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
Tuesday, February 23, 2023
In-Person & ZOOM – 4:00 p.m.

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

Staff in attendance:	Libby Gibson, Town Manager; Brian Turbitt, Director of Finance; David Gray, Sewer Director, Charles Polachi, Parks and Recreation Manager, Susan Carmel, Assistant Director Finance; Mariya Basheva, Assistant Town Accountant, Leslie Woodson Snell, Planning Deputy Director
Attending Members:	Kronau, Grause, Glowacki, Maury, Roche, Schaeffer, Vieth, Bloomer
Absent Members:	McEachern
Documents used:	Proposed ARTICLEs for Review and Consideration

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion	**Motion to Approve.** (made by: Schaeffer) (seconded by: Maury)
Roll-call Vote	Carried 7-0// Kronau, Grause, Glowacki, Maury, Roche, Schaeffer, Vieth - aye

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Kronau called for public comments. (None)

III. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF FY 2024 SCHOOL BUDGET

Presentation:

Dr. Elizabeth Hallett, Superintendent, Nantucket Public Schools and Martin Anguelov, Chief Financial Officer, Nantucket Public Schools provided the following overview:

- Dr. Hallett expressed gratitude for the opportunity to present the budget.
- Emphasized the collaborative nature of the budget planning process which begins in October and includes the entire district leadership team.

Budget Planning Challenges:

- This year's budget planning faced several challenges, including:
  - Inflation
  - Rising utility prices
  - Uncertainties related to contractual associations
- Standard parameters such as student enrollment and needs were also considered.

Enrollment Trends:

- A review of enrollment from 2011 to the projected 2024 shows overall growth, with a plateau observed from around 2017-2018.
- Current projections estimate enrollment at over 1,700 students for the next year.
- Factors affecting enrollment trends include:
  - Cost of living
  - Availability of housing
- A notable cohort from the population boom before 2017 is moving through the high school, impacting current and near-future enrollment.

Demographic Shifts:

- Historical enrollment data from 2001 to 2022 shows significant demographic changes.
- In 2001, 90% of students were white, while 10% were students of color.
- By 2022, the demographic shifted to 54% students of color and 46% white students.
- This shift underscores the importance of providing adequate support for diverse student needs, including services for English Learners and students with special needs.

English Learner Population:

- Reviewed the growth of the English Learner (EL) population from 2006 to the projected 2024.
- Significant growth noted from 2006, with a stabilization trend from 2020 to 2023.
- Slight growth anticipated between 2021-2023 and into the next year.
- Emphasized the need for special services for this group, including multilingual support.
- Highlighted that the budget includes provisions to support the EL population effectively.

Special Education Population:

- Observed a growth trend in the special education population starting around 2017-2018.
- Unique challenges faced due to Nantucket's island geography, limiting access to external collaborative resources.
- Necessity to provide all required special education services on-island, influencing budget considerations.
- Continuous tracking of enrollment and specific needs to ensure adequate support and resources within the budget.

Budget Development Process:

- **Starting Point:** Begins with the current fiscal year (FY 2023) budget of $34,426,000.
- **Roll Forward Number:** Presented to the school committee in October with Superintendent Hallett. This accounts for existing and known contract obligations and expected increases in contracts, such as transportation and utilities.
    - The roll forward number for this year was $1.5 million.
- **Requested Increase:** In consultation with the Town's Finance Director and Town Manager, a $2.1 million increase was requested and granted. This provides flexibility for additions to the budget and covering contractual obligations.
    - Noted that last year included a $200,000 one-time expense for curriculum purchases, making the effective increase for this year $2.3 million.

Historical Budget Growth:

- A chart showing budget growth over the past nine years was presented.
- The budget increased from just over $25 million nine years ago to a projected $11.5 million more for the next year.
- Significant addition in 2017 with the opening of a new school requiring additional staffing.

Per Pupil Expenditure:

- Comparison to the average expenditure per student in Massachusetts.
- Nantucket consistently spends about $6,000 more per student than the state average.

Chapter 70 Funding:

- **Overview:** Chapter 70 was introduced in 1993 to ensure all districts could provide adequate education, initially funded solely by local taxpayer dollars.
- **Current Emphasis:** Under the 2019 Student Opportunity Act, additional categories such as benefits, guidance, psychological services, special education, English learners, and low-income students were included.
- **Low-Income Students:** Nantucket has 47% of students qualifying as low-income, placing it in the 8th percentile statewide.
- **FY 2024 Projections:** Preliminary estimate indicates a $453,000 increase in Chapter 70 funds for FY 2024, though this figure is subject to final budget discussions later in the year.
- **Foundation Budget:** The state projects Nantucket's foundation budget for FY 2024 at $25,200,000, which is considered the bare minimum required to educate the students based on various factors.

Federal Grants Overview:

- **IDEA Grant:** The largest grant, making up almost 75% of total grant funding, supports students with special needs.
- **Title I:** The second largest grant at $68,480. A recent drop in funding occurred due to census data discrepancies, affecting programs like summer school.
- **Title II:** Funds preparation, training, and recruitment of high-quality teachers and principals, including professional development and mentoring programs.

