

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**IPSWICH TOWN HALL, ROOM A**  
**25 Green Street**  
**TUESDAY, April 12, 2016, 7:00 PM**  
**Accepted July 12, 2016**

**FINCOM Members in Attendance:** Mitch Feldman, Chairman, Kevin Murphy, Walt Hartford, Rob White, Richard Howard, Michael Schaaf, and Jamie Fay. Janice Clements Skelton at 7:27 pm, and Ingrid Miles arrived at 7:37 pm

Call to order at 7:10 pm with 7 (seven) members present. The Chair announced that ICAM was recording, and Cindy Quinn, the Minutes Secretary, was present.

**Others in Attendance:** Tom Murphy (Town Moderator), Robin Crosbie (Town Manager), School Committee members Carl Nylen and Hugh O’Flynn, Police Chief Paul Nikas, BOS Charlie Surpitski, Nishan Mootafian, and Ed Rauscher, Glenn Gibbs (Planning & Development Dir.), Rick Clarke (DPW Director), and Stefanie Frontiero (Interim Town Acct.).

**Abbreviations used:** FINCOM Finance Committee, BOS Board of Selectmen, TM Town Manager, SC School Committee, ATM Annual Town Meeting, ELD Electric Light Department, STM Special Town Meeting

**Documents used:**

- Agenda 04/12/16
- Town Warrant with Motions from R. Crosbie, 20 pages
- Proposed Styrofoam and Plastic Bag Regulations from C. Howe.
- PowerPoint on Styrofoam and Plastic Bag Regulations
- Letter to the FinCom on Article 20 from S. Boeri by email.
- PowerPoint on Climate Action Plan, Article 21 from C. Britt
- Easement Map Hillside Dr., Article 25 from R. Kallman, 1 page
- Maintenance List for Schools from B. Hodge

**CITIZEN QUERIES:** there were no citizen inquiries.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES:** there were no minutes.

**WARRANT ARTICLE 12**

High School teacher, Lori Lafrance, introduced the High School students to explain the article. Charlotte Howe described the plan to ban Styrofoam items and how most businesses do not use Styrofoam. After she reviewed the alternatives, Charlotte went over the results, which include a low economic impact, a cleaner town, and healthier people.

For the plastic bag part of the article, Jillian Wall talked about the other 18 towns with a ban. Claire Warner mentioned the grace period, reusable bags, and charging for paper bags, while trash bags and dry cleaning bags would be allowed. Some other areas she covered consisted of fines, enforcement, low economic impact, and environmental benefits to the community. If ATM supports, the Attorney General must approve this, and then there is a one-year wait before implementation.

Some of the stores already do this elsewhere. J. Skelton arrived. Dave Benedix, Recycling Chairman, will provide information on the volume of plastic bags to solid waste. The ban on Styrofoam is for takeout and not for grocery stores.

A motion to support Article 12 was made and seconded; the vote was 8-0.

### **WARRANT ARTICLE 26**

Phil Goguen of Kingfisher Rd. reported on the electronic voting proposal. There is no cost the trial, but the cost varies from \$17,000-\$20,000 per use. I. Miles came in. As a member of the committee formed for this, Michael noted some of the towns that are using this. Last March, Phil presented this to the BOS and made some claims about the FinCom violating the OML and inaccurate information in Michael's packet. Michael apologized that the FinCom received the report before the BOS and summarized some of the findings.

As well as the benefits of privacy and accuracy, there are no metrics for voting devices nor do they hasten the pace. Some disadvantages are the price and the set up time and wiring needed. During this 2-day period, the room to be utilized is unavailable. Town Moderator Tom Murphy added information from the Massachusetts Moderator's Association about the expense, and he will forward this to the FinCom. Even though the trial run has no cost, there was some concern about the costs and the downtime.

J. Fay made a motion, and J. Skelton seconded, to support Article 26. The vote was 6-3, and the motion carries.

### **WARRANT ARTICLES 15 & 16**

The intent of the first article, submitted by K. J. Kloub who was not present, is to move ATM to the second Saturday of May, while article 16 would move the STM to a Saturday. Even though there may be no cost changes, the Town Moderator pointed out that towns that have tried this also moved their town meeting earlier in the year to avoid conflicts with activities and sports. Some of the towns that attempted this move it back to a weekday, and there would be conflicts in some months that have school vacation. There were no metrics available.

Jamie made a motion to oppose Article 15, and Richard seconded; the vote was 9-0.

It was moved and seconded to oppose Article 16. The vote was unanimous.

### **WARRANT ARTICLE 20**

S. Boeri, who proposed the article on discharge of firearms, was unable to be present, so Mitch read her letter. Chief Nikas outlined Class A and B licenses and recent changes to the State gun laws. Two amendments will be put forward at Town Meeting to cover hunters and not outlaw hunting.

There was some discussion on the law and the amendments. The State Police are authorized to license shooting ranges. While FinCom was considering making a recommendation at ATM, Tom went on to say how the main motion was changing with the amendment. It would be illegal to set up a shooting range on one's property without State Police approval.

A motion to support Article 20 Part A as amended and striking Part B was made. There was a second, and the vote was 6-3 in favor.

**WARRANT ARTICLE 21**

Mike Johnson and Carolyn Britt addressed this article for a climate change committee and fossil fuel investments in the Essex County Retirement System. She went through the charges for the committee and the results of the investments of the Town pension funds. Fourteen other towns have divested from oil and gas.

Mike spoke to the Climate Action Plan (CAP), which started in 2006, and their resolutions, emission targets, implementation plan, and progress reports. The BOS adopted the plan in 2011. Some of the recommendations consist of hiring an energy conservation director, an education coordinator, having an energy team, and auditing and tracking energy usage and savings. By reinvigorating the committee, he hopes to implement the goals and objectives and protect the investment of the employees.

