

## Truro FINCOM Minutes October 20, 2023

Members Present: Robert Panessiti, Chair; Kristen Roberts; Raphael Richter; Lori Meads, Clerk  
Absent: Michael Fee

Others Present: Darrin Tangeman, Town Manager; Kelly Clark, Asst Town Manager; Alex Lessin, Finance Director; Sue Areson, Select Board liaison; Jarrod Cabral, DPW Director; Trudi Brazil, Town Accountant.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30AM

A motion was made to approve the minutes of September 12th and 22<sup>nd</sup> by Kristen Roberts and seconded by Raphael Richter, approved 3-0-0

Ms Meads joined the meeting at 8:35

Mr Panessiti explained that the Special Town Meeting has been postponed to Thursday Nov 2nd, and that the FINCOM is not expected to be present on Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup>.

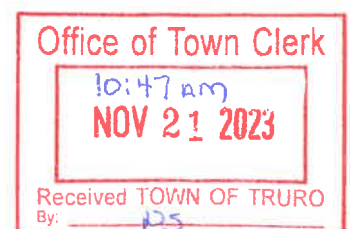
Ms Meads stated she had a conflict on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and asked Town Manager Tangeman if he felt the meeting would be held at that time. Mr Tangeman said that given the number of voter registration challenges that the Town Clerk was required to address, it was more than likely that the Special Town Meeting would be further postponed.

Mr. Panessiti brought to the Committee's attention remarks being made of social media and wanted to clarify comments for Special Town Meeting to be made by the Committee. Discussion was had around Committee members voicing personal opinions whether it be in written form or at public meetings and being mindful of delineating the two.

The Committee was asked how members felt about commenting on the various Articles for consideration. Counsel has advised that if the land use Article fails the other financial Articles, specifically the borrowing authority, can still be considered and passed. There was discussion around the logistics of the \$35million and \$3.5million borrowing authorities.

It was discussed by the Committee that we should establish talking points would be presented around the recommendations:

Mr. Richter felt that if the \$35million Article passes or fails that will determine the message around the \$3.5million request. As a member that voted against it he would be strongly supportive if the \$35million Article fails.



The conversation around the DPW Study Group's proposal should focus on cost and not granular detail which is beyond the scope of the Committee. Mr Richter felt that the increase in cost due to inflation is important for people to understand. In order to avoid delays. Ms Roberts shared that a good example would be to remind people of the delays around the construction of the community Center. She also stated that a number of people have approached her to defend her position as a member of the committee concerning the site and facilities recommendation for the DPW. It would be helpful to have a clear explanation shared at Special Town Meeting for all to see and ask questions. The Committee should state that if we thought there existed a viable plan for \$15million we would support it but there is not. Mr Richter shared that over the past month given information that has come to light that the DPW Study Group has not and is not making a good faith effort to put forth a viable project.

Mr. Cabral shared with the Committee the points he would be making around the various Articles which will help frame our conversation.

Mr Panessiti asked Mr Lessin if the anticipated costs related to the voter registration challenges and Special Town Meeting postponements could be absorbed by the budget or if we should anticipate a need for a Reserve Funds.

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:15am, by Lori Meads and seconded by Kristen Roberts, motion passes 4-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Robert Panessiti, Chair

