



Town of Wayland Massachusetts

Finance Committee

Carol Martin (Chair)
Steven Correia (Vice Chair)
Adam Gutbezahl
Kelly Lappin
Pamela Roman
Dave Watkins

FINANCE COMMITTEE

August 6, 2020

Remote

6:10 P.M. Minutes

Attendance: C. Martin, S. Correia, K. Lappin, P. Roman, D. Watkins (6:45pm), and A. Gutbezahl (6:45pm)

Absent: None

Also in Attendance: L. Miller, Town Administrator

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair C. Martin at 6:10pm when a quorum was present. C. Martin stated all members were participating remotely, and opened the meeting with the following:

In compliance with the revised Open Meeting Law requirements, we will live stream the meeting on WayCAM. Public Comment will be received by Phone at 508-358-6812 for this meeting. The phone number will be active during the public comment portion of the meeting. Thank you in advance for your patience; we intend to address all calls that come in during the Public Comment period.

C. Martin reviewed the agenda and stated that, as the meeting is being held remotely, all votes will be by roll call. She stated that the meeting is being videoed for live and future broadcast.

Special Town Meeting Article Workshop: The Committee heard presentations of three articles scheduled to be heard at a Special Town Meeting.

• River's Edge Easement

Cherry Karlson, Chair of the Board of Selectmen ("BoS"), presented this article on behalf of the BoS. The article would allow access off of Rt. 20 to the River's Edge parcel, crossing Town land, for a main access in the front of the development. It would allow for more parking access in the back, as well as increased public safety, in regards to fire trucks having access to the building. It also would allow for a drainage easement to handle storm water for the property. The BoS are asking that Town Meeting authorize the BoS to grant the easement and execute the documents, so that the project can begin. C. Karlson reviewed a map of the property, pointing out where the easement is requested. The Committee then asked questions regarding details of the article, and why the easement is urgent at this time.

Michael Lowery, Chair of the Board of Public Works (“BoPW”), addressed a question regarding expected traffic increases that may come about due to the easement and requested the BoS organize a supplementary traffic study to estimate the anticipated volume. M. Lowery stated that the BoPW has requested a motion that would allow the BoPW to take the action requested by the BoS. In addition, the BoPW has an ancillary concern regarding finding a lay down area, as River’s Edge has previously been used for this purpose. M. Lowery stated the original RFP made no determination that a drainage easement would be required. He also stated that earlier plans only provided for one entrance to River’s Edge, and the current plans include two entrances, and requests that that change be noted.

Clifford Lewis, Vice Chair of the BoPW, stated that the current easement area is vastly more overreaching than what was originally anticipated. He stated that it appears they are planning to construct things in an area owned by conservation, which is not allowed. He requested a more detailed plot plan with surveyed marks to clarifying who owns what. C. Lewis stated further that there is no plan for snowplowing, as the easement takes a large amount of space away that was previously used to clear snow, and that there is no place to turn a plow truck around. He also stated that there are insufficient traffic and drainage studies. He requested greater weight be added to the arguments opposed within the article.

D. Watkins and A. Gutbezahl joined the meeting at 6:45pm.

C. Karlson addressed each of the questions and concerns posed. She then explained that there is no expense associated with the article, but there is potential revenue via various permit fees and long term tax revenue and relief. Gretchen Schuler, Old Connecticut Path, stated that another traffic study would be fruitless right now, since, due to COVID, the transfer station is not being used the way it normally is.

Annette Lewis, Claypit Hill Road, suggested a magnification of the plan showing exactly where the easement runs would be useful for Town Meeting, as it would be easier to understand. She stated concern that the use of conservation land in the way proposed is not allowed. She questioned who would be responsible for the plowing of the area. She also asked why the Town is not just doing a license or making the road a public way, which she believes would be a simpler solution. C. Karlson responded to the questions and concerns raised by A. Lewis.

C. Lewis again joined the conversation to state that he believes previous traffic data can be taken into account on an informal basis, eliminating the need for a further traffic study. Rebecca Stanizzi, Chair of the Economic Development Committee and Member of the River’s Edge Advisory Committee, stated that there is a need for more than just a license as this is not a public road. By keeping it a non-public road, the developer pays for the improvements. She also addressed the question of traffic.

