



## TOWN OF NAHANT Advisory and Finance Committee

## Members

Robert Vanderslice, Chair
Julie Tarmy, Secretary
Peter Barba
Joy Bartlett
Barbara Beatty
Dan McMackin
Dana Sheehan
Deborah Warren
Judy Zahora

Meeting Minutes Thursday, March 9, 2023 via Zoom.

Members Present: Barba, Beatty, Bartlett, McMackin(late), Sheehan, Tarmy, Vanderslice,

Members Absent: Warren, Zahora

Others Present: J. Lewis, A. Nieto, Z. Taylor, A. Barletta, 617-365-0149

Called to order at 6:34 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Tarmy to approve minutes of February 28, 2023; second by Beatty; unanimously approved.

Motion by Tarmy to accept March 2, 2028 minutes as amended to show proper attendance, seconded by Beatty; four Ayes, Sheehan abstains.

**DPW budget** presented by Z. Taylor. Barletta shared screen to show budget, pg 17 of FinCom budget book. DPW budget differs from other departments has it has annual repeated costs. Addition funds for 'unforeseen' expenditures such as W/S, repairs, etc. For FY24 there is:

- 6.8% decrease in budget, in part due to funding capital needs with ARPA and free cash
- Request for two new large dump trucks in a Warrant Article; ½ cost from W/S enterprise and ½ from ARPA.
- Still negotiation salaries, 2% increase, but confident #s in budget will reflect first year.
- Water meters will need to be replaced soon.
- New trash carts approximately \$80K

Brief discussion on funding for disastrous ocean events. Increased "professional services" includes design grants for Forty Steps and Coastal Engineer. \$500K approved last year to match grants. Having this line item increased helps to speed up the application process for grants.

Brief discussion on W/S projects. Completion of Lynnway project, with exception of final paving. Need to start repaying in FY24. Next project will be Ward Road pumping station. Design phase substantially completed. Will meet with DEP this week. Water project for Fox Hill and Emerald Roads will hopefully be done over this summer.

Brief discussion on work being done at Bailey' Hill. Able to reuse posts from original fence along Trimountain Road. Focusing tree work right now on pruning to retain mature trees. New plantings will begin at Golf Course with Willow trees – with passage of CPC article.

Brief discussion on Debt Shift. Principal and interest payments on W/S due in FY24. Brief discussion on W/S capital fees for entities in town that do not pay taxes

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A.Barletta stated that town will be looking to coming to FinCom for FY25 to facilitate meter purchase and installation. Also, **rubbish** assessment goes up 4% every year. Waste management is feeling same impact as everyone else. Considering uniform trash carts, similar to recycling. Installing a trash compactor at DPW instead of the current dumpsters. Considering change in billing – include 1/3 rubbish bill with water bills to spread out the cost burden to residents. Composting has a large impact on tonnage, food waste in trash adds a lot to weight.

WARRANT: future capital needs already planned:

- \$60 \$70K transfer for snow and ice
- W/S Article increase to \$50K
- Compost Article 9 decrease to \$30K
- Paving Article 15 no change
- Chapter 90 Paving Article 20 slight decrease
- Over next couple of years Sidewalks, curbs, and I/I needs
- Article 17 last year Town will be required to put this on the Warrant

Brief discussion on Stabilization fund and the intent to continue to increase the amount in this account, which has been the desire of FinCom for years. Wonderful that this has been accomplished under the current Administration.

Brief discussion on scheduling going forward. Warrant completion, get cover letter written, get recommendations written, Short Term Rental Planning Board meetings coming up — recommended members of FinCom try to attend for informational puprposes. Not sure how long Zoom meetings will be allowed.

Public Forum: Jeff Lewis, big proponent of revenues, concerned about debt increasing since 2017. Suggested DPW W/S should be called W/S/Storm Water Management, believes W/S fees are funding Storm Water Management. Town needs to do the best with revenue.

RV: Town expenses are understated. In Commercial accounting there is depreciation, not reflected in Government bookkeeping.

Motion by Barba to adjourn the meeting; second by Sheehan; unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted and approved by Tarmy on March 21, 2023

Submitted to Clerk by Julie Tarmy on March 23, 2023.