

**Warrant Committee  
October 30, 2019  
Blute Conference Room**

**Present: George A. Ashur (Chair), Rosemary C. Bouzane, Jonathan Boynton, Erin G. Bradley, Kathleen A. Cassis, Christine J. Gimber, Clinton Graham, Christopher R. Hart, Susannah H. Hegarty, Douglas B. Scibeck, John E. Driscoll, Scott D. Johnson.**

**Absent: Brian Beaupre (Secretary), Brian Foster, Gwendolen Long,**

**Guests: Chase Berkley (Director of Department of Public Works), Kathleen M. O'Donnell (Planning Board Member), Kevin Whiteside (79 Hillside Street), Jason Benzaken (417 Hillside Street).**

**Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.**

**1.) Chairman remarks:**

7:04 p.m. Chair Ashur postpones review and acceptance of last meeting minutes as they are not completed. There are still seven articles for the Warrant Committee to consider this evening.

**2.) Warrant Discussions:**

a.) 7:04 p.m. Ms. Kathleen M. O'Donnell addresses the Warrant Committee. The first article Ms. O'Donnell discusses is the article to establish associate planning board member. The associate planning board member would only take part when a planning board member is ill, out of town, or for any other unforeseen circumstances. The associate planning board member would be part of limited cases, only on special permit cases. The associate planning board member would be appointed and not elected.

7:09 p.m. Clinton Graham enters.

7:10 p.m. Christopher R. Hart enters.

There is some discussion among the Warrant Committee regarding the associate planning board member, whether or not they should be elected or appointed. Ms. O'Donnell noted if the associate planning board member were to be elected the statute would have to change from a five member board to a six member board. The Warrant Committee asked how the associate planning board person will be appointed. Ms. O'Donnell noted that the planning board members will vote on the candidate and will need a 4/5 vote in favor of the member to be appointed.

b.) 7:10 p.m. On a motion from Douglas B. Scibeck, seconded by Erin G. Bradley, the Warrant Committee voted in favor to recommend the article to Town meeting with one member abstaining from the vote.

- c.) 7:11 p.m. The next article the Warrant Committee reviews is the associate planning board members bylaws (the role and responsibility of the associate member). The associate member will be appointed after a 4/5 vote by planning board and serve a 3 year term. The article continues to explain the role the associate planning board member will take. There was little discussion among the Warrant Committee regarding this article.
- d.) 7:14 p.m. On a motion from Scott D. Johnson, seconded by Douglas B. Scibeck, the Warrant Committee voted in favor to recommend the article to Town meeting unanimously.
- e.) 7:14 p.m. The Warrant Committee reviews the planning board article regarding the wetlands. Ms. O'Donnell explained to the Warrant Committee members this article is looking to update the Bylaws. Currently it is incorrect in stating the planning board has any say over wetlands as wetlands are controlled by the state's Conservation Commission. This article is updating the incorrect language. There was very little conversation among the Warrant Committee regarding this article.
- f.) 7:16 p.m. On a motion from Christopher R. Hart, seconded by Kathleen A. Cassis Warrant Committee voted in favor to recommend the article to Town meeting unanimously.
- g.) 7:16 p.m. Chase Berkley reviews the Stormwater Enterprise Fund Appropriation. Mr. Berkley noted that the solid waste contract was finalized after the Annual Town Meeting. The purpose of this article is to adjust the appropriation for yard waste portion of the solid waste cost increase. Originally estimated the cost at \$858,127.00, however, it is now \$1,008,127.00. The Stormwater fees are charged by square footage. Previous charge was \$1.88 per 100 square feet, it will go up to \$2.39 per square feet. The Warrant Committee questioned the increase of cost for yard waste since its disposal is local. Mr. Berkley noted that the increase in cost is based solely on the transportation of disposal of yard waste. The Warrant Committee asked if there were any alternative solutions to the increase in cost for the residents. Mr. Berkley noted that there is a small amount of reserves in the Stormwater Enterprise Fund, and the town is considering using some of the reserve to offset the jump in cost. This would be a onetime use of the reserve money and residents can expect the increase the following year. The Warrant Committee asked Mr. Berkley about the solid waste contract, and Mr. Berkley explained what a small market the solid waste industry is. Mr. Berkley also noted that having the Stormwater Enterprise Fund, (instead of rolling the cost of Stormwater into property taxes) allows the Town to charge properties that are tax exempt, such as Milton Academy, Curry College and Beth Israel Deacons Hospital. The Warrant Committee asked Mr. Berkley what would happen if the Stormwater Enterprise Fund article was voted down at Town Meeting. Mr. Berkley noted that General Funds can subsidize Enterprise Funds, but by law you cannot move Enterprise Funds into

General Funds. The Warrant Committee asked if the money was moved from General Fund to Enterprise Fund would that require a vote by Town Meeting members. Mr. Berkley noted that was a question for Town Counsel.