	• **Title III:** Supports the English as a Second Language (ESL) program for multilingual learners.
	• **Title IV:** Allocated for professional services, including development and consulting.
	• **Esser Grant:** Related to COVID-19, this grant will be utilized until the end of FY 2024.
	FY 2024 Budget Breakdown:
	• **School and Central Office Distribution:**
	  o Nantucket High School has the largest budget share due to the highest student numbers and extensive services, including vocational programs.
	  o The elementary, intermediate, and middle schools have more equitable budget shares.
	  o The central office handles professional development and curriculum purchases.
	  o Other budget areas include facilities, technology, and athletics, with athletics being the smallest portion.
	Payroll vs. Operating Expenses:
	• **Current Split:** Payroll expenses are growing and taking a larger share of the budget, currently at an 84:16 split compared to an 80:20 split five years ago.
	• **Importance of Operating Budget:** Despite payroll growth, maintaining buildings, paying utilities, and covering professional development, supplies, and textbooks remain critical.
	Community School Revenue Breakdown:
	• **Revenue Sources:** Include gifts, donations, participant fees, and town appropriations.
	• **Challenges:** Rising medical insurance costs necessitate additional appropriation to balance the budget.
	• **Support from Organizations:** Significant contributions from the Community Foundation and other supporters have been vital, especially during the COVID-19 period.
	Budget Priorities and Planning:
	• **Parameters:** Linked to district and school goals, focusing on access and equity for all students, based on projected enrollments, curricular needs, and overall student well-being.
	• **Essential Services:** Identified by building principals and district directors, supporting physical, social, and emotional development, and reflective of actual expenditures over the last three years.
	• **Utility Expenses:** Budgeted to reflect actual expenditures over the past three years.
	FY 2024 Staffing Requests:
	• **Nantucket Elementary School:** Additional 0.2 full-time employee for front office support, addressing the growing needs of multilingual families.
	• **Nantucket Intermediate School:** Increase library teacher position to full-time to fully utilize library services.
	• **English Learner Department:** Add a full-time SEI coach to support teachers working with English Learners in mainstream classes, especially in higher grades.
	• **Facilities and Grounds Department:** Additional staff to maintain new campus facilities, including a new baseball field and tennis courts.
	Expected Outcomes with the FY 2024 Budget:
	• **Address Learning Gaps and Social-Emotional Needs:** Enhanced support following the recent pandemic.
	• **Special Education Services:** Stronger support and evaluation.
	• **Sheltered English Instruction:** Improved strategies and support across grades 3-12.
	• **Increased Front Office Assistance:** Particularly at Nantucket Elementary School.
	• **Enhanced Library Programming:** Better access for students and staff at Nantucket Intermediate School.
	• **Proper Facilities Maintenance:** Adequate staffing for new campus facilities, ensuring they are well-maintained.

Committee Discussion:	**Dr. Hallett** responded to the following Committee Member's questions and comments: **Response to Inquiry on Track and Turf Field:** • **Current Consideration:** o The idea of a track and turf field is still being kept in mind.

  - There is uncertainty about the future of turf fields, particularly due to concerns about PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances).
- **Legislative Impact:**
  - Massachusetts legislators are considering measures to eliminate PFAS, which could affect plans for turf fields.
  - This issue needs to be monitored to see how legislation might impact future projects.
- **Future Capital Agenda:**
  - A track and turf field is not expected to be on the immediate capital agenda for the next year or two.
  - The focus will remain on the new track and grandstand facilities.
- **Community Support:**
  - Ensuring full support from the Nantucket community is a critical factor before moving forward with the project.
  - Continued exploration of options will take place, but no immediate push is planned.

Out-of-District Placement Costs:

- Costs for sending students off-island for specialized education range between $150,000 to $300,000 per year per student.
- Approximately seven or eight students are currently in out-of-district placements, costing the town around $1.5 million annually.
- Efforts are made to keep students on-island to ensure they stay within their community and close to their families, although some needs can only be met through out-of-district placements.

Special Needs Teacher Compensation:

- Special needs teachers are paid according to the same contractual bargaining agreement as other teachers, without higher pay rates despite potentially higher qualifications.
- Attracting and retaining special needs teachers is generally manageable, but there are significant challenges in hiring specialized services such as physical therapists, occupational therapists, and school psychologists.
- Recruiting for these roles is difficult nationwide, with school psychologists being particularly hard to find.

IEP (Individualized Education Program) Statistics:

- The number of students on IEPs has been growing, though it varies based on new arrivals and existing student needs.
- Ensuring students receive services in the least restrictive environment is a priority, and a careful process is followed to determine eligibility for IEPs to avoid over-identification.
- Currently, about 20% of the district's students are on IEPs, equating to approximately 340-350 students across all grade levels from elementary through high school.

Recruitment and Retention Challenges:

- Nationwide crisis in recruiting and retaining teachers, exacerbated by the housing situation in Nantucket.
- Housing instability adds significant stress to teachers, affecting their overall well-being and stability in the community.

Impact of Housing on Teachers:

- While no teachers have been lost specifically due to housing issues, the stress of unstable housing is a significant concern.
- Teachers are expected to be full members of the year-round community, but limited to 10-month housing options, which is counterproductive.
- Year-round housing is essential for teachers to feel part of the community and contribute effectively to students' development.

Utilization of 10-Month Housing:

- The 10-month housing is typically vacated in the summer months and rented out to tourists or others.

- Providing more year-round housing opportunities is crucial for the well-being of teachers and the overall success of the school system.

Regional Service Limitations:

- Being on an island limits access to services that might be available regionally if the school district were not isolated.
- This creates additional costs and logistical challenges, similar to those faced by other institutions like the local hospital.

Cost Implications:

- The additional costs of operating on Nantucket, due to geographic isolation, significantly impact the school budget.
- These costs include, but are not limited to, higher transportation expenses, specialized services that must be provided on-island, and increased housing expenses for staff.

Comparison to Regional Costs:

- If the school district were part of a regional network, many of these costs could be reduced or shared, potentially lowering the financial burden.
- The geographic isolation necessitates a higher budget to maintain comparable levels of service and support for students and staff.

Budget for Wellness and Substance Abuse Education:

- **Current Funding:** Primarily supported by Esser funds, which are pandemic-related funds set to expire at the end of the next fiscal year.
- **Future Planning:** Acknowledged that a significant portion of the 2024-25 budget will need to account for wellness and substance abuse education as Esser funds phase out.
- **School-Based Services:** Each school has social workers, guidance counselors, and SEL (social-emotional learning) teaching integrated into the curriculum.

