



Finance Committee

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 7, 2009 @ 5:00 pm
Multi-Purpose Room at the Veterans Memorial Elementary School
Called to Order: 5:00 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 type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Virginia Ross | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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 (arr. 5:20) | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Daniel Hoort | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | David McChesney | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Erik Yingling, Alternate | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Voting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Oliver Kamm, Alternate | <input type="checkbox"/> Voting |

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

These minutes are in brief format. The Committee's pre-Town Meeting was not filmed. The Special Town Meeting was filmed and is available on DVD at the Provincetown Television office.

Also Present:
Irene Rabinowitz, Moderator
Alix Heilala, Finance Director

- Order of Business:**
1. To vote on or reconsider articles on the Special Town Meeting warrant, as necessary.
 2. To review minutes of prior meetings, as time permits.
 3. To attend Special Town Meeting and present the Finance Committee's reports and recommendations on the warrant articles.

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| 4. To consider any other business that may legally come before the Finance Committee. |
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Minutes

The Committee reviewed and voted on the minutes of prior meetings.

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| Motion #1: To accept the minutes of February 5, 2009, as presented. |
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|------------------------|------------|----------------------------|---------|
| Motion By: Ann Maguire | | Second By: Frederic Biddle | |
| For: 4 | Against: 0 | Abstain: 2 | Recuse: |

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| Motion #2: To accept the minutes of March 23, 2009, as presented. |
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| Motion By: Ann Maguire | | Second By: Philip Gaudio | |
| For: 4 | Against: 0 | Abstain: 2 | Recuse: |

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| Motion #3: To accept the minutes of October 28, 2009, as presented. |
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| Motion By: Ann Maguire | | Second By: Philip Gaudio | |
| For: 4 | Against: 0 | Abstain: 2 | Recuse: |

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| Motion #4: To accept the minutes of November 9, 2009, as presented. |
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|------------------------|------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Motion By: Ann Maguire | | Second By: Erik Yingling | |
| For: 4 | Against: 0 | Abstain: 2 | Recuse: |

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| Motion #5: To accept the minutes of December 1, 2009, as presented. |
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|------------------------|------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Motion By: Ann Maguire | | Second By: Erik Yingling | |
| For: 4 | Against: 0 | Abstain: 2 | Recuse: |

Warrant Articles

Article 2: FY 2010 Budget Adjustments

(The Committee had not yet voted this article pending receipt of the final numbers last Thursday).

Ms. Heilala presented the final numbers and answered the Committee's questions. The purpose of the transfers (which total \$203,320) is to offset the lower estimated receipts and anticipated cuts to the Cherry Sheet. The sources of funding include \$120,000 in free cash and various other amounts from closed out grants.

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| Motion #6: To recommend Article 2 in the amount of \$203,320. | | | |
| Motion By: Ann Maguire | | Second By: Daniel Hoort | |
| For: 7 | Against: 0 | Abstain: 0 | Recuse: |

Article 3: Cemetery Improvements

(The Committee previously voted to recommend this article in the amount of \$10,000. Since then the amount has increased to \$12,000, requiring a new vote).

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| Motion #7: To reconsider Article 3. | | | |
| Motion By: Gabrielle Hanna | | Second By: Daniel Hoort | |
| For: 7 | Against: 0 | Abstain: 0 | Recuse: |

The Town is required, under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, to hire a biologist to study the proposed expansion area that may be a habitat for the endangered Eastern Spadefoot Toad, at a cost of \$2,500.


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| Motion #8: To recommend Article 3 in the amount of \$12,000. | | | |
| Motion By: Daniel Hoort | | Second By: Gabrielle Hanna | |
| For: 7 | Against: 0 | Abstain: 0 | Recuse: |

(The Committee went into recess at 5:28 until the Town Moderator called the Special Town Meeting to order at 6:00 pm).

