

Minutes of the Meeting of the Truro Finance Committee (By recorded Zoom)

March 28, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 10: 00 a.m.

Present: Robert Panessiti, Alex Marini Lessin, Raphael Richter, Kristen Roberts, Kelly Clark, Trudi Brazil, Paul Wisotzky, and Michael Forgione. Lori Meads was absent.

The Committee discussed the minutes of the meeting on March 21, 2025. Raphael pointed out a typo. Upon motion made by Michael and seconded by Raphael, the minutes were approved unanimously as amended.

The Committee reviewed Warrant Articles.

Alex began with an explanation regarding two minor adjustments to the Omnibus Budget.

Michael moved and Raphael seconded a motion to approve the Warrant Article entitled Article 1: FY2026 Omnibus Budget Appropriation. After discussion the motion passed unanimously.

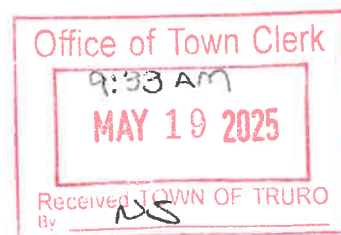
The meeting was interrupted at 10:10 a.m. by a person posting inappropriate audio and visual content. The meeting recessed while security issues were addressed. The meeting recommenced at 10:15 a.m.

Rafael moved and Michael seconded a motion to approve the Warrant Article entitled Article 3, Section 6: Transfer of Funds from Free Cash (Capital Stabilization Fund for Ambulance Rolling Stock \$75,000). Michael Forgione questioned whether this amount should be the subject of a borrowing authorization for a low interest loan. Alex explained that low interest funds were not available for this item. The discussion was deferred to the section dealing with PFAS. After discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Michael moved and Raphael seconded a motion to approve the Warrant Article entitled Article 3, Section 7: Transfer of Funds from Free Cash (Operating Capital Account \$770,000). After discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Michael moved and Raphael seconded a motion to approve the Warrant Article entitled Article 3, Section 11: Transfer of Funds from Free Cash (Town Seal Design Services \$10,000). After discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Michael moved and Raphael seconded a motion to approve the Warrant Article entitled Article 3, Section 12: Transfer of Funds from Free Cash (Zoning By-law Consulting Services \$45,000). After discussion the motion passed unanimously.



Michael moved and Raphael seconded a motion to approve the Warrant Article entitled Article 3, Section 13 :Transfer of Funds from Free Cash (Senior Perks Pilot Program \$60,400). Kelly clarified that this would fund a one-year pilot program to get one full fiscal year data. Bob asked whether Kelly was comfortable so that the program would not be abused. Kelly explained the work staff has put into the program framework. Michael asked whether the pilot program would have any means testing. After discussion the motion failed with three nay votes and one abstention.

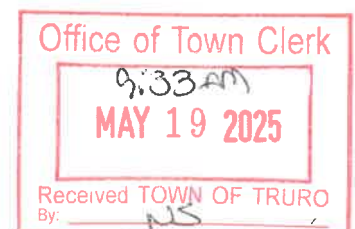
Bob ceded the chair to Raphael at 10:43 a.m. but remained in the meeting.

Michael moved Raphael seconded a motion to approve the Warrant Article entitled Article 3, Section 14: Transfer of Funds from Free Cash (Public Safety Staffing Analysis \$50,000). Kristen asked how such studies work and whether they have succeeded in other towns. Alex and Kelly explained the mechanics and value of independent analysis in this context. After discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Michael moved and Kristen seconded a motion to approve the Warrant Article entitled Article 3, Section 15: Transfer of Funds from Free Cash (Repay FEMA and CARES Act funds \$62,837). Mr. Forgione had submitted a question which Alex addressed previously in the ClearGov portal (Budget Overview). Trudi explained recent communications with state and federal officials regarding the compliance of our expenditures and indications that audits seem unlikely at this stage. After discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Michael moved and Kristen seconded a motion to approve the Warrant Article entitled Article 3, Section 16: Transfer of Funds from Free Cash (Pilot Test on Electronic Voting \$20,000). Kelly explained the background and history of the Article. The Moderator explained his research on the value of allowing the voters to determine whether to move to electronic voting at Town Meeting. Kristen asked whether the devices would be rented, and if so, whether we could share the expense with other towns. Raphael expressed concerns whether the efficiencies gained through electronic voting outweigh the traditional transparencies of Town Meeting voting procedures. Michael Forgione also expressed concerns. After discussion, the two members voted in favor, one opposed, and one abstained.

Michael moved and Kristen seconded a motion to approve a Warrant Article entitled Article 10: Borrowing Authorization for Environmental Remediation at Town Hall Site (\$3,200,000). Alex explained that he would seek state funding from a zero-interest program that would mitigate borrowing costs. Mr. Forgione asked whether the debt could be restructured to accommodate the extended timeline associated with state monitoring requirements. Kelly



and Alex explained that the initial project costs need to be segregated, by regulation, from long term monitoring expenses. After discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Michael moved and Kristen seconded a motion to approve a Warrant Article entitled Article 11: Borrowing Authorization for Pond Road Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements (\$200,000). After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Michael moved and Kristen seconded a motion to approve a Warrant Article entitled Article 12: Borrowing Authorization for Additional Funding for HVAC and Roof Repairs at Truro Central School (\$250,000). Alex explained the background and the motion passed unanimously.

Michael moved and Kristen seconded a motion to approve a Warrant Article entitled Article 13: Borrowing Authorization for Solar Electricity Generation Systems (\$5,000,000). Alex explained the Energy Committee proposal to install solar panels at the landfill. The return on investment, according to Alex, is solid over a twenty-year period, however there may be revenue deficits in the first several years. Several members expressed the need for more information. After discussion the motion was withdrawn.

Michael moved and Kristen seconded a motion to approve a Warrant Article entitled Article 15: Acceptance of Mass. General Law c. 40, section 3, para. 2 (Establish Account for Upkeep and Maintenance of Town Facilities). After an explanation from Alex the motion passed unanimously.

Kelly reported that an Article regarding Beach Fines is under review by Town Counsel. Kelly also described a newly proposed Charter Amendment that the Select Board will discuss next week.

Members discussed a proposed draft letter from the Finance Committee to be included in the Warrant. There were no proposed amendments or revisions. Bob moved and Michael seconded a motion to approve the letter as written subject to revision of any typographical errors.

Bob noted that the Committee is scheduled to meet again on April 1 at 9:00 a.m.

Michael moved and Kristen seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Fee