Specific Budget Allocation:

- **Request for Dollar Amount:** The exact dollar amount dedicated to wellness and substance abuse education needs to be assessed by reviewing each school's budget.

Resources for Economically Disadvantaged Students:

- **Translation Services:** Ensuring accessibility to resources through translated forms and documents, particularly for the 48% of economically disadvantaged students.
- **School and Town Support:** Schools offer support through various programs, and additional services are provided by the town and outside agencies.
- **Federal Grants:**
  - **Title I:** Supports economically disadvantaged students, though recent census data discrepancies have reduced funding.
  - **Title III:** Specifically supports multilingual learners.
  - **New Title III Sub-Grant:** Focuses on immigration, providing additional support for the growing immigrant population.

Athletics Budget and Participation:

- **Budget Allocation:** $783,000 is dedicated to athletics, representing about 2.25% of the overall budget.
- **Comparison with Other Districts:** Nantucket's budget is higher due to additional costs, particularly transportation, with around $200,000 spent on off-island travel.
- **High Participation Rate:** Over 65% of students participate in sports, which is significantly higher than many other districts.

Increasing Student Participation in Sports:

- **Intramurals and Non-Varsity Sports:** Efforts are being made to increase intramural activities, especially at the middle school level, and to offer sports that may appeal to those not interested in traditional team sports.
- **Track and Field:** The existing track and field club could be expanded into a varsity program if participation grows.
- **Tennis:** New courts are expected to boost participation in tennis.

Alternatives to Turf Fields:

- **Grass Fields:** While turf fields are currently not a priority due to community concerns and potential PFAS legislation, grass fields are a viable alternative, though they require significant maintenance and downtime for regrowth.

Wellness and Substance Abuse Education:

- **Dedicated Budget:** The current budget includes Esser funds for wellness and substance abuse education, but a specific dollar amount needs to be determined for future budgets as Esser funds phase out.
- **Translation and Accessibility:** Ensuring services are available and accessible to economically disadvantaged students, with translation services for multilingual families.

Funding for Economically Disadvantaged Students:

- **Federal Grants:** Title I supports economically disadvantaged students, though funding has decreased. Title III supports multilingual learners, and a new Title III sub-grant addresses needs of the growing immigrant population.

Additional Funding and Priorities:

- **Potential Use of Extra Funds:** If additional funds were available, priorities would include:
    - **Supporting English Learners:** Enhancing programs and resources for English learners.
    - **Vocational Programs:** Expanding vocational education opportunities.
    - **Literacy Programs:** Strengthening foundational literacy programs.
    - **Facilities and Grounds:** Improving science labs and other facilities.
    - **Teacher Compensation:** Ensuring teachers receive competitive wages, especially after the challenges of recent years.

Mandy Vasil, Principal, Nantucket Public High School, responded to the following:
Graduation Rates:

- **Current Rate:** The graduation rate for the class of 2021 is 91.4%.
- **Reporting Timeline:** The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) reports graduation rates a year behind. This allows for students who complete their coursework over the summer to be included in the final count.

Student Activities for Non-Athletes:

- **Diverse Opportunities:** Many students who do not participate in sports engage in other activities such as theater, drama, and a variety of clubs and organizations.
- **Active Clubs:** Examples include the Youth Climate Committee, which is involved in community activities like trash pickups and making educational presentations to younger students.
- **Inclusivity:** The school strives to offer a wide range of activities to ensure there is something for everyone, catering to diverse interests and ensuring student engagement.

Dr. Hallett continued to respond to committee members' questions and comments.
Funding for Vaping Education and Prevention:

- **Current Funding Sources:** Professional Services budget includes funds for educational programs addressing the dangers of substance use and vaping.
- **Recent Initiatives:** Recently, support from the Friends of Nantucket Public Schools and an active parent group facilitated bringing in an expert to educate students on these issues.
- **Future Budget Considerations:** The need to ensure sufficient funding for continued education and prevention programs is recognized and will be considered in future budget appropriations.

Addressing Underlying Issues:

- **Impact of the Pandemic:** The increase in vaping and substance use is partly attributed to the isolation and challenges students faced during the pandemic.
- **Building Relationships:** Efforts are being made to help students build stronger relationships with adults and peers, fostering a sense of belonging.

- **Professional Development:** Upcoming budget plans include professional development focused on creating a supportive and inclusive school culture to mitigate issues like vaping.

Martin Anguelov, Chief Financial Officer, Nantucket Public Schools, responded to committee members' questions and comments.
Capital Appropriation for Building Maintenance:

- **Annual Budget:** Typically, about $300,000 is allocated annually for the maintenance of school buildings.
- **Aging Infrastructure:** As the Nantucket Intermediate School reaches six years old, maintenance needs are increasing.

Vandalism Costs:

- **Impact on Budget:** Vandalism has significantly affected the budget, with over $130,000 spent this year on repairs, particularly in bathrooms.
- **Hope for Improvement:** There is a hope that vandalism issues will decrease, reducing the strain on maintenance funds.

Brian Turbitt, Town of Nantucket, Director of Finance
Additional Capital Funding and State Budget Process Overview:
Article 10 Capital Funding:

- **Robust Capital Plan:** The school's capital plan includes about $2.4 million for maintenance and improvements, to be voted on in Article 10.
- **Town Support:** The town strives to fund as much of the school's capital needs as possible annually.