*R. Howard moved to support Article 21, and M. Schaaf seconded.* Town Manager, Robin Crosbie, clarified that the Town energy use has declined at Town Hall and has helped it become more pedestrian and bicycle friendly. There are more fuel-efficient vehicles. Concerning the fuel investments, Mitch maintained that one has to consider the long term, but M. Johnson recommended an evaluation. There was a discussion on the investment plan, what ELD is doing with the CAP, and the ELD report.

Jamie suggested dividing the article into the CAP and the investment pieces. *Jamie amended the motion to split the Article into two parts, and Richard seconded.* The article was split: four whereas sections plus one therefore section on investments became a new piece to recommend to the Essex Retirement Committee, and the remaining parts would be the Climate Action Committee. *The vote on the amendment was 7-2.*

The next motion was the main one (with investments and Climate Action Committee separated) as amended. *There was a motion to support the amended Article 21 and a second. Vote was 4-5, and this motion failed.*

*A motion on the Climate Action Committee was made and seconded. The vote was unanimous.*

**WARRANT ARTICLE 25**

Richard Kallman gave the history of 12 Hillside Rd. and adjacent town owned property. The owners need access, and they have been taxed for this property for over 50 years. There was a discussion on easement, parking, access, safety, fence, and title issues.

*There was a motion to support Article 25. It was seconded, and the vote was 7-2.*

**WARRANT ARTICLE 1-11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, and 24**

Article 24 involves infrastructure improvements to Brown Square/Soffron Lane, and Rick Clarke, DPW Director, gave an overview of the paving the Town would do and the handicap access that the Brewery would furnish. *A motion to support Article 24 was made and seconded; the vote was unanimous 9-0.*

In Article 23, amending the Animal Control Bylaws would make the fines more appropriate, according to Chief Nikas. He talked about some of the metrics. *K. Murphy moved to recommend Article 23, and I.Miles seconded; the vote was unanimous.*

Rick Clarke expanded on the purpose for Article 17 to set up an enterprise fund for sanitation, solid waste and recycling using \$65,000 from the sale of overthrow bags and recycling. This

would support the enforcement of the upcoming bylaw. Similar to the waterways fund, this one would be in the DPW department where it is expended. There was a conversation about the paid coordinator, dog waste, and keeping this in the current budget.

There was a motion to support Article 17 and a second. Dave Benedix, 68 East St. and the Chair of the Recycling Committee, reminded the FinCom about the plan to remove more trash so that the parks remain green. Janice commented about this fund moving in the wrong direction. The vote was 4-5. The motion failed

### **Executive Session**

A motion was made that the Finance Committee enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to return to open session. There was a second. Chairman M. Feldman stated that the executive session would be for collective bargaining. Discussion of collective bargaining in open session may be detrimental to the bargaining position of and the Town of Ipswich. The meeting will reconvene in open session. Roll call vote: I. Miles, yes; K. Murphy, yes; W. Hartford, yes; R. White, yes; R. Howard, yes; M. Feldman, yes; M. Schaaf, yes; J. Clements-Skelton, yes; and J. Fay, yes. The vote was unanimous.

I. Miles had left at 10:18 pm. The Fincom returned to open session at 10:55 pm by roll call vote.

A motion to approve Article 1 was made and seconded; the vote was unanimous. (8-0) J. Clements-Skelton had left the meeting at 10:57 pm.

There was a motion to support Article 2, the FinCom election. It was seconded, and the vote was unanimous. (7-0)

It was moved and seconded to support Article 3 for approximately \$76,000 with final numbers to be added by ATM. There was a discussion on some of the funds for the educational stabilization fund. The vote was 5-2, and the motion carried.

There was a motion, and a second, to postpone Article 4, Prior Year Unpaid Bills, indefinitely. The vote was 7-0.

It was moved and seconded to indefinitely postpone Article 5, FY 2016 Municipal Budget Amendments, and the vote was unanimous.

There was a motion to support FY 2017 Municipal Budget in Article 6. It was seconded, and the vote was 7-0.

There was a motion to support Article 7 at \$30,398,177 pending further discussion and a second. There was some discussion on some maintenance issues and the lack of itemization on the work that needs to be done. The FinCom will request a listing with detail. The vote was unanimous. (7-0). This is \$75,000 less than the original request and it could be amended pending further data.

A motion to support Article 8 (\$442,016) was made and seconded. The vote was unanimous.

A motion to recommend Article 9 (\$650,000) for the Whittier Regional High School Budget was made and seconded; the vote was 7-0.

A motion to accept Article 10 (\$430,000) was made and seconded. The final numbers will not be available until the fall. The vote was unanimous.

It was moved and seconded to accept Article 11, the Capital Plan, (\$857,801); the vote was 7-0.

There was a motion to support Article 13 (Turf Field Stabilization Fund). It was seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

A motion to support Article 14 was made and seconded; the vote was 7-0.

A motion to recommend Article 18 (Transfer to the Waterways Improvement Fund) was made and seconded; the vote was unanimous.

There was a motion to support Article 19 (OPEB) at \$250,000 and a second; the vote was 7-0.  
The Town Manager noted that Free Cash would have a balance of \$117,000. By the fall, the Town would know how much the State is returning, the expenses for Essex County Technical Institute, and some other expenses.

There was a motion to recommend Article 22 (Codification of Bylaws). It was seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

**NEW BUSINESS--none**

It was moved, and seconded, to adjourn at 11:37 pm. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by

Cynthia D. Quinn, Minutes Secretary