



Finance Committee

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 23, 2009 @ 3:30 pm
Larkin Hall at the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies
Called to Order: 3:31 pm

Membership:

P	E	U	Name	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thomas Coen, Chair	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ann Maguire, Vice Chair	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>	Frederic Biddle	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Philip Gaudiano	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gabrielle Hanna	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Daniel Hoort	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	David McChesney	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Erik Yingling, Alternate	<input type="checkbox"/> Voting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oliver Kamm, Alternate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Voting

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

These minutes are in brief format. This meeting was filmed and is available for viewing at <http://www.provincetowntv.org> or on DVD at the Provincetown Television office.

Also Present:
Sharon Lynn, Town Manager
Alix Heilala, Finance Director
Jeff Jaran, Police Chief

Order of Business:

1. To conduct a Public Hearing on the December 7th Special Town Meeting warrant articles.
2. To hear public statements.
3. To make recommendations on the warrant articles.

4. To review the minutes of prior meetings, as time permits.
5. To consider any other business that may legally come before the Finance Committee.

Public Hearing on the December 7th Special Town Meeting warrant articles

After calling the meeting to order, Mr. Coen opened the Public Hearing and read the notice into the record as follows:

“In accordance with §5-2-1 of the Provincetown General By-Laws, the Provincetown Finance Committee will hold a **Public Hearing on Monday, November 23, 2009 at 3:30 pm** at the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, Larkin Hall, 5 Holway Avenue, Provincetown, MA to hear comments from the public on the December 7th Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles. Copies of the Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles are available for inspection in the office of Town Manager/Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 16 Jerome Smith Road, Provincetown, MA.

Comments may be submitted in writing to that office no later than Thursday, November 19, 2009, or in person at the hearing.”

Mr. Coen noted that no written statements had been received.

Home Rule Petition/Exempting New Police Department Members from Civil Service – Presented by Jeff Jaran

Mr. Coen made some briefly outlined the purpose of the civil service, and noted that the police forces in only four other towns on the Cape & Islands operate under civil service rules.

Chief Jaran noted that the Article would exempt only new recruits from the civil service. Existing employees would not lose their civil service standing. The current civil service hiring process handicaps Provincetown relative to other towns on the Cape. The Chief emphasized that there are ethical and professional ways to run the hiring process in such a way as to protect our officers without civil service. He is discussing with the union how to put in place an agreed upon set of processes.

Due to tough economic times, many towns throughout the Commonwealth have laid off police officers. The certified list of potential hires is loaded with these officers from the larger cities off cape. A position must be offered to those officers first. Most of them do not have any real interest or long-term commitment to coming here. This results in high turnover. Essentially we've become a training ground for police officers. Chronic understaffing results in high overtime for the remaining officers.

Professional hiring practice would be put in place including exams, established by other chiefs on the cape – written, physical, oral, and psychological plus background check. Provincetown would have access to the list of potential candidates on the Cape. We would interview only those that are the most qualified, versus the time consuming Civil Service process of working through the list. Truro has never had a hard time hiring officers that are a good fit with community and are committed to living there.

Noting that there were no members of the public present to speak, Mr. Coen closed the Public Hearing at approximately 3:55 pm.

Public Statements

(There were no public statements).

Recommendations on the Warrant Articles

The Committee voted on its recommendations.

Article 1. Home Rule Petition/Exempting New Police Department Members from Civil Service

Motion # 1: To recommend Article 1, Home Rule Petition/Exempting New Police Department Members from Civil Service.

Motion By: Ann Maguire		Second By: Gabrielle Hanna	
For: 9	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

Report assigned to Ms. Maguire.

Article 2. FY 2010 Budget Adjustments – Presented by Alix Heilala

Ms. Heilala said that the details are not yet available yet. The Committee will vote when it meets on the evening of the Special Town Meeting.

Report assigned to Mr. Hoort.

Article 3. Cemetery Improvements – Presented by Alix Heilala

Mr. Coen asked the Finance Director for the amount that would be requested in the motion. The current amount is \$9,500. The Committee agreed to vote on an amount up to \$10,000.

Motion # 2: To recommend Article 3, Cemetery Improvements, up to the amount of \$10,000.			
Motion By: Ann Maguire		Second By: David McChesney	
For: 9	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

Report assigned to Mr. Gaudiano.

Article 4. Municipal Parking Lot/Grace Hall Parking Lot Exemptions --
(the petitioner was not present)

Mr. Coen stated that this petitioned article is non-binding because you cannot legally bind the decisions of a future town meeting. Essentially, the article seeks to preserve the jobs of all parking lot attendants, even if automated pay stations are installed in the main parking lots.

There was a discussion by all on the merits of the article. Installing automated pay stations would eliminate the need for some attendant positions and would reduce the Town’s unemployment insurance costs. Towards the end, Mr. Hoort stated that he didn’t expect his local government to be a jobs creator.

Motion # 3: To not recommend Article 4, Municipal Parking Lot/Grace Hall Parking Lot Exemptions.			
Motion By: Ann Maguire		Second By: Oliver Kamm	
For: 9	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

Report assigned to Mr. Coen.

Minutes


(There were no minutes ready for review.)

Other Business

Financial Management Policies

Mr. Coen distributed copies of the updated Debt Management and Cash Reserves polices and briefly outlined the changes that have been incorporated. He also distributed a first draft of the Enterprise Fund Policies. A follow-up meeting with the Board of Selectmen has not yet been set up.

Next Meeting:	TBD
Adjourn:	4:11
Minutes by:	Thomas Coen

Approved by  on February 2, 2010
 Thomas Coen, Chair