Governor's Budget and Revenue Changes:

- **Governor's Budget Impact:** The recently announced Governor's budget increases revenue by just under $500,000.
- **Cherry Sheet Assessments:** The town's additional charges from the cherry sheet assessments are up by about $300,000.
- **Net Change:** This results in a net increase of only about $200,000, which is not a substantial change when considering the overall budget.
- **Budget Process Caution:** The Governor's budget is the initial step, with further revisions from the House and Senate. Final budget numbers are uncertain until the legislative process is complete, usually by June 30th.

Dr. Hallett continued to respond to committee members' questions and comments.
Current Level of Parental Involvement:

- **General Participation:** There is a desire for increased parental participation across various school activities and councils.
- **Specific Parent Groups:** Participation in groups like school councils, parent coffees, Friends of Nantucket Public Schools, and athletic boosters is currently low.
- **Crisis Response:** Parental involvement tends to increase during crises or challenges, such as the recent focus on vaping.

Efforts to Engage Parents:

- **Outreach Initiatives:** Schools host events like literacy nights, math nights, and parent academies to engage parents, though participation has been limited.
- **Multilingual Engagement:** The Multilingual Parent Advisory Council also sees low participation, indicating a broader trend.
- **Continuous Effort:** Schools are continuously trying to involve parents through various outreach methods.

Potential Need for More Resources:

- **Uncertainty on Impact:** There is uncertainty whether additional resources would significantly increase parental involvement.
- **Busy Schedules:** Acknowledgement that parents' busy lives and increasing independence of children may naturally reduce involvement over time.

	Strategies Moving Forward: • **Persistent Efforts:** Schools will continue to strive for more parental involvement, recognizing its importance in supporting students' education. • **Community Emphasis:** Emphasizing the need for community support and highlighting how parental involvement benefits the entire school system. • **Willingness to Experiment:** Open to trying new strategies and approaches to boost parental engagement.

IV. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ADOPTION OF MOTION FOR THE FOLLOWING TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES:

1. Article 11	Select Board	Supplemental Appropriation: Surfside Area Roads Reconstruction and Transportation Improvements
Discussion: (01:03:44)	**Brian Turbitt, Town of Nantucket, Director of Finance** • The project involves the reconstruction of Lovers Lane, Monohansett Road, and Okorwaw Avenue. • Over $3.2 million was approved in a previous town meeting. • The comprehensive cost for all three areas is approximately $16 million. • Collaborating with GPI on roadway designs, including drainage improvements and multi-use path extensions for better trail connectivity. • Requesting an additional $13 million at the upcoming town meeting to cover the remaining costs. • The funding request will be part of a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion, meaning the tax levy increase will only last for the duration of the issued debt. • The funding requires a two-thirds majority at the annual town meeting and a simple majority at the ballot.	
Motion:	**Motion to adopt.** (01:06:50) (made by: Schaeffer) (seconded by: Vieth)	
Roll-Call Vote:	Carried 8-0// Kronau, Grause, Glowacki, Maury, Roche, Schaeffer, Vieth, Bloomer - aye	

2. Article 12	Select Board	Supplemental Appropriation: Town Pier Improvements
Discussion:	**Brian Turbitt, Town of Nantucket, Director of Finance** • Deputy Police Chief presented this project to the Capital Program Committee (CapCom). • Initial bids included a series of alternates; three alternates were completed, but the largest alternate for new floating concrete docks was not funded. • The new floating concrete docks and additional electrical and plumbing work total a little over $2.1 million. • A supplemental appropriation of $2.5 million is requested to cover these costs. • There is a potential grant of approximately $1 million to help offset the costs. • The request includes the total amount needed, but only the net difference will be borrowed after grant reimbursements are received. • This funding request falls under a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion, requiring a two-thirds majority vote at the annual town meeting and a simple majority vote at the ballot.	
Motion:	**Motion to adopt.** (made by: Vieth) (seconded by: Schaeffer) (01:08:45)	
Roll-Call Vote:	Carried 8-0// Kronau, Bloomer, Grause, Glowacki, Maury, Roche, Schaeffer, Vieth -aye	

3. Article 13	Select Board	Supplemental Appropriation: Landfill Closure Costs
Discussion:	**Brian Turbitt, Town of Nantucket, Director of Finance** • A prior town meeting approved $14 million for landfill closure through a borrowing authorization and debt exclusion vote. • The $14 million estimate was considered reasonable by the town's engineers, Weston and Sampson. • The town has been awaiting a decision from DEP regarding the use of residual mining material for landfill capping and closure. • Due to the delay, projected costs have risen by approximately $5 million. • The new estimated total for the landfill closure is around $19 million. • This number was determined in consultation with Weston and Sampson and Waste Options. • A supplemental appropriation to cover the additional $5 million is required. • This request involves another borrowing article needing a two-thirds majority vote at the annual town meeting and a majority vote at the ballot. • The landfill closure proceedings have not started due to pending clarification from DEP on some outstanding issues. • The additional $5 million, representing about a 38% increase over the initial $14 million estimate, is primarily due to the cost of materials. • Much of the additional cost is for sand that needs to be imported if the remaining on-site material cannot be used. • Importing sand to the island is expensive, and there is no local supplier capable of providing the required amount. • These factors were not fully known when the $14 million estimate was made. • Prices have escalated since the original estimate, and delays have occurred while waiting for DEP decisions on the use of on-site materials. • The town has been in a holding pattern, awaiting DEP clarification on these points.	
Motion:	**Motion to adopt. (made by: Grause) (seconded by: Vieth) (01:11:55)**	
Roll-Call Vote:	Carried 8-0// Kronau, Bloomer, Grause, Glowacki, Maury, Roche, Schaeffer, Vieth -aye	