- **Return Unused Funds**

Lead petitioner, Nancy Funkhouser, Rice Spring Lane, presented the article to the Committee. N. Funkhouser stated \$545,583 was originally appropriated at an earlier Annual Town Meeting (“ATM”) for the design of a multi-use community center on a specifically identified parcel of land; however, the plans have not happened and the money is laying idle. N. Funkhouser stated further that this article seeks to have that money returned to the general fund, and not remain allocated given the amount of time that has passed. The money would instead be used to buffer available reserves for any uses that might have arisen since that time. C. Karlson stated that, should the article pass, the funds would not be made available until FY22, after

they were certified as part of free cash. According to C. Karlson, the funds could not be used to offset COVID expenses in this calendar year.

• **Repeal Ch. 53 of the Acts of 2010**

A. Gutbezahl stated he presently holds an elected position in the Town and therefore recused himself from the Finance Committee's consideration of this article.

Lead petitioner, G. Schuler, presented the article to the Committee. In 2009, ATM passed a special act, which postponed the beginning of a newly-elected official's term until after Town Meeting. Due to COVID, this system did not work well for the Town this year, and there were a number of residents who still have yet to take office despite the Town election occurring months ago. The article requests the Town repeal the special act. If repealed, Wayland would function as the rest of the towns in the state do, and any elected officials would take office the day after they are elected.

Public Comment and Members' Response: None

Finance Report: Meet with Town Administrator to discuss FY21 Budget Updates

including State Funding; ATM update: L. Miller stated that the Town received information from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue that it does not anticipate that the Town will receive less than level funding, so there is no change to the budgeted revenue assumption for FY21.

L. Miller stated that, due to ATM being pushed back to September, there are insufficient funds in various revolving and special receipt funds to cover necessary appropriations. This will effect mainly the ambulance receipts and school revolving funds. Additionally, she stated that the cost estimates for school ventilation, utilities, maintenance, and other various one-time costs will go up due to COVID. Some of these costs will be defrayed through various federal sources of funding. L. Miller stated she will be going through the budget with the BoS on August 17, and will then present the Committee with a revised budget on August 24.

Review, Discuss and Possibly Vote Mission Statement, FY22 Goals & Strategy: C. Martin addressed the Committee's Mission Statement, Goals, and Strategy for FY22 and noted the revisions discussed at the prior meeting. She reviewed the edits with the Committee, making further additions and changes. C. Martin will draft the new changes, and present them to the Committee at the next meeting.

D. Watkins discussed including the BoS goals within the Statement, making sure the Committee is aligned with the BoS to keep priorities cohesive in the long term. A. Gutbezahl disagreed, stating that the Committee's responsibility is to a separate branch of government. A. Gutbezahl stated that the Committee's job is to advise Town Meeting, which is the Town's Legislative Branch, whereas the BoS is the Executive Branch.

Summer Projects Updates including Annual Report Submission and CIP form: C. Martin reviewed the updated list of which Committee members are working on which projects. She then reviewed changes to the Annual Report with the Committee.

Chair update including FY22 Budget Process and Schedule: The Committee will meet on 8/10 and the morning of 8/11. Both of these meetings will work finalizing the Committee's recommendations. There will also be a meeting on 8/24 with L. Miller to prepare questions that may be posed at Town Meeting. The Committee will also meet on 9/8, as that is when the BoS is holding the Warrant Hearing. 9/12 and 9/13 will be the Special Town Meeting.

Members' Reports, Concerns; Topics, Unanticipated 48 Hours Before Meeting:

Discussion ensued regarding the feasibility of getting feedback for, and completing, the write-ups by Monday, if rushing to complete them will result in useable summaries, and possible solutions.

S. Correia asked C. Martin, as Chair of the Committee, to request a letter of resignation from G. Uveges. C. Martin stated she did not believe that was her responsibility, and that she would follow up with the Town Administrator and BoS regarding the resignation.

Adjournment: K. Lappin moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:33p.m. Seconded by A. Gutbezahl. Motion passed 6-0-0 (by roll-call vote): P. Roman- yes, A. Gutbezahl- yes, S. Correia- yes, D. Watkins- yes, and C. Martin- yes.

Documents: available at

https://www.wayland.ma.us/sites/g/files/vyhlif4016/f/agendas/fincom_-pkt.pdf

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Lorentz