinks we’ve seen more public participation than before.
- Mandel** – We have stakeholder outreach; we’ve met with met with Stop & Shop, Cumbies, Sysco, US Foods, the targets of the bylaw; they have pledged cooperation and want to cooperate.
- Vieth** – Pointed out that Stop & Shop doesn’t sell alcohol.
- Grause** – Mr. Mandel made a compelling argument. You can’t plan for every outcome, but we can work to reduce the litter. He supports the idea of banning nips 70ml or less.
- Orla Murphy-LaScola** – This will affect her business in that all small brewers of crafts beers use the plastic holders on their cans. This has been a really hard year to impose additional restrictions on businesses. Asked that portion of the article have more discussion.
- Gibson** – That’s already in affect; it came into effect last year.
- Vieth** – She thought that is changing from six to four in Article 75.
- Kronau** – Confirmed Ms. Vieth is correct.
- Lower** – The original was the clear 6-pack flexible ones; there was a proposal to amend that to include 4-packs and the rigid hard-plastic snap-on as well.
- Mandel** – Article 75 only deals with 6 items: flushable wipes, plastic ear swabs, cellulos acetate filters, clam-shell containers, and asking to reconsider plastic nip bottle up to 70ml. The other items mentioned are part of the existing bylaw.
- Discussion on motion not to adopt:
- Schaeffer** – There are too many questions which are unanswered, and it could infringe upon retail sales.
- Maury** – If local liquor stores were going to lose 30% of their income, they would be at this and every other meeting.
- Vieth** – To Mr. Maury’s statement, she spoke to a liquor-store owner today; she couldn’t get on because she has to work and has no one to cover for her. That owner said this would devastate her business.
- Mandel** – There are two items on this list which are major issues for our sewer system: flushable wipes and plastic earbuds. This would help them reduce their costs and keep their equipment running.
- Glowacki** – He was on board with a motion to adopt just the flushable wipes; but given the alternative, he would support not to adopt.
- Kronau** – She would be okay with banning the flushable wipes and earbuds, Items G & H.
- Schaeffer** – Asked to change his motion.
- Gibson** – He can withdraw or amend.
- Discussion on the motion to adopt only Items G&H:
- Roche** – Doesn’t like that the FinCom is deciding what is good and what is bad. She was hoping that nip bottles would be included in the article. This is about social change, setting a standard, and enforcement. We have issues with disposal of trash.
- Kronau** – We’re a Finance Committee, we make recommendations. She believes social change is the prevue of the Select Board or voters.

Roche – Asked if she votes against this vote passes.

Kronau – If this vote passes, we're done; if it doesn't pass, we're open for another motion. Reviewed what Article 75 originally banned: flushable wipes, plastic-stick ear swabs, cellulose acetate or any type of plastic-fiber tobacco-produce filters, clam-shell containers or similar types of plastic take-out food containers, plastic and glass nip bottles, and boxed water containers.

Motion Motion to adopt Article 75 Items G&H: flushable wipes and plastic-stick ear swabs. (made by: Schaeffer) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Not carried 4-4//McEachern recused
Harrington, Glowacki, Schaeffer, and Kronau-aye
Roche, Maury, Glowacki, and Vieth -nay

Vieth – Asked if there is a brand of wet wipes that are biodegradable.

Mandel – Huggies makes a biodegradable wet wipe but it's rarely available.

Revote on motion to adopt Article 75 Items G&H

Motion **Motion to adopt Article 75 Items G&H: flushable wipes and plastic-stick ear swabs.**
(made by: Schaeffer) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried 5-3//McEachern recused
Harrington, Glowacki, Schaeffer, Vieth, and Kronau-aye;
Roche, Maury, and Grause-nay

III. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

1. March 18, 2021

Motion No action at this time.

Roll-call Vote N/A

IV. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION WARRANT ARTICLES FOR 2020 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING (ATM)

1. Article 6 (Fiscal Year 2020 General Fund Budget Transfers)

Discussion **Turbitt** – Explained the two 2020 transfers from medical insurance into school salaries and retirement. Asked for a favorable motion.

Motion **Motion to Adopt.** (made by: Schaeffer) (seconded)

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

2. Article 8 (Appropriation: FY2021 General Fund Operating Budget)

Discussion **Turbitt** – During the January budget presentation, we had a different retirement number; that has been changed to \$5.8m. Also, we included \$375,000 for Affordable Housing Trust (AHTF) in Town Administration line. Total is \$97,248,478 funded through raise and appropriate of \$90.53m.