4. Article 14	Select Board	Supplemental Appropriation: Wauwinet Road Shared Use Path
Discussion:	**Libby Gibson, Town Manager** • This project has been in development for a significant period. • There is an opportunity to take advantage of a grant worth approximately $1.3 million to help fund part of the construction. • The grant will not cover the entire construction cost, but it will provide substantial assistance. • Additional construction costs will still be required beyond the grant. • Some funding has already been allocated for a portion of the design work through a previous grant. • The project includes right-of-way acquisitions and the completion of the engineered design. • Extensive permitting will be needed before construction can proceed. • Taking advantage of the grant now is crucial to move forward with the project and start it in the right direction.	
Motion:	**Motion to adopt. (made by: Schaeffer) (seconded by: Bloomer) (01:15:05)**	
Roll-Call Vote:	Carried 8-0// Kronau, Bloomer, Grause, Glowacki, Maury, Roche, Schaeffer, Vieth -aye	

5. Article 15	Select Board	Appropriation: Nobadeer Playing Fields Complex - Field Addition; Associated Renovations to Adjacent Fields; Site Enhancements

Discussion:	**Charles Polachi, Parks and Recreation Manager**
	• The renovation includes converting existing fields to natural grass at the Duke's and Nobadeer locations and constructing a third natural grass field at Nobadeer.
	• The project involves new roadways, parking lot line painting, benches, and new soccer goals.
	• This is phase one of the town's Parks and Recreation master plan.
	• The fields see high usage from youth soccer, youth lacrosse, and adult leagues in the summer.
	• The project will be put out to an open bid, with the hope of attracting local companies, though it may require larger excavation companies due to significant clearing work.
	• The cost difference between natural grass and artificial turf fields is notable, with natural grass having a lower initial cost but higher long-term maintenance expenses.
	• The current artificial turf field is not part of this renovation and will remain in use.
	• Extensive soil testing and a fertilizer plan were developed for the maintenance of the grass fields.
	• The initial installation of an artificial turf field costs about $1 million more than a grass field.
	• Long-term costs for grass fields include fertilizer, water, and maintenance equipment, making them more expensive over time.
	• Due to concerns about PFAS, the town is retaining the existing artificial turf field for its full lifespan while waiting for advancements in PFAS-free turf technology.
	• The $3.8 million budget covers the creation and renovation of three natural grass fields.
	• The project includes the complete renovation of the Nobadeer site.
	    • Scope of Work:
	    • New parking areas and improved traffic flow.
	    • Extensive site clearing.
	    • Excavation down to the root zone and preparation for proper drainage.
	    • Soil amendments and replanting for the existing grass fields.
	    • Adjustments to irrigation systems.
	    • Installation of new soccer goals.
	• The renovations aim to create durable fields that can withstand heavy use, necessitating substantial preparation and investment.
	• Extensive soil testing and recommendations from Weston and Sampson ensure the best possible outcomes for the fields.	

Motion:	**Motion to adopt. (made by: Bloomer) (seconded by: Vieth) (01:22:59)**	
Roll-Call Vote:	Carried 8-0// Kronau, Bloomer, Grause, Glowacki, Maury, Roche, Schaeffer, Vieth -aye	

6. Article 16	Select Board	Supplemental Appropriation: Miacomet Pond Dredging
Discussion:	**Libby Gibson, Town Manager** • We currently have funding for the engineering and permitting phase of the Miacomet Pond dredging project, which is underway. • This supplemental appropriation request is for the actual dredging work. • The total estimated cost for the dredging is $4 million. • Miacomet Pond is one of the ponds with the worst water quality on the island. • This is a joint project with the Land Bank and the Nantucket Pond Coalition. • The $4 million cost will be offset by contributions from the Land Bank and private property owners through the Pond Coalition. • The water quality problem in Miacomet Pond is primarily due to organic materials and nitrogen, which can encompass both organic and bacterial components.	

	• Instead of opening the pond to the sea, the decision was made to dredge the pond to address these issues.
	• Opening the pond to the sea has previously led to environmental and practical issues, such as:
	  ◦ Difficulty in controlling the pond's opening due to its topography.
	  ◦ Draining the pond, which left the upper end muddy, stinky, and mosquito-ridden, leading to complaints.
	  ◦ Flooding basements when the pond is overly full.
	• Dredging is aimed at resolving water quality issues and mitigating associated impacts on properties.
	• The plan for handling the dredged sludge involves proper disposal, but it will not be taken off the island.

Motion:	**Motion to adopt. (made by: Vieth) (seconded by: Grause) (01:28:45)**
Roll-Call Vote:	Carried 8-0// Kronau, Bloomer, Grause, Glowacki, Maury, Roche, Schaeffer, Vieth -aye

7. Article 19	Select Board for Board of Health	Renewal of Board of Health Septic System Betterment Loan Program
Discussion:	**Brian Turbitt, Town of Nantucket, Director of Finance** • The septic system betterment loan program has been successful in helping homeowners update their septic systems. • A previous authorization of $2 million from three or four years ago has been fully utilized. • The Board of Health seeks to continue this program. • The program offers low-interest loans from the state revolving fund. • Homeowners who qualify and are approved by the Board of Health can update their septic systems, with loan repayments added to their tax bills (quarters three and four). • The town acts as an intermediary, accessing lower interest rates for homeowners without incurring any cash outlay. • The program is intended for the repair, replacement, or upgrade of existing septic systems, not for the initial installation in new homes. • The maximum loan term is 20 years, which aligns with the maximum length of borrowing through the state revolving fund program.	
Motion:	**Motion to adopt. (made by: Vieth) (seconded by: Grause) (01:32:00)**	
Roll-Call Vote:	Carried 8-0// Kronau, Bloomer, Grause, Glowacki, Maury, Roche, Schaeffer, Vieth -aye	

8. Article 20	Select Board	Establish and Appropriate: Storm Water Enterprise Fund
Discussion:	**Brian Turbitt, Town of Nantucket, Director of Finance** • A request is being made to adopt and appropriate money into a new stormwater enterprise fund. • This initiative is part of the town's effort to prioritize and manage stormwater. • The enterprise fund will help capture the costs associated with operating and maintaining stormwater systems. • The creation and adoption of this fund is allowed under Massachusetts General Law. • An initial transfer of $500,000 from the tax levy is recommended to start the fund. • The funding will include the potential hiring of a stormwater manager. • Initially, the sewer director, David Gray, will oversee the program. • The first year will focus on a CMOM (Capacity, Management, Operations, and Maintenance) program to identify, camera, and map the stormwater system. • This will be a capital article with additional spending for the project.	

