



**TOWN OF NAHANT
Advisory and Finance Committee**

Members

Robert Vanderslice, Acting Chair
Barbara Beatty
DeWitt Brown
Dana Sheehan
Julie Tarmy
Deborah Warren
Judy Zahora

Tuesday September 14, 2021 by ZOOM

FinCom Members Present: Vanderslice, Brown, Tarmy, Beatty, Zahora, Sheehan, Warren

Others present: A. Barletta, M. Cullinan, K. Marden

FinCom Meeting called to order: 6:31 pm

Approval of minutes: Motion made by J. Tarmy to approve minutes of May 15, 2021, seconded by Zahora, unanimous approval; motion made by Tarmy to approve minutes of September 1, 2021, combined meeting of FinCom/BOS, seconded by Beatty, unanimous approval.

Motion made by Beatty to recommend this W/S article, seconded by Zahora. Discussion on Sewer article for special town meeting; what will be needed for the book; town hall staff will assist where needed. Barletta was kind enough to do most of the legwork.

RV: Any questions

RV: shared his screen on what is put together for the warrant so far.

Discussion on order of warrant book.

RV: This will impact taxpayer, not on consumer?

AB: essentially override that floats on top of tax bill.

RV: How do we determine amount of debt shift?

AB: BOS vote.

MC: 2 ½% levy.

Discussion on how the W/S borrowing/debt shift works.

MC: Debt shift is definitely something to talk about as we do into next year budget meetings. If we don't shift water/sewer rates would go sky high. RE taxes can be written off. Non-profits don't pay their share of this debt.

AB: Asked Sheila Hambleton to pull all properties that pay utilities but not taxes. These would be mostly Churches and Northeastern. They should cover some of this cost. In future, talk about Rate Structure as well as tiered cost structure. No debt on this article until 2023. This is about revenue, not spending.

JZ: Question we are going to get - Why cost to me? Why does Northeastern not pay more?

AB: How we raise funds to pay debt is not answered by this article.

JZ: Need to be prepared for this question.

Discussion on whether to include source of funds in book:

- Have answer ready for why this can't be based on usage
- By shifting to RE tax, it's a write-off.
- W/S comes from wallet, not with your mortgage, plus w/s rates are already going up



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MC: Reminder that this is a healthy debate to have in the future. (MC had to leave mtg here)

BB: Add average to 1st bullet point in article

DW: are we in agreement on the 'four compelling reasons' in article?

JT: Should we mention that this is under a DEP order?

BB/DW/JZ

AB: Yes, under a Mass DEP Administrative Consent Order

DS: Does the appendix walk us through Debt shift?

AB: This is just sewer.

AB: open to edits

DW/JZ/BB/JT agreed cover letter was good

Open discussion on writing verbiage for 'compelling reasons.' Went through some edits.

D. Sheehan joined the meeting and AB consented to giving a brief description.

AB: For town meeting: Masks will be required; board and committee members will sit on stage; Cataldo will be available before meeting day to do testing – take advantage; only one article, should be short. We will not have electronic voting. J. Tarmy will read the motion at the meeting as this was her original article at the May Town Meeting.

Vote taken on the motion to recommend: Zahora, Beatty, Warren, Tarmy, Vanderslice – Yays; Sheehan, yay with statement that we are moving too fast; Brown, no. motion passes 6/1.

AB: In response to Sheehan's concern. It is not intended to do business this way. Clean Water, to whom we are applying for funds, meeting on October third. If you back up dates to allow time for a meeting before October third, we need to move quickly.

BB: Understand the concern.

AB: That's why we did the joint meeting on Sept 1st. The last thing I want is a special town meeting, especially with COVID #s going up.

Discussed concerns about indoor meeting; we only need 75 people.

RV will email copy of completed warrant to AB. When AB gets final version, he will send to printer.

DW: Likes to have the letter first.

Article needs to have 2/3 vote to pass.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Zahora, seconded by Tarmy. Unanimous Ayes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.