



Town of Nantucket Finance Committee

January 30th, 2024 4PM – Minutes

131 PLEASANT STREET, TRAILER ROOM A AND REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM

Staff:	Libby Gibson, Town Manager; Andrew Patnode, DPW Director; Chris Lowe, Solid Waste Manager; Mariya Basheva, Assistant Town Accountant
Attending Members:	Denice Kronau, Chair, Stephen Maury, Peter Schaeffer, Rob Giacchetti, Jill Vieth, Christopher Glowacki, Joseph Wright, Jeremy Bloomer
Absent Members:	Joanna Roche

Approval of the Agenda and Public Comment

- Denice Kronau calls the meeting to order and requests approval of the agenda.
- Motion to approve the agenda made by Peter, Seconded by Stephen
- **Roll Call Vote: Jill Vieth (aye), Chris Glowacki (aye), Rob Giacchetti (aye), Stephen Maury (aye), Peter Schaeffer (aye), Joe Wright (aye)**
- Denice opens the floor for public comment, but no one raises their hand. Public Comment is then closed

Article 75 Establishment of Madaket Landfill Working Partnership Committee - Debate on Landfill Management and Contractor Involvement

- Cliff Williams discusses the establishment of a working partnership committee for the Madaket landfill, emphasizing the town's ability to manage the landfill without external contracts.
- Cliff criticizes the \$3.5 million price tag for the CMD building, suggesting it could be built for much less.
- Peter Schaeffer questions the feasibility of forming a DPW board for landfill management.
- Chris Lowe provides a structural integrity survey of the building, estimating its value at \$5 million.
- Drew Patnode mentions the building's assessed value was negotiated down from an original assessment.
- Jill Vieth questions the effectiveness of Cliff's proposed commission compared to the existing work group.

Article 75 Concerns About Local Contractors and Expertise

- Cliff Williams argues for using local contractors over external vendors to avoid being held hostage in contracts.
- Stephen Maury discusses the challenges of hiring local contractors due to licensing and certification issues.
- Peter Schaeffer highlights the expertise of George Aaronson and Howard Matz on the county advisory committee.
- Libby Gibson emphasizes the complexity and specific expertise required to manage the landfill.

Article 75 Liability and Financial Implications

- Joseph Wright raises concerns about the \$19 million liability of closing the landfill facility.
- Christopher Glowacki questions the involvement of local contractors in the work group.
- Cliff Williams expresses willingness to engage more with local individuals and organizations.
- Curtis Barnes inquires about the DPW director's opinion on taking over the landfill.
- Peter Schaeffer made a motion to not adopt Article 75, seconded by Joseph Wright
- **Roll call vote: Joe Wright (aye), Chris Glowacki (aye), Rob Giacchetti (aye), Stephen Maury (aye), Peter Shaeffer (aye), Jeremy Bloomer (aye), Denice Kronau (aye)**

Discussion on Finance Committee's Role and Responsibilities

- Denice Kronau explains the Finance Committee's role in making recommendations on financial matters.
- Stephen Maury suggests the committee can choose not to make recommendations on certain articles.
- Peter Schaeffer expresses concerns about lowering the committee's responsibilities.
- Jill Vieth suggests limiting the number of public hearings for certain articles.

Potential Changes in Finance Committee Processes

- Denice Kronau discusses the possibility of not making recommendations on articles without financial impact.
- Christopher Glowacki raises concerns about the committee's responsibility to thoroughly investigate articles.
- Stephen Maury suggests the committee can focus on major expenditures and important issues.
- Jill Vieth emphasizes the need for the committee to spend more time on big-picture topics.

Final Remarks and Adjournment

- Denice Kronau summarizes the discussion and the potential changes in the committee's processes.
- The meeting concludes with a motion to adjourn, made by Jill Vieth, Seconded by Peter Schaeffer
- **Roll call vote: Joe (aye), Jeremy (aye), Jill (aye), Chris (aye), Rob (aye), Stephen (aye), Peter (aye)**