



WAYLAND BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

TOWN OF WAYLAND

41 COCHITUATE ROAD, Wayland, Massachusetts 01778-2697

To: Wayland Select Board

May 22, 2018

Subject: Draft Financial Management Structure Review – October 2017

#1 The Board of Public Works asks the Select Board to direct their consultants so that the final version of the Collins report on Wayland's financial management structure remove arguments for and suggestions to eliminate the Board of Public Works.

The comments in the draft seem out of place for a report focused on financial management. They seem to us to be both provocative and unnecessary. They cite no specific issues but opine that, "it [a BoPW] has the potential to cause problems."

No one from the Collins Center offered to speak with any member of the Board of Public Works, nor gain our insights on the functions the Board of Public Works performs.

Our volunteer board was created by 2008 Town Meeting and required a Special Act of the legislature. We are elected and have had multiple contenders for seats. The BoPW/DPW has simplified town government structure and the DPW director reports to the Town Administrator. BoPW and DPW have good working relationships with all other boards and departments.

#2 We ask that the proposed process for boards to review their department budgets first through the Town Administrator then again with FinCom be re-considered.

- It would substitute a two-phase review process for the current one-phase process, increasing time commitment required.
- Budget review by the Finance Committee with finance experience and a multi-year perspective, in coordination with the Town Administrator, is desirable.

We suggest that the new budget review procedure be a unified, single-step process to review a department's capital and operational budgets, involving the Finance Committee, the Town Administrator and Finance Director, and each department's staff and its elected or appointed board.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Michael Lowery, Chair
copies: Nan Balmer, Town Administrator