



Finance and Warrant Committee
Town Hall, Lower Conference Room
Thursday, October 18, 2018

In attendance: Dave Roberts, Cecelia Butler, Kevin Hughes, Beth Pierce, Kevin Preston (Chair), John Heffernan (Vice Chair), Susan Fay, Marty Linderman, Michelle Persson Reilly

Finance and Warrant Committee Agenda

- Public Comment
- Reserve Fund Transfers
- Public Hearing on Warrant Articles 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23 & 24 for 2018 Fall Annual Town meeting
- Old/New Business

Chairman Kevin Preston called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

Public Comment

Chair Preston asked for public comment. There were none from the audience.

Reserve Fund Transfers

Denise Moroney, Dedham Facilities and Maintenance Director, and Sam Rippen, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance for Dedham Public Schools requested that \$100,000 be transferred to cover the cost emergency repairs for electrical equipment originally installed in 1960. When the equipment failed in September it left different portions of the high school without power.

There was discussion of creation of a fund for the schools to utilize to address these types of repairs due to delayed maintenance. Member Dave Roberts noted that there is a plan being developed to address the long-range needs of different facilities.

Vote was called to support the transfer of \$100,000 from reserve funds to pay for electrical repairs at the high school. Vote was unanimous.

Public Hearing on Warrant Articles 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23 & 24 for 2018 Fall Annual Town meeting

Note: the Committee heard presentations about different Warrant Articles. The Committee will vote on whether to support each article at the Thursday, October 25, 2018 meeting.

Article 15

Russ Poole, Chair of the Bylaw Review Committee, joined Andrea Terkelsen, Director of Finance for Dedham, to present Article 15 which would re-authorize a spending limit for a revolving fund and make some adjustments.

Article 16

Jim MacDonald, Chair of the Board of Selectmen, presented Article 16 which would provide a means for neighbors to get assistance from the town to address run-down or poorly maintained properties that impact health, safety and/or property values in a neighborhood. He clarified this is different from the Attorney General's abandoned property program and the language was developed with Town Counsel to ensure it was legal.

Various questions were asked to clarify different definitions. The person filing the complaint would be noted in public records and the town would determine blight.

Chairman Preston noted that rarely does a homeowner intentionally allow their home to fall into disrepair and it can be caused by mental health, illness, poverty or other issues. It is good that the article ties the concerns to policy. For instance concerns about overgrown vegetation should be focused on public health and not that a neighbor does not like a particular vine in a garden.

Board of Selectmen Chair MacDonald noted the proposed language allows for discretion by town officials to fine a homeowner or offer assistance to maintain the property.

An audience member asked if the Historic Commission or a developer could file a complaint under this proposal and Board of Selectmen Chair MacDonald said they can not. The language only allows for abutting neighbors or those diagonal from the property to complain.

Article 17

Nancy Baker, Town Assistant Manager, said the Chief of Police asked that the proposed article be indefinitely postponed (IP).

Article 18

Bylaw Committee Member Georganna Woods spoke on behalf of the chair that Article 18 corrects a typographical error from 2013.

Article 19

Bylaw Committee Chair Poole explained that Article 19 regards the composition of the Bylaw Review Committee. It would remove specifying district chairs as members and broaden membership to Town Meeting members.

Article 22

Town Meeting members Margaret Adams and Allison Staton presented Article 22 to the Committee to change Board of Selectmen to Select Board. T.M. member Adams explained the impetus for the article was her own daughter asking why the name "Board of Selectmen" had the word "men" in the title and why were women not mentioned. She explained that changing the name would allow girls and boys to know that both men and women can be on Dedham's highest board.

T.M. member Staton mentioned that of all the boards, commissions and committees in Dedham, the Board of Selectmen is the only one that lists a gender while all the others have their function or focus in their title. So far over 60 towns and cities have changed their senior board's name to "Select Board". T.M. member said she had reached out to several communities regarding the cost including Needham which is in the process of changing the name and no town has experienced a significant cost if any to change the name.

Article 23

The petitioner, Town Meeting Member Carmen Dello Iacono, was not in attendance to present Article 23 and it was not discussed.

Article 24

Town Meeting Member Lindsay Barich presented Article 24 to require the town maintain a list of all grants applied for on behalf of the town, either by Town Hall or non-profits. He explained it could be a tab on the town website.

Committee member Roberts asked if this would include the Library which reports to its own Committee and create another level of bureaucracy. Chair Preston asked Assistant Town Manager Baker to clarify.

She explained that all grants are different and per Town Counsel's review this is an operational issue and therefore should not be before Town Meeting.

Chair Preston asked how this would impact the Schools and School Committee Chair Steve Bilafir from the audience said he was not sure how this would impact schools.

Chair Preston asked if this would include a non-profit like the Boy Scouts trying to improve a public space. Member Michelle Reilly noted that are many non-profits working in Town that do work that could be considered for the benefit of the town. Committee members expressed concern that the language was too broad.

T.M. member Barich noted the intent of the Article was to allow for more transparency regarding grants in town.

Old/New Business

Town Manager Jim Kern spoke about Article 5 on the Fall Warrant to purchase 10 Bryant Street to allow for 16 more parking spaces as part of the municipal campus. He said the property can be purchased in the low \$300's.

Committee member Susan Fey asked how much it costs to develop parking spots and Town Manager Kern replied about \$20,000 per space. Committee Member Fey requested that some green space be included in the design.

Discussion ensued about peak parking times and could it be possible to utilize existing parking lots by Papa Gino's or Gonzalez Field and have visitors walk to the campus.

Chairman Preston said the next meeting would be October 25 at 6:30.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:29pm.

Notes taken by Allison Staton

Notes reviewed by Heather Springer

Keywords: Warrant and Finance, Article, Budget,

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