



## Town of Nantucket Finance Committee

### February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Minutes

#### REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| Staff:             | Brian Turbitt, Finance Director, Steven Hunter, Financial Analyst, Libby Gibson, Town Manager, Jody Kasper, Police Chief, Amy Baxter, Licensing Admin, Elizabeth Hallet, School Superintendent, Martin Anguelov, School Chief Financial Officer, Stephanie Hoban, Director of Education Technology, Alicia Graziadei, Executive Director Community School, |
| Attending Members: | Denice Kronau, Chair, Peter Schaeffer, Joseph Wright, Jill Vieth, Stephen Maury, Jeremy Bloomer, Chris Glowacki, Rob Giacchetti, Joanna Roche                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Absent Members:    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

#### Approval of Agenda and Public Comment

- Stephen Maury calls the Finance Committee meeting to order and asks for approval of the agenda.
- A motion to approve the agenda is made by Jeremy, seconded by Jill. **Roll call vote: Jeremy Aye, Joe Aye, Peter Aye, Chris Aye, Denice Aye, Jill Aye, Rob Aye, Joanna Aye, Stephen Aye. Passes Unanimously.**
- Stephen Maury opens the meeting for public comment, nobody speaks for public comment.

#### Fiscal Year 2026 School Budget Overview

- Stephen Maury transitions to the next item on the agenda, the review and discussion of the FY 26 School budget.
- Elizabeth Hallet presents the school budget, starting with enrollment trends and historical data.
- The school district has seen a significant increase in the Hispanic population, now making up the highest subgroup percentage.
- The English learner population has also grown, with a slight increase projected for the next year.

#### FY2026 School Budget - Federal and State Funding

- Elizabeth Hallet discusses the school's federal grants, including Title I, II, III, and IV, which amount to \$630,000.
- Joseph Wright inquires about the stability of these grants under the current federal administration.
- Martin Anguelov mentions that recent reimbursement requests for these grants were approved quickly.
- The school district receives funding from Chapter 70, which is based on the foundation budget formula.

### **FY26 School Budget Breakdown and Instructional Focus**

- Elizabeth Hallet presents the school's budget breakdown, highlighting the largest allocations for the high school, CPS, NES, and NIS.
- The school district's instructional focus includes sheltered English immersion, inclusive instruction models, and universal design for learning.
- The budget aims to maintain academic growth, address social-emotional needs, and provide high-quality professional development.
- The school district is not adding new positions but is reallocating positions.

### **School Challenges and Future Needs**

- Elizabeth Hallet discusses the challenges of teacher retention and the impact of housing costs on teachers.
- The school district is exploring potential growth areas for teacher housing to improve retention rates.
- Martin Anguelov highlights the operating expenses as a significant challenge, particularly in repair and maintenance costs.
- The school district is also facing increased special education costs due to rising rates from out-of-district residential schools.

### **Community School and Athletics**

- Joanna Roche inquires about the performance of the Community School and potential fundraising efforts.
- Martin Anguelov explains that the Community School cannot fundraise but relies on grants, gifts, and donations.
- The school district is facing challenges in hiring and retaining staff due to increased competition from other organizations.

- The athletics department is discussed, with a focus on the high participation rate and the need for additional funding.

### **Role of AI in Education**

- Joanna Roche raises the topic of AI and its potential role in education.
- Elizabeth Hallet and Stephanie Hoban discuss the district's efforts to explore AI platforms for educational use.
- The district is forming a committee to evaluate AI tools and ensure responsible and ethical use by students and teachers.
- The importance of digital literacy and understanding plagiarism is emphasized as part of the AI initiative.

### **Funding Challenges and Partnerships**

- Alicia Graziadei discusses the limitations of fundraising due to being a municipal entity, mentions nonprofits like CFN in securing state grants and the need to find new funding opportunities.
- Joanna Roche inquires about potential partnerships to help receive grant money or administer collaborations.
- Alicia Graziadei explains their partnerships with Nantucket Education Trust and Sherborne Commons for specific grants, using the Memory Cafe program as an example.
- Stephen Maury opens the floor for further questions from committee members.

### **Preparing for Future Generations**

- Jeremy Bloomer asks about the cost of setting up new fields for vocational programs like woodworking and metal shops.
- Elizabeth Hallet explains the high cost of cutting-edge technology for vocational programs, using a 3D hologram for nursing programs as an example.
- Elizabeth Hallet mentions the popularity of vocational programs like woodworking and automotive classes, and the need for more space in new or renovated buildings.
- Jeremy Bloomer encourages thinking big and exploring new technologies and careers.

### **Private Sector Funding and Support**

- Stephen Maury asks how the school taps into private sector funding, given the limitations of fundraising as a 501(c)(3) entity.

- Elizabeth Hallet explains that the Friends of Nantucket Public Schools support teacher grants and programming, but not private sector funding.
- Elizabeth Hallet mentions the renovation of the field house funded by private donors.
- Martin Anguelov adds that private donors offset costs for specific positions like oceanography.
- Stephen Maury thanks everyone who presented on behalf of the school.

