



Town of Nantucket Finance Committee

February 8th, 2024 – Minutes

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

Staff:	Libby Gibson, Town Manager; Brian Turbitt, Finance Director; Martin Anguelov, CFO Nantucket Public Schools; Elizabeth Hallet, Superintendent Nantucket Public Schools
Attending Members:	Denice Kronau, Chair, Stephen Maury, Peter Schaeffer, Rob Giacchetti, Jill Vieth, Christopher Glowacki, Joseph Wright, Jeremy Bloomer, Joanna Roche
Absent Members:	

Introduction to the Town Finance Committee Meeting

- The Finance Committee meeting is called to order at 4:14PM,
- Stephen Maury seeks approval of the agenda, Peter makes the motion to approve, seconded by Jill.
- **Roll Call Vote: Denice Kronau, Stephen Maury, Peter Schaeffer, Rob Giacchetti, Jill Vieth, Christopher Glowacki, Joseph Wright – Unanimous approval.**
- Maury opens public comment for any items not on the agenda, no comments were made.
- The committee discusses and approves the meeting minutes from February 2, 2023, and February 6, 2023.
- Motion to adopt minutes, made by Peter, seconded by Jill.
- **Roll Call Vote: Denice Kronau, Stephen Maury, Peter Schaeffer, Jill Vieth, Christopher Glowacki, Joanna Roche – Unanimous approval.**
- The committee moves on to discuss Warrant articles for the annual town meeting in 2024.
- Brian Turbitt presents Article 27, which recommends raising and appropriating the county assessment from the fiscal 2025 tax levy and other general revenues.

Discussion of Warrant Articles 27, 28 and 30

- The committee discusses and approves Article 27, which raises and appropriates the county assessment.
- A motion to approve is made by Rob, seconded by Jill

- **Roll Call Vote: Denice Kronau, Stephen Maury, Peter Schaeffer, Rob Giacchetti, Jill Vieth, Christopher Glowacki, Joseph Wright, Jeremy Bloomer, Joanna Roche – Unanimous approval.**
- Brian Turbitt explains article 28 is for if the County Commissioners and County review board disagreed in the adoption of the County budget and as there isn't a disagreement no action is necessary.
- A motion to take no action is made by Chris, seconded by Peter
- **Roll Call Vote: Denice Kronau, Stephen Maury, Peter Schaeffer, Rob Giacchetti, Jill Vieth, Christopher Glowacki, Joseph Wright, Jeremy Bloomer, Joanna Roche – Unanimous approval.**
- Brian Turbitt presents Article 30, which recommends appropriating \$500,000 from the fiscal 2025 tax levy and other general revenues to the Other Post Employment Benefits Trust Fund.
- The committee discusses the balance and unfunded liability of the trust fund, which is approximately \$100 million.
- Brian Turbitt explains the policy recommendation to the Select Board to direct any additional assessment to the trust fund once the pension is fully funded in 2037.
- Motion to adopt Article 30 (Appropriation: Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund), made by Chris, Seconded by Peter.

Roll Call Vote: Denice Kronau, Stephen Maury, Peter Schaeffer, Rob Giacchetti, Jill Vieth, Christopher Glowacki, Joseph Wright, Jeremy Bloomer, Joanna Roche– Unanimous approval.

Senior Workout Program and Stabilization Funds

- Brian Turbitt presents Article 31, which discusses the senior work-off program, which had two participants last year.
- Motion to approve Article 31 (Appropriation: FY2023 Senior Work-Off Program), made by Chris, Seconded by Peter.
- **Roll Call Vote: Denice Kronau, Stephen Maury, Peter Schaeffer, Rob Giacchetti, Jill Vieth, Christopher Glowacki, Joseph Wright, Jeremy Bloomer, Joanna Roche – Unanimous approval.**
- The committee discusses the use of funds not expended in the program and their potential rollover for future years.

- Brian Turbitt presents Article 33, which discusses the Special Purpose Stabilization Fund for town employee accrued liabilities, such as vacation and sick leave buyouts.
- Motion to approve Article 33 (Appropriation for Special Purpose Stabilization Fund for Town Employee Accrued Liabilities), made by Peter, Seconded by Chris.

Roll Call Vote: Denice Kronau, Stephen Maury, Peter Schaeffer, Rob Giacchetti, Jill Vieth, Christopher Glowacki, Joseph Wright, Jeremy Bloomer, Joanna Roche – Unanimous approval.

- The committee discusses the distinction between the Special Purpose Stabilization Fund and the general Stabilization Fund.

General Stabilization Fund and Free Cash Appropriation

- Brian Turbitt presents Article 111, which recommends depositing \$1 million from free cash into the general Stabilization Fund and \$1 million into the capital project stabilization fund.
- The committee discusses the use of the stabilization funds for unexpected revenue shortfalls and emergency expenditures.
- Brian Turbitt explains the policy of replenishing the general Stabilization Fund before withdrawing funds.
- The committee discusses the investment of funds in the stabilization funds and their potential use for catastrophic events.
- Motion to approve Article 111 (Appropriation: Stabilization Fund), made by Peter, Seconded by Jeremy.
- **Roll Call Vote: Denice Kronau, Stephen Maury, Peter Schaeffer, Rob Giacchetti, Jill Vieth, Christopher Glowacki, Joseph Wright, Jeremy Bloomer, Joanna Roche – Unanimous approval.**
- Motion to take no action on Article 112 (appropriation free cash), made by Peter, Seconded by Jeremy
- **Roll Call Vote: Denice Kronau, Stephen Maury, Peter Schaeffer, Rob Giacchetti, Jill Vieth, Christopher Glowacki, Joseph Wright, Jeremy Bloomer, Joanna Roche – Unanimous approval.**

School Budget Presentation and Enrollment Trends

- Elizabeth Hallet presents the fiscal year 2024-2025 school budget, starting with enrollment trends over the past 15 years.