Motion **Motion to Adopt.** (made by: Schaeffer) (seconded)

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

3. Article 10 (Appropriation: General Fund Capital Expenditures)

Discussion **Turbitt** – Under Town Administration, we added \$750,000 for the Town groundwater soil investigation costs for PFAS. Under AFHT, there is no reference to a shared equity program; it was Bond Counsel's opinion, that wouldn't fit with legislative authority and has been removed. We have to find an alternate fund source. The total is \$24,121,150. \$107,136 will be transferred from the 2018 ATM Article 10.

Grause – On the \$6.5m where AHTF language was stricken, confirmed that money would have been used for acquisition of land.

Turbitt – They have potentially identified other sources that could be used for the shared equity.

Vieth – She thought that was to pay developers, so we didn't have to go for the tax credit.

Turbitt – That is part of Article 24, the debt exclusion. The total monies for AHTF this year is \$16m minus \$600,000.

Glowacki – He had asked the sponsors of Article 97 if they would pull their support of that if we approved the \$16m of Article 10.

Turbitt – He hasn't heard anything regarding that.

Kronau – Neither has she. She's more comfortable with the \$600,000 supporting the \$16m with a plan in place.

Motion **Motion to Adopt.** (made by: Grause) (seconded)

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

4. Article 15 (Appropriation: Fiscal Year 2022 Enterprise Funds Operations)

Discussion **Turbitt** – This is consistent with the January budget presentation; the only change is “Nantucket Water Department” since Wannacomet and Sconset Water Companies have merged. The Airport has reduced the payroll by \$2.1m worth of Cares Act money; what's here is what they expect to raise through user charges. The Our Island Home FY22 Tax Levy and Other General Revenues reflects the \$5m contingent on the passage of a Proposition 2½ override.

Motion **Motion to Adopt.** (made by: Schaeffer) (seconded)

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

5. Article 17 (Enterprise Funds: Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Transfers)

Discussion **Turbitt** – This Airport funding strategy was discussed. After retained earnings are certified, we will transfer \$1m to Groundwater Soil Investigation.

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

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

6. Article 3 (Appropriation: Prior Year Articles)

Discussion **Turbitt** – Asked this be reopened to clarify transfers into the IT budget from prior-year articles.

Motion Motion to Reopen. (made by: Glowacki) (seconded)

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

Discussion **Turbitt** – The only changes are related to IT. Closing out Comprehensive Permitting and Digital Imaging by transferring those into Professional Services to fund additional licenses. Asked for favorable motion including those changes.

Motion **Motion to Adopt.** (made by: Grause) (seconded)

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

7. Article 68 (Real Estate Transfer: Land from Roadway/Roundabout Purposes to School Committee Control)
John McGrady, sponsor

Discussion **Kronau** – This is for a parcel of 10 Surfside Road to be returned to the School Committee for their use. NP&EDC discussed this and recommended a negative motion; read those comments.

Gibson – This hasn't come up in Select Board discussions. She doubts the Select Board would be in favor of this.

Glowacki – He thought Town Counsel placed this within Select Board purview.

Turbitt – Town Counsel wrote this requires a 2/3rd vote of ATM; Select Board must vote that it no longer requires the parcel for presently held purposes.

Kronau – She doesn't understand what the FinCom vote would be.

Motion **Motion to Take No Action.** (made by: Grause) (seconded)

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

V. REVIEW & DISCUSSION OF OTHER ARTICLES IN 2021 ATM WARRANT

1. Request to increase the Revolving Fund Limit for the Airport Fuel Revolver

Discussion **Turbitt** – Originally raised it to \$3.5m. Fuel prices are rising, and the Airport is concerned they will hit the \$3.5m fuel cap by June 30th. Asked to raise the cap to \$4m. That is allowed under the statute with FinCom and Select Board approval.

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

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

2. Request to increase the Revolving Fund limit for the Municipal Aggregation Operational Adder

Discussion **Turbitt** – This is to raise the fund limit to \$50,000 to meet increased solar rebate requests.

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

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

VI. NEXT MEETING DATE/ADJOURNMENT

Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2021: cancelled

Monday, April 5, 2021; 4:00 p.m.: Joint meeting Select Board and Planning Board.

Adjournment:

Motion **Motion to Adjourn at 5:22 p.m.** (made by: Roche) (seconded)

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

Submitted by:

Terry L. Norton