### **Review of Articles 21 and 22 County Appropriations**

- Stephen Maury introduces Articles 21 and 22 mentioning they are companion articles for the FY2026 County Budget.
- Brian Turbitt explains Article 21 is the appropriation for the County Assessment of \$240,605.
- Motion to adopt Article 21 (Appropriation: County Assessment) is made by Joe, seconded by Jeremy. **Roll call vote: Joe Aye, Peter Aye, Chris Aye, Denise Aye, Rob Aye, Joanna Aye, Jeremy Aye, Jill Aye, Stephen Aye. Passes Unanimously.**
- Brian Turbitt explains Article 22 is only needed if there was a disagreement between the County Commissioner and County Review Finance Committee on the FY26 County Budget.
- Motion to take no action Article 22 (Appropriation: Finalizing FY2026 County Budget) is made by Joe, seconded by Jill. **Roll call vote: Joe Aye, Peter Aye, Chris Aye, Denise Aye, Rob Aye, Joanna Aye, Jeremy Aye, Jill Aye, Stephen Aye. Passes Unanimously.**

### **Overview of Article 72 - Bylaw Amendment: Car Rental Agencies, Registration of**

- Stephen Maury introduces Article 72 the bylaw amendment regarding rental agencies' registration and medallion system.
- Brian Riley explains the proposed changes to address issues with unused medallions and peer-to-peer car sharing platforms like Turo.
- Amy Baxter discusses the goal of modernizing the bylaw to include peer-to-peer rentals and provide the Select Board with more active management options.
- Stephen Maury clarifies that the bylaw would apply to individuals renting one vehicle, not just businesses.

### **Article 72 - Enforcement and Compliance Challenges**

- Rob Giacchetti raises concerns about enforcement and compliance, particularly during peak summer months.

- Jody Kasper explains the challenges of enforcing the bylaw, including the difficulty of stopping motor vehicles and accessing private property.
- Amy Baxter mentions the potential consequences of violating the bylaw, including fines and the possibility of license suspension or removal.
- Stephen Maury and other committee members discuss the need for accurate data on the number of cars rented through Turo and the challenges of enforcement.

#### **Article 72 - Debate on Peer-to-Peer Car Rentals**

- Steven Cohen argues that peer-to-peer car rentals should be treated differently from traditional car rental companies.
- Steven Cohen suggests that the Select Board should authorize regulations for peer-to-peer car rentals pending a study committee.
- Avery Topel represents Nantucket Rent a Car and Affordable Rentals, supporting the inclusion of peer-to-peer services in the rental regulations but expressing concerns about the annual renewal requirement and transferability of medallions.
- The discussion highlights the need for accurate data on the number of cars rented through Turo and the potential impact of new regulations on the rental market.

#### **Article 72 - Public Comments and Final Considerations**

- Mack Velle shares his personal experience with renting out his car on Turo, emphasizing the financial benefits for island residents.
- The committee members discuss the potential impact of new regulations on the rental market and the need for accurate data to inform their decisions.
- Stephen Maury opens the floor for final comments and motions, with Jeremy Bloomer and Joseph Wright moving to not adopt the bylaw amendment.

#### **Article 72 - Discussion on Motion**

- Stephen Maury continues the discussion on the motion for Article 72, noting a motion and a second has been made.
- Christopher Glowacki clarifies the legal status of peer-to-peer rentals if the bylaw is not adopted.
- Libby Gibson and Brian Riley discuss the gray area of enforcement and the practicality of regulating peer-to-peer rentals.

#### **Article 72 - Clarification on Chapter 58 and Enforcement Issues**

- Christopher Glowacki emphasizes the clear language of Chapter 58 regarding leasing without a sticker.
- Brian Riley compares the situation to the regulation of Uber and Lyft, highlighting the practical challenges of enforcement.
- Stephen Maury expresses discomfort with not codifying the bylaw and suggests collecting data on Turo usage.
- Jeremy Bloomer mentions the tourist council's claim of 350 users on Nantucket, while Rob Giacchetti adds that some users rent multiple cars.

#### **Article 72 - Ambiguity in Business Definition and Select Board Involvement**

- Libby Gibson discusses the ambiguity of defining a business for Turo users and mentions consulting Select Board members.
- Stephen Maury suggests waiting for Select Board members to discuss the motion further.
- Christopher Glowacki points out that Chapter 58 does not leave the definition of a person ambiguous.
- Joseph Wright and Jeremy Bloomer agree to withdraw the motion until the Select Board can be present to discuss it.

#### **Postponement of Articles and Meeting Adjournment**

- Denice Kronau and Jill Vieth discuss postponing Articles 72, 73, and 74 due to the length of the meeting.
- Denice Kronau notes that future meetings might also run long, and postponing these articles is a good idea.
- Stephen Maury confirms the next meeting date and asks for a motion to Adjourn.
- Motion to Adjourn made by Joe, seconded by Peter. **Roll call vote: Denice Aye, Jeremy Aye, Joe Aye, Peter Aye, Chris Aye, Jill Aye, Rob Aye, Joanna Aye, Stephen Aye. Passes Unanimously.**