

Truro FINCOM Minutes September 12, 2023

Members Present: Robert Panessiti, Chair; Kristen Roberts; Raphael Richter; Michael Fee; Lori Meads, Clerk

Others Present: Darrin Tangeman, Town Manager; Kelly Clark, Asst Town Manager; Alex Lessin, Finance Director; Sue Areson, Select Board liason.

The meeting was called to order at 9 AM

Mr. Fee made a motion to table the minutes of September, seconded by Kristen Roberts
Voted 5-0-0

Ms. Clark began an overview of the Financial Articles on the Warrant for Special Town Meeting.

The following Articles were discussed.

-A recommendation to authorize borrowing authority of \$1.4MM for the Truro Central School HVAC system

Ms Roberts asked if there was any discussion around solar panels and whether or not the Select Board would be looking for our vote as guidance on these Articles.

The Committee deferred voting until the September 22nd, schedule meeting in anticipation of some clarification.

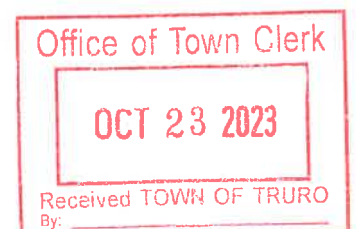
-Borrowing Authorization for Engineering Study and Construction of the Publics Works Facility
-Borrowing Authority for the Engineering of the Public Works Facility

Mr. Richter expressed his concern that Article concerning the anticipated total project cost is not a good idea given other agenda items for Special Town Meeting. He also stated that he believed there needed to be some additional education provided to the community and would like to see an effort made to regionalize the project. That this would be more appropriate for annual Town Meeting. The Chair asked if Mr. Richter had the same concerns around the \$3.5MM engineering study request, he confirmed that he did.

Town Manager Tangeman stated that there has not been any interest in regionalizing this effort on the part of Provincetown, efforts have been made to engage them.

Mr. Richter thanked the Town Manager for his comments but remarked he would like to see more of an effort made since it would appear that the voters in either community do not support such a large expense.

A vote on these two Articles was deferred until 9/22.



Citizen Petitioned Articles were presented by Ms. Clark and discussed.

Ms. Clark stated that the SB was working on an alternative Article to "Senior Pass" citizens Article.

-Establishment of a second Walsh Property Committee

Mr. Fee asked if there were legal concerns from town counsel regarding the Walsh Property Article and whether or not it was appropriate to be voted at town meeting. Ms. Clark shared comments from counsel stating that there are some issues with language and definitions that need to clarify authority and role. Mr. Fee followed up asking if in town staffs view moving forward with a second advisory committee was in the town's best interest. Mr. Tangeman responded that he didn't want to express staff's opinion at this time since they were still having discussions.

Ms. Meads asked if the current Walsh Committee currently had a full compliment. Ms. Clark responded that the full body of 11 members and 2 alternates was intact with terms set to expire with the conclusion of Special Town Meeting. Ms. Mead stated she was concerned about Committee turn over and continuity. Mr. Tangeman believes there will be at least several members that will apply for the second appointment.

Ms. Areson clarified that Paul Witoski and Fred Gechter remained on the Walsh Committee having stepped down as Chairs.

The Chair asked for clarification around the Walsh Committee Article and LCPC as a recommendation and what is the Town's commitment to execution? Mr. Tangemen stated that the Walsh committee was established to make recommendations and is not binding. There would be further studies and proposals to enact the actionable items.

Mr Fee stated that he has grave concerns around the authority this article seems grant and its vagary and lack of staff input echoing the comments by Town Council.

-Study Group Article

There was no further discussion in anticipation of a vote on 9/22.

-Senior Pass Article

The Chair summarized the Committee's previous comments and that in his opinion he would like to see the Article revisited for the annual Town Meeting. Ms. Areson stated that the SB would be considering it on the 9/19 SB meeting. The Chair recommended that voting on the Article be deferred until 9/22. MS Clark informed the committed that the Town Meeting doesn't have the statutory authority to set fees and town counsel has advised that this article is not in proper legal form. In the past Articles have been suspended or the SB has offered an Article of their own in proper legal form.

-Adoption of MGL ability to levy fines



Ms Clark informed the committee that this would most likely be deferred to annual town meeting and there might be a property acquisition request Article that the FINCOM will be asked to comment.

Transfer Fund Request made by Alex Lessin in the amount of \$19,100, for expenses related to the Walsh Master Plan. Due to an operational oversight funds previously allocated were encumbered and balances overstated resulting in this request. The Chair stated that he has spoken with the town finance department and additional controls have been put in place to avoid this type of error going forward.

A motion for approval was made by Michael Fee and seconded by Lori Meads
Voted 5-0-0

The Chair reminded the committee that we need to elect officers and a member to the human service committee at the meeting on 9/22.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Fee and seconded by Ms. Roberts.
Voted 5-0-0

Respectfully Submitted by Robert Panessiti, Chair

