



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

Monday, January 11, 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 4:01 p.m. by Ms. Kronau.

Staff in attendance: Brian Turbitt, Director of Finance; Alexandria Penta, Financial Analyst; Terry Norton, Town Minutes Taker

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

Department Head: Mark Willett, Water Company Manager

Documents used: December 10, 2020 draft minutes; Citizen Warrant Articles for 2021 Annual Town Meeting.

Adoption of Agenda

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

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

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

III. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

1. December 10, 2020

Motion No action at this time.

Roll-call Vote N/A

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Contract Review Committee: Vieth
2. Senior Center Committee: Schaeffer
3. Capital Program Committee: McEachern
4. Neighborhood First: Grause

V. REVIEW/DISCUSSION CITIZEN WARRANT ARTICLES FOR 2021 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING (ATM)

1. Article (New General Bylaw: Safety of Drinking Water) Meghan Glowacki

Discussion **Kronau** – This regards the safety of drinking water. Asked mr. Willet to present his thoughts.

Willet – Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) set a standard of 20 parts per trillion (PPT) for PFAS. This Citizen Warrant Article asks to lower that to 15 PPT. He has asked Ms. Glowacki several questions: still using 6 units and what compounds are covered. We started sampling on our own to be pro-active; mandated sampling starts next year, but we don't know how many times a year – possibly quarterly – it will be required. Ms. Glowacki talks about sampling the school, which is on public water; the State considers it okay if you do sampling and provide that public building with water, you don't need to test the building additionally. Each sample costs about \$700 and we have 5 wells. We've increased our testing budget to include quarterly testing for the 5 wells. It seems this Article is repetitive. If I'm

sampling water that feeds these properties, I shouldn't have to sample the properties as well. Our test results are posted on our website when we get them back; it takes about 30 days to get the results back. Noted he doesn't know who owns the ground water regarding changing testing on something we don't own.

Kronau – Town Counsel stated that though the bylaw has a lower PPT than the State, that wouldn't necessarily lead to its defeat as the bylaw.

Roche – Asked if there is a benefit to lowing the number to 15 PPT.

Willet – It's such a small number in parts per trillion and there are rules in place by DEP. If we were to get above 10 PPT, we would have to start testing monthly and treat the water. That incremental amount of 5 PPT isn't worth the increased expense. Barnstable had water in the area of the airport that tested in the 100s PPT. Until they got their treatment up and running, Barnstable had to purchase their water.

Vieth – She doesn't want everyone to leave Town Meeting thinking the Town isn't doing its best. She's concerned this Article could turn into a greater discussion. We can't separate this Article from what's happening at the Airport; the public needs assurance they have safe water and that we're doing the best we can. This is an opportunity to show the public that the Town is being pro-active.

Kronau – We need the sponsor to answer some of the questions posed today.

Grause – Asked what the PFAS concentration is in the private wells around the Airport and in the Town wells.

Willet – The Airport posts that information on their website; it ranges from below 10 PPT to a few above 100 PPT. We had detection in one Town well at 2 PPT and another at 7 PPT. The confining layer at the top slows the infiltration of PFAS down; most private wells are in that upper layer. Town wells go into the second layer.

Schaeffer – Asked where \$10m would that come from.

Kronau – She will reach out to Ms. Glowacki to arrange for her to attend a meeting to answer questions.

Motion No action at this time.

Roll-call Vote N/A

VI. CONFIRM ASSIGNMENT OF MEMBER FOR BUDGET REVIEW

1. Police, Harbormaster, and Emergency Preparedness – McEachern and Roche
2. Fire – Schaeffer and Maury
3. Wannacomet Water – Vieth and Roche
4. Sewer – Grause and Vieth
5. General Fund – Kronau and Glowacki
6. Department of Public Works – McEachern and Harrington
7. Solid Waste – Grause and Harrington
8. Our Island Home – Kronau and Glowacki

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE/ADJOURNMENT

Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021; 4:00 p.m.: Bylaw amendment for short term rental registration.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

1. None

Adjournment

Motion **Motion to Adjourn at 4:31 p.m.** (made by: McEachern) (seconded)

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

Submitted by:

Terry L. Norton