- h.) 7:32 p.m. On a motion from Christopher R. Hart seconded by Douglas B. Scibeck, Warrant Committee voted in favor to recommend the article to Town meeting unanimously.
- i.) 7:34 p.m. Mr. Berkley discussed the article for Sewer Betterment Appropriation. A betterment is when a group of properties request to join the Town sewer system. Since there is a specific benefit to specific properties, they are charged to join the sewer system instead of the entire community paying for the cost. The homes that chose to connect are given an assessment in which they are allowed to pay back over twenty years. Homes that chose not to connect still pay some assessment, though a lesser amount, because the town sees it as a benefit that didn't exist before. The residents will pay 2/3 the cost of the construction and the town will pay the remaining 1/3. After the construction, the homes will start to pay sewer bills. The Warrant Committee asked if the homes had to pay an Inflow and Infiltration fee. Mr. Berkley noted this is a cost that all new homes or a new subdivide properties have to pay. Homes that chose to connect to the sewer betterment project will not have to pay this onetime fee, however, homes that chose to connect later will have to pay the fee. Mr. Berkley noted that some of the residents contacted the town for the sewer betterment project because of the age of their septic systems and worried the tanks may fail. There is also concern that waste could leak into the brook which connects with the Neponset River.
- j.) 7:43 p.m. On a motion from Christine J. Gimber, seconded by Kathleen A. Cassis, the Warrant Committee voted in favor to recommend the article to Town meeting with one member abstaining from the vote.
- k.) 7:46 p.m. The Warrant Committee reviewed the article amend the Departmental Appropriations Budget. The Warrant Committee members were sent a table from Town Accountant showing where the monies were moved from and to. There was very little discussion among the Warrant Committee members.
- l.) 7:49 p.m. On a motion from Kathleen A. Cassis, seconded by John E. Driscoll, the Warrant Committee voted in favor to recommend the article to Town meeting with one member abstaining from the vote.
- m.) 7:49 p.m. Mr. Whiteside discussed with the Warrant Committee the Citizens' Petition to Amend the Speed Limit on Randolph Ave, Milton. Mr. Whiteside sent the Warrant Committee a memorandum prior to the Warrant Committee meeting. Mr. Whiteside explained that the intention is for the Select Board to get approval for a home rule petition to reduce the speed limit. Chair Ashur presents Mr. Whiteside with the language Town Counsel suggested in lieu of the wording of the Citizen's petition. Mr.

Whiteside asked Mr. Benzaken to join him and read Town Counsel suggested language. Town Counsel feels the article written as is, is not feasible to recommend to Town Meeting. The Warrant Committee and Mr. Whiteside had some discussion about nuances of the petition versus what Town Counsel suggested verbiage. The Warrant Committee also questioned if it's possible to change the language on the citizens petition, considering the citizens signed the petition with specific wording. Mr. Whiteside discusses the citizens petition for reduction of speed and the work that MassDoT has been researching as a solution for Randolph Ave. Mr. Whiteside believes the reduction of speed limit is a good solution until MassDoT work is completed. The Warrant Committee reviewed the timeline for the petition and a realistic date the Legislature would be able to address it.

- n.) 8:10 p.m. On a motion from Douglas B. Scibeck, and seconded by Clinton Graham, the Warrant Committee votes not to recommend the citizen's petition written as is with a 4 yay, 5 nay vote and 1 abstain.
- o.) 8:13 p.m. Chair Ashur asks for volunteers to write comments on the ten articles.

The next Warrant Committee meeting will be on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

- p.) 8:20 p.m. No new business.

8:23 p.m. On a motion from Clinton Graham, seconded by Erin G. Bradley, the meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynne Hoyer

Warrant Committee Clerk