- The committee discusses the impact of housing costs and available housing on enrollment, with a projected increase in student numbers.
- Elizabeth Hallet highlights the growth in the English learner population and the need for professional development for teachers working with these students.
- The committee discusses the special education population and the challenges of addressing the needs of students with significant medical needs.

Budget Development and Chapter 70 Contribution

- Martin Anguelov presents the current budget for fiscal year 2024, which is \$37,000,003.26.
- The committee discusses the proposed budget for fiscal year 2025, which is \$40,000,001.78, representing a 2.85% increase.
- Martin Anguelov explains the increase in tuition expenses for out-of-district students and the need to prepare for these costs.
- The committee discusses the historical comparison of per pupil expenditures and the state's Chapter 70 contribution to the foundation budget.

Federal Entitlement Grants and Budget Allocation

- Elizabeth Hallet presents the federal entitlement grants, including the IDEA grant for special education and the ESSER grant for pandemic-related expenses.
- The committee discusses the impact of the Esser grant on professional development and the need to plan for its expiration in September 2024.
- Elizabeth Hallet explains the allocation of federal grants to support special education, social-economic needs, teacher recruitment, and English learners.
- The committee discusses the distribution of the budget among the schools, central office, facilities, athletics, and technology departments.

Discussion on Special Education and English Learner Support

- The committee discusses the percentage of the budget allocated to special education and English learners, which is approximately 25% and 10%, respectively.
- Elizabeth Hallet explains the overlap between special education and English learners and the need for professional development for teachers.
- The committee discusses the impact of the employment shortage on the provision of TAs for students with IEPs.

- The committee emphasizes the importance of meeting the needs of special education students and the challenges of the current employment market.

Finance Committee Meeting Overview

- Elizabeth Hallet discusses the healthy state of the program, noting minimal additional requests for fields and equipment.
- Martin Anguelov explains the athletic program's financial sustainability, including equipment purchases and transportation costs.
- Jeremy Bloomer and Stephen Maury discuss the FY 2025 budget and the breakdown of spending on sports.
- Elizabeth Hallet highlights the importance of coaching stipends and the collective bargaining agreement with teachers.

Coaching Stipends and Budget Breakdown

- Martin Anguelov provides detailed budget figures for high school and middle school coaching stipends.
- Elizabeth Hallet emphasizes the importance of coaching stipends in the overall budget and the collective bargaining agreement.
- Jeremy Bloomer questions the percentage of the budget allocated to sports and compares it to other school districts.
- Martin Anguelov explains the operating expense and payroll breakdown, including transportation and utility costs.

Community School Revenue and Budget Planning

- Martin Anguelov discusses the Community School revenue breakdown, including gifts and donations and participant fees.
- Elizabeth Hallet outlines the budget planning process, focusing on district and school goals, special education, and English learners.
- The importance of federal and state funding, as well as utility expenses, is highlighted.
- Elizabeth Hallet mentions the need for additional technology upgrades and professional development for academic initiatives.

Mental Health and Student Well-being

- Jeremy Bloomer inquires about the impact of COVID-19 on student mental health and the need for additional resources.

- Elizabeth Hallet describes the mental health crisis and the challenges in finding appropriate providers.
- The role of programs like Fair Winds and off-island initiatives in supporting students is discussed.
- Elizabeth Hallet emphasizes the need for year-round housing for staff to retain teachers and improve retention rates.

Teacher and TA Staffing Issues

- Joanna Roche raises concerns about the high turnover rate of new teachers and the lack of TAs in special education classes.
- Elizabeth Hallet acknowledges the challenges and mentions ongoing negotiations with TAs.
- The importance of meeting IEP requirements and the need for careful utilization of TAs is discussed.
- Joanna Roche urges the administration to ensure that surveys on student health and wellness are administered and analyzed.

Capital Program Committee and Facilities Funding

- Christopher Glowacki questions the negative recommendation from the Capital Program Committee on the facilities fund.
- Martin Angelov explains the decision to withdraw the request due to the lack of a complete project plan.
- The availability of funds for specific projects, such as the tennis courts and baseball field, is mentioned.
- The need for a comprehensive plan for the athletic complex is emphasized.

Per Pupil Expenditure and Budget Growth

- Stephen Maury highlights the negative real growth in per pupil expenditures and the impact of inflation.
- Martin Angelov explains the conservative budget approach and the challenges in hiring due to increased tuition costs at residential schools.
- The importance of retaining high-quality teachers and the impact of housing on staff retention is discussed.
- Elizabeth Hallet mentions the need for new schools with updated technology and infrastructure to meet future needs.

Final Remarks and Questions

- Stephen Maury emphasizes the need for a budget that reflects the community's investment in schools.
- Jeremy Bloomer encourages the school administration to think about the long-term impact of budget decisions.
- Joseph Wright and Peter Schaeffer discuss the challenges of housing and the need for better retention of teachers.
- Elizabeth Hallet and Martin Anguelov reiterate the importance of addressing housing and retention issues to improve the quality of education.
- Motion to adjourn the meeting, moved by Jill, seconded by Peter.
- **Roll Call Vote: Denice Kronau, Stephen Maury, Peter Schaeffer, Rob Giacchetti, Jill Vieth, Christopher Glowacki, Jeremy Bloomer– Unanimous approval.**