	• Future years will involve a more robust program based on the findings of the initial assessment. • Establishing the enterprise fund will provide transparency on costs and funding sources. • Potential future fees related to stormwater management could be charged, with revenues going directly into the enterprise fund for stormwater operations and maintenance, rather than into the general fund.
Motion:	**Motion to adopt. (made by: Schaeffer) (seconded by: Vieth) (01:34:55)**
Roll-Call Vote:	Carried 8-0// Kronau, Bloomer, Grause, Glowacki, Maury, Roche, Schaeffer, Vieth -aye

9. Article 74	Select Board	Bylaw Amendment: Board of Sewer Commissioners/Sewer District Map Changes
Discussion:	**David Gray, Sewer Director** • This article aims to fill in an area known as Hummock Pond North, which needs sewer services. • Most of Vestal Street, Dukes Road, and Hawthorne Lane are already in the sewer district; this addition will complete the coverage. • The area has significantly poor soil conditions, making it a high-priority needs area for sewer services. • Adding this area to the Sewer District is strongly recommended. • There is broad support from residents, many of whom have stressed that their septic systems have either failed or are close to failing. • Most residents in the affected area are in agreement and are eager to be included in the Sewer District.	
Motion:	**Motion to adopt. (made by: Maury) (seconded by: Schaeffer) (01:37:10)**	
Roll-Call Vote:	Carried 8-0// Kronau, Bloomer, Grause, Glowacki, Maury, Roche, Schaeffer, Vieth -aye	

10. Article 75	Martin McGowan	Bylaw Amendment: Board of Sewer Commissioners/Town Sewer District Map Change - 25 Millbrook Rd
Discussion:	**David Gray, Sewer Director** • This is a citizen's request related to the expansion of the sewer district. • The area in question is part of Hummock Pond South, which has poor soil conditions and a high-water table. • The applicant has an arrangement with a property owner who abuts the sewer line on Hummock Pond Road to connect to the existing force main. • This area is identified as a needs area due to its environmental sensitivity, particularly concerning nitrogen levels. • The property will serve a new home to be built at Pumpkin Pond Farm. • The applicant will cover the costs for the connection. • Future expansions of the sewer district in this region are anticipated due to the area's sensitivity and high nitrogen levels, aiming to prevent further degradation of Hummock Pond. • Eventually, a sewer line may extend through Millbrook Road, reducing the need for easements across land bank property.	
Motion:	**Motion to adopt. (made by: Maury) (seconded by: Glowacki) (01:42:08)**	
Roll-Call Vote:	Carried 8-0// Kronau, Bloomer, Grause, Glowacki, Maury, Roche, Schaeffer, Vieth -aye	

<table>
<tr><td>11. Article 79</td><td>Curtis Barnes</td><td>Establishment of Independent Sewer Commission</td></tr>
<tr><td>Discussion:</td><td colspan="2">

Curtis Barnes

- A proposal has been made to establish an independent Sewer Commission.
- The current system has the Select Board acting as the board of sewer commissioners, which is very busy.
- The proposed Sewer Commission would work closely with the Water Commission to address needs more effectively.
- The initial proposal lacked detail, prompting the addition of a paragraph outlining the structure of the commission.
- The commission would consist of five elected members with staggered three-year terms, similar to the Water Commission.
- Members would be elected in the next election, with initial terms of one, two, and three years.
- The proposal aims to put this on the ballot for discussion and approval to improve the focus and efficiency of sewer management.

Libby Gibson, Town Manager

- It is important to note that the Sewer and Water departments currently work very closely together.
- No project involving sewer or water is completed without collaboration between the two departments.
- David and Mark, the current department heads, are particularly effective in working together.
- The proposed Sewer Commission is not necessarily seen as better or worse in terms of collaboration but is viewed from an administrative perspective.
- The established protocol ensures that the collaboration between sewer and water departments would continue regardless of any changes in personnel.

David Gray, Sewer Director

- As Curtis has highlighted that the establishment of a separate Sewer Commission was authorized several years ago.
- The increasing complexity and busyness of sewer-related tasks support the need for a dedicated commission.
- Observations indicate that the Water Company Commission operates effectively under a similar structure.
- The comparison suggests that a Sewer Commission could also work well, given the current demands and complexities.

Grause

- Stated his opposition to the idea of establishing a separate Sewer Commission, despite recognizing Mr. Barnes's civic service.
- Concerns include:
  - Higher water rates on Nantucket as a result of the independent Water Company Board.
  - Lack of effective coordination between the Water Company Board and Town Administration.
  - The current system, with the Select Board serving as sewer commissioners, is seen as sufficient and effective.
- The belief is that establishing a separate Sewer Commission does not offer significant benefits to the citizens of Nantucket.

Vieth

- Expressed additional opposition to the idea of establishing a separate Sewer Commission.
- Concerns include the challenge of finding more candidates to run for and serve on the commission.
- The current system already empowers an elected body, the Select Board, to handle sewer-related matters.

