



# Finance Committee

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 5, 2009 @ 10:00 am  
Larkin Hall, Provincetown Center of Coastal Studies  
Called to Order: 10:02

### Membership:

<b>P</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>Name</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thomas Coen, Chair	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ruth Gilbert, Vice Chair	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Vetrick	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Virginia Ross	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thomas Thurston	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Walter Winnowski	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Frederic Biddle	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Philip Gaudiano	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ann Maguire	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gabrielle Hanna, Alternate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Voting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Open), Alternate	<input type="checkbox"/> Voting

(Note: **P** = Present **E** = Excused **U** = Unexcused)

<b>Also Present:</b>	
Therese Nelson, Chair, School Committee	Shannon Patrick, School Committee
Debra Trovato, School Committee	Sharon Lynn, Town Manager
Peter Grosso, School Committee	Selectman Mary-Jo Avellar
Kerry Adams, School Committee	Selectman Austin Knight

<b>Order of Business:</b>
1. To review and discuss the status of the FY10 budget.
2. To review or reconsider Division and Department Budgets as necessary.
3. To consider minutes of previous meetings as time permits.
4. To consider any other business that may legally come before the

Finance Committee.
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*School Committee Chair Therese Nelson called the School Committee to order at 10:02. Mr. Coen called the Finance Committee to order at 10:02.*

### **Budget Reviews**

#### **Dept. - 300 Provincetown Public Schools**

Mr. Grosso, the school committee's labor negotiator, said that unionized employees had voted to rescind FY 2010 pay increases following last-minute bargaining at the request of The Finance Committee. As a result, "we got every single person to forego their raises in the schools this year," he said.

The School Committee proposed a FY10 budget of \$3,556,647.86. (see attachment). The total, reflecting the wage concessions, fell \$81,257.02, or 2.23%, from FY09.

The union "Was worried that this was a political ploy by the Finance Committee to force regionalization (of schools)," Mr. Grosso said. "I told them one has nothing to do with the other. If I go back there with a "no" vote, not only will they vote "no" on the budget, they will work to cut the budget. And all of you wouldn't be here next year."

"We're very grateful for your cooperation in balancing the budget in tough times," Mr. Coen said. He proposed a letter of appreciation to school employees.

<b>Motion # 1:</b> To recommend the FY2010 School budget in the amount of 3,556,647.86.
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Motion By: Tom Thurston	Second By: Gabrielle Hanna		
For: 8	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

*(The School Committee left at approximately 10:40).*

**Dept.- 210 Police Department**

With today’s deadline for closing the warrant, the Committee revisited the department’s budget. \$78,400 in cuts were still needed to balance the Town budget overall.

Mr. Coen and Miss Gilbert proposed to close the gap via cutting personnel expenses, from the so-called “A” budget, in the hope that further negotiations with the police and other town unions might yield savings. Cutting equipment and non-labor items from the “B” budget, however, would be cast in stone after the warrant closed. “There’s no way to restore those,” Mr. Coen said.

Miss Lynn said that Police Chief Jeff Jaran had agreed to forego his FY10 pay raise, in part as an example to the police union. However, she said that she didn’t expect concessions from unions representing police and other non-school town employees.

<b>Motion # 2:</b> To reconsider Dept. 210 budget.			
Motion By: Ruth Gilbert		Second By: Gabrielle Hanna	
For: 8	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

The reconsideration continued, as part of a greater discussion of where the Town budget could be cut overall . “Come Hell or high water we’ve got to rebalance that budget,” Mr. Coen said. Tom Thurston proposed a solution:

<b>Motion # 3:</b> To recommend that the Board of Selectmen insert amend the Town Warrant with an article seeking a \$100,000 general-purpose Proposition 2 ½ override to balance the FY10 budget.			
Motion By: Tom Thurston		Second By: Ruth Gilbert	
For: 1	Against: 7	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

Discussion reverted to Dept. 210, focusing on Chief Jaran’s volunteering to rescind his pay raise.

<b>Motion # 4:</b> To recommend Dept. 210 budget in the new amount of \$2,053,519, a reduction of \$5,250.			
Motion By: Ruth Gilbert		Second By: Fred Biddle	
For: 8	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

*(The meeting recessed until 1 pm. The meeting resumed at 1 pm.)*

**General Discussion**

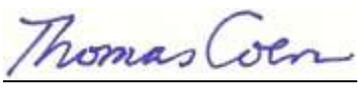
*(Virginia Ross arrived at 1:06 pm)*

The Committee agreed to review the budget in sections by subcommittees, for overlooked opportunities for cuts to be discussed at the March 12 meeting. The late morning discussion of piecemeal possibilities for cuts was continued at length.

**Dept. 310 - Cape Cod Regional Technical High School**

<b>Motion # 5:</b> To recommend the FY 2010 Budget in the amount of \$88,072.			
Motion By: Tom Thurston		Second By: Gabrielle Hanna	
For: 8	Against: 0	Abstain: 9	Recuse:

Next Meeting:	March 7, 2009
Adjourn:	3:05 pm
Minutes by:	Frederic Biddle

Approved by  on June 5, 2009  
 Thomas Coen, Chair