

February 26, 2021

Dear Wareham Resident,

These are challenging times for everyone. It has never been more important for us to pull together as a community and look out for each other and the best interests of our town. The state is currently debating tax increases, program cuts and reductions in aid to cities and towns that are likely to impact every Wareham resident. In the coming months and years, we anticipate a highly competitive environment for jobs and new economic development as communities struggle to deal with a growing tax burden.

25% of Wareham's revenue is from state aid.

We had to budget for a 10% reduction in state aid this year and we have to anticipate additional cuts next year.

FXM Associates estimates that Wareham will lose \$930,000 to \$1,500,000 in revenue over the next five years due to COVID even before state aid is considered.

There will be new opportunities for smart development, but they will be highly competitive. Cities and towns in our region will be fighting even harder to bring tax-generating and job-creating projects to their communities. Wareham has a real chance to take advantage of some of these opportunities if we are united and prepared.

There will be a Special Town Meeting on Saturday, April 10, 2021 at Wareham High School to consider a zoning change proposed for the R-130 District between Route 25 and Glen Charlie Road. Passage of this zoning change does not mean approval of any project or concept. It simply means we will be ready to act and compete for opportunities as they arise.

Any proposed plan would still require extensive public hearings, and state and municipal review and approvals.

As you may know, R-130 is a zoning designation for residential use. Currently, there is a 275-acre parcel off of Glen Charlie Road in the R-130 zone to allow for large-scale residential development. These uses tend to add to the municipal tax burden, generating more in costs than tax revenue. In fact, an analysis by FXM Associates found that the development of 90 single family homes on this property, which would be allowed under its current zoning, would generate an annual loss of \$800,000 in net municipal revenue.

State officials are considering various economic development projects and initiatives. We do not currently know what will be available in our region, but we do know that Wareham has a unique opportunity to compete for any projects that become available if we are prepared and united.

With several pending town projects on the horizon -- including the development of Onset Pier, a proposed Public Safety Complex for our police department and emergency medical services, the

need for a new senior center and more -- we will need to find a way to address budget issues without increasing the burden on Wareham families.

This is Wareham's time.

Communities in our area will benefit from these competitive economic development opportunities and we believe it can and should be us. Please join us in support of this zoning change at Town Meeting on April 10th.

Sincerely,

Peter Teitelbaum, Chair, Board of Selectmen

Judy Whiteside, Clerk, Board of Selectmen

Alan Slavin, Selectman

Patrick Tropeano, Selectman

John Salerno, Owner, Glen Cove Hotel & Marc Anthony's La Pizzeria

John Cornish, Owner, Atlantic Boats & Stonebridge Marina

Mark St. Jean, Owner, Stone Path Malt

John Churchill, Owner, The Fan Club & JC Engineering, Inc.

Todd Mello, Owner, A Slice of Heaven

Jared Chadwick, President, Wareham Tigers

Damon Solomon, Director, Wareham Tigers Flag Football & Cheer Program