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	• The existing governance by an elected body is seen as sufficient and effective.
Motion:	**Motion not to adopt. (made by: Bloomer) (seconded by: Vieth) (01:48:06)**
Roll-Call Vote:	Carried 8-0// Kronau, Bloomer, Grause, Glowacki, Maury, Roche, Schaeffer, Vieth -aye

12. Article 84	Select Board	Home Rule Petition: An Act Amending the Nantucket Sewer Act (Chapter 396 of the Acts of 2008)
Discussion:	**Libby Gibson, Town Manager** • This proposal relates to granting the Sewer Commission the authority to make waivers for year-round residents. • Currently, the Sewer Commission lacks the official authority to grant such waivers. • There have been instances where individuals have requested sewer fee waivers, particularly when private sewer lines are installed in nitrogen-sensitive areas, requiring mandatory tie-ins. • Some residents have been surprised by the requirement and have requested waivers because they did not agree to the installation. • The proposal aims to allow the Board of Sewer Commissioners to grant waivers in specific circumstances through regulations. • The criteria for waivers would likely include need-based considerations. • This proposal, along with state funds, would provide tools to alleviate the financial burden on residents. • The requirement to tie into sewer lines is a local requirement set by the Nantucket Board of Health regulations.	
Motion:	**Motion to adopt. (made by: Glowacki) (seconded by: Schaeffer) (01:52:50)**	
Roll-Call Vote:	Carried 8-0// Kronau, Bloomer, Grause, Glowacki, Maury, Roche, Schaeffer, Vieth -aye	

13. Article 76	Catherine Gail Walker	Bylaw Amendment - Outdoor Lighting
Discussion:	**Kronau** • During the discussion on Tuesday, Gail was asked to draft a motion from the perspective of the Finance Committee (FinCom). • The intent was to address the complexities and technical aspects of the original article. • Gail's proposed motion aims to simplify and clarify the article, removing elements that posed implementation challenges. • The revised motion remains lengthy but aims to address the group's concerns more effectively. **Grause** • Gail made significant improvements to the proposed outdoor lighting bylaw amendment. • She removed specific enforcement and penalty details, which seemed premature. • The updated bylaw focuses on the characteristics of lighting and related guidelines. • Concerns were raised about light trespass levels being too low, potentially leading to complaints from neighbors. • Gail responded to these concerns via email, though some issues about the acceptable light levels (.01 foot-candles) remain unresolved. • Overall, Gail's revisions aim to simplify the bylaw and provide the town with a practical framework to manage outdoor lighting while allowing room for further adjustments as needed. **Schaeffer** • Concerns were expressed about the bylaw's length and complexity.	

- The goal was to create a bylaw that is easy for people to interpret and understand, ideally fitting onto one page.
- The current version is excessively lengthy, which may lead to low compliance and enforcement.
- While supportive of the concept, there is skepticism about the bylaw's effectiveness if it remains difficult to read and follow.
- The sentiment is that if the bylaw is too complicated to be enforced or read by the public, it may not be worth pursuing in its current form.

Roche

- Shared a differing opinion that Gail did a good job in simplifying the bylaw as requested.
- The educational benefit of implementing the bylaw is seen as significant.
- While enforcement may be challenging, setting updated rules, even if not vastly different from existing ones, is viewed as progress.
- The revised bylaw provides a framework that can help improve awareness and compliance over time, despite its length.

Glowacki

- Gail's work on the bylaw amendment has been appreciated, and she has responded positively and constructively to feedback.
- The process has been challenging, but the collaborative spirit has been positive.
- There's a preference for the bylaw to be an amendment to the HDC mission or overseen by professional staff who can update and recommend changes.
- Despite concerns, the bylaw is seen as something worth supporting.
- It is believed that the bylaw will likely be approved and, due to its lack of strong enforcement mechanisms, will serve more as an aspirational document.
- The bylaw's goal is to educate and encourage good practices, aiming for voluntary compliance rather than strict enforcement.
- Overall, spoke in support for the bylaw as submitted.

Vieth

- Stated her concerns that the bylaw is too restrictive, particularly regarding the number of lights and specific technical requirements like lumens and Kelvin.
- The real issue with lighting pollution is believed to be more related to municipal lighting rather than residential.
- Shielding and reducing glare are seen as more effective measures.
- There is hope that Gail will work with the town administration to address municipal lighting issues.
- Despite appreciating Gail's efforts and the hard work put into the bylaw, the lack of enforceability and the burden it places on enforcement officers and the town are significant concerns.
- Due to these reasons, there is opposition to supporting the bylaw, even though the effort and intent behind it are respected.

Schaeffer

- The town will also be bound by this bylaw, which sets new guidelines for lighting, including brightness, timers on light poles, and other aspects.
- Although enforcement has been reduced, these guidelines will apply to both residents and municipal properties.
- The bylaw is seen as a first step towards better lighting practices.
- Gail's intention to work with the town, educate the community, and inform electricians about the Dark Skies initiative is viewed positively.
- The focus is on education and gradual improvement in lighting practices, rather than immediate strict enforcement.

Roche

- Gail conducted a survey and provided a detailed presentation, showcasing examples of houses and estimating the costs for those houses to comply with the new lighting guidelines.
- The cost estimates for fixing the lighting issues were found to be completely reasonable.

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>Vieth

The focus should remain on shielding rather than limiting the number of lights.
Gail acknowledged that the number of lights is ultimately influenced by lumens and Kelvin.
For properties with limited space, such as a tenth of an acre, the guidelines would restrict the number of lights significantly.
For example, having only one onion light and two deck lights might be too restrictive, even though deck lights are already shielded and directed downward.

Kronau

After thorough consideration, the opinion aligns with Chris and Joe's perspective that if the bylaw is going to pass, it should be a less onerous version.
The enforcement mechanism remains similar to the previous version, with the primary change being the removal of the permit requirement.
Concerns exist about voter confusion due to the length and complexity of both the article and the accompanying FinCom comment.
Three main criteria for supporting a measure are:

Benefit to the community: This is met, as the bylaw aims to improve lighting practices.
Ease of implementation: This is not met, given the existing priorities and workloads of town administration.
Ease of enforcement: This is also not met with the current staff levels.

Without meeting two of the three criteria, there is hesitation to support the bylaw despite acknowledging its good intentions.
Practicality is a key consideration, with the belief that a Grassroots approach, similar to the plastic straw initiative, might be more effective in achieving better lighting practices.
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<tr><td>Public Comments:</td><td>Gail Walker, responded to Committee Member comments.

Importance of Color Temperature: Focusing solely on shielding does not address all lighting issues. Blue light emission, related to color temperature, is harmful to wildlife and potentially human health. Limiting blue light is crucial.
Impact on Sky Glow: Even shielded lights contribute to sky glow due to horizontal light and reflections. Therefore, lumens and brightness limits are important.
Education and Compliance: Public education and promoting dark sky compliant products can make it easier for residents to follow the guidelines. The article's length is primarily due to exemptions and exceptions, which actually prevent the rules from being more restrictive.
Light Trespass Metrics: The metrics for light trespass are based on the LEED program's standards for light pollution reduction. These metrics are considered reasonable and there is room for exceptions if lighting that complies with other requirements still exceeds these metrics.
Effort and Balance: The bylaw has been carefully designed to balance various concerns and includes provisions for exceptions. Gail believes the proposal is well-thought-out and would appreciate support from the committee.
Determination to Proceed: Regardless of the committee's vote, Gail is determined to present the bylaw at the town meeting, believing there is broad support for the initiative.
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<tr><td>Committee Discussion Cont.</td><td>Maury

Stated he received a letter from Debbie Nicholson in Monomoy, which raised several points.
The letter addressed concerns such as safety issues and the need for motion-activated lights for people working late, like those in the restaurant industry.
Gail has subsequently addressed these concerns to the satisfaction of some members.
While the letter had valid points, many of these have been incorporated into the current proposal.

Glowacki

Concerns about shift workers and safety have been addressed in the current proposal.
The committee has spent considerable time discussing and raising valid issues regarding the bylaw.
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Interestingly, there has been no public opposition or concerns raised during public hearings, apart from those brought up by committee members.
This lack of public concern may indicate broader support or acceptance of the bylaw's provisions.

Roche

Many letters have been received in support of the bylaw, and the lack of opposition likely stems from widespread concern about preserving dark skies.
While the technical details may not be fully understood by everyone, the general public supports the goal of reducing light pollution.
It is believed that the bylaw, in either its current or original version, will pass at the town meeting.
The second version of the bylaw is seen as a better solution than the first, as it is more practical and achievable given current staffing and enforcement levels.
If a decision is to be made, the preference is for the second version.

</td></tr>
<tr><td>Motion:</td><td>Motion to adopt the amended version of the bylaw as requested by the Finance Committee, as presented. (made by: Maury) (seconded by: Bloomer) (02:14:36)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Further Discussion:</td><td>
Vieth

It is suggested that Gail might offer an amendment at the town meeting to remove the permitting requirement from the bylaw, as it could be a contentious issue.
There is concern that rewriting citizen articles sets a precedent and may create problems for future citizen-submitted articles.

Roche

It is important to note that the committee did not rewrite the article themselves; Gail willingly rewrote it at their request.
The revisions made were based on feedback and suggestions from the committee.
The committee asked Gail to rewrite the article to make it more supportable for the committee.
Asking Gail to explain the differences between the original and revised versions at the town meeting seems unfair, as she made the revisions based on the committee's request to improve the article for their support.

Walker

Clarified that she made the changes to gain the committee's support, but she cannot commit to presenting the revised version at the town meeting.
She emphasized her effort to be reasonable and find a compromise while updating standards and maintaining the enforcement scheme. However, she reserves the right to decide which version to submit at the town meeting.

Maury

The committee is voting on the revised, negotiated version of the bylaw, which is seen as more palatable and balanced.
Voting down the original article without advancing a more practical version would not benefit the Dark Skies initiative.
The revised version aims to support the initiative while reducing the administrative burden, presenting a more reasonable approach.
The committee's motion for the revised version will be voted on first.
If the motion is voted down, the original article can then be voted on.
This process increases the likelihood that the revised, more practical version of the bylaw will pass.

Walker

Clarifies that if the committee votes to adopt the revised version with the changes she made, she will not go forward with the original article at Town meeting.
She views the revised version as a reasonable compromise to gain the committee's support.

Bloomer

As a Finance Committee, the goal is to ensure that proposals align with what voters want, even if it means making adjustments.

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	• The committee has worked to address concerns and improve the article, aiming to present a version that is more likely to be supported by the voters.
Motion:	**Motion to close the public comment. (made by: Schaeffer) (seconded by: Glowacki)**
Roll-call vote:	Carried 8-0// Kronau, Bloomer, Grause, Glowacki, Maury, Roche, Schaeffer, Vieth -aye
Motion:	**Motion to adopt the amended version of the bylaw as requested by the Finance Committee, as presented. (made by: Maury) (seconded by: Bloomer) (02:14:36)**
Roll-Call Vote:	Carried 7-1// Kronau, Bloomer, Grause, Glowacki, Maury, Roche, Schaeffer -aye // Vieth - nay

V. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Next meetings: March 7, 2023; 4:00 pm (Hybrid)
March 9, 2023, 4:00 pm (Fully Remote)
March 13, 2023, 4:00 pm (Fully Remote)
March 14, 2023; 4:00 pm (Hybrid)

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion **Motion to Adjourn at 6:27 pm.**
Roll-call Vote Carried 8-0// Kronau, Bloomer, Grause, Glowacki, Maury, Roche, Schaeffer, Vieth -aye

Submitted by:
Elaina Cano