Special Town Meeting

The Committee attended the Special Town Meeting and made its reports on the articles in the warrant. *(Copies of the reports are attached).*

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|---------------|-------------|
| Next Meeting: | TBD |
| Adjourn: | 7:11 pm |
| Minutes by: | Thomas Coen |

Approved by  on January 7, 2010
 Thomas Coen, Chair

STM Article 1

This article if approved by the voters will authorize the Board of Selectmen⁷⁰ instruct its representative in the General Court to file a home rule petition for a special act that would exempt new members of the police department from civil service:

Passage of this Act would help our Town in many ways.

First---The Police Department wouldn't be spending countless hours using a rehire list mandated by Civil Service that has every officer laid off from all over Massachusetts to see if they want to come to Provincetown.

Second---We spend more money on overtime because we do not have enough officers to fill every shift. There are 4 positions that are not filled.

Third---New officers come to Provincetown from other parts of the Cape. We pay to send them to the Police Academy and after training they leave to go back to where they came from.

Fourth---Some of our summer officers who work well with our community and want to stay here and work full time we cannot hire as we have to use the Civil Service list.

There are only four towns on the Cape and Islands that still use civil service. Our current police officers would still be protected under civil service as this change would only apply to new hires.

The Finance Committee strongly supports this Article and recommends it to you with a vote of 9-0-0



Finance Committee Report

STM Article 2 2010 Budget Adjustments

This article requests a change in the source of funding for the 2010 Budget to make up for various expected budget revenue shortfalls.

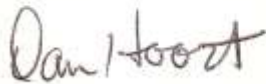
The Finance Director identified six old grants with remaining balances leftover that may be closed out. Those unused monies and an additional appropriation of \$120,000 from free cash will be used to fund the current year operating budget shortfall under this article.

The \$203,320 requested in this article will cover the following expected revenue shortfalls:

- Truro tuition payments that are \$85,000 less than budgeted
- State Cherry Sheet are receipts are expected to be \$18,000 less than budgeted
- Motor vehicle excise taxes are expected to be \$50,000 less than budgeted
- Investment income is expected to be \$15,000 under budget
- Other various revenue shortfalls of \$35,320

The Finance Committee considered this article and recommends it to you tonight with a vote of 1 - 0 - 0

Respectfully submitted,



Dan Hoort

Article 3 – Cemetery improvements

It is necessary for the Town to expand the cemetery as there is little space for new burials. However, there is some Town land available for expansion subject to completion of the habitat assessment for this area. The land has been identified as an area mapped as a habitat for the Eastern Spadefoot Toad. Once the habitat assessment is complete and the Town has received a permit under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, the expansion work may commence.

The total cost of this article consists of the following detail:

Expansions:

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|---|-----------------------|
| Engineering and surveying | \$7,000 |
| Habitat assessment | 2,500 |
| Incidental costs | <u>300</u> |
| | \$9,800 |
| Lowering device for safe internments | <u>\$2,200</u> |
| TOTAL | \$12,000 |

The Finance Committee recommended 7-0-0 on 12/7/09.

Respectfully submitted,
P. M. Gaudiano
P. M. Gaudiano

Finance Committee Report

Article 4. Municipal Parking Lot/Grace Hall Parking Lot Exemptions

This is a petitioned article that asks the Town to –

- NOT install coin operated parking meters and/or automated paystations in the Municipal Parking Lot and the Grace Hall Parking Lot; and
- To maintain the existing parking lot attendant jobs in perpetuity.

According to Town Counsel, this article is non-binding, even if it is approved by Town Meeting. The reason that it is non-binding is that it would bind the hands of future Town Meetings to make decisions about the Town's budget, which is not legally possible.

Putting the legal issues aside, there are other good reasons not to vote for this article.

First, the primary responsibility of Town government is to provide the services that its residents, businesses and visitors need in the most cost effective manner possible. Given the current financial climate, the Town must find ways to increase its revenues and decrease the cost of providing services, wherever possible.

Second, the Town is not, and should not be, in the business of creating or maintaining jobs unless such jobs improve the cost effectiveness of Town government. Instead, the Town should be working with the business community to attract, and to create, new private sector jobs.

The Finance Committee is aware that the Town is the largest employer in Provincetown, and we are sympathetic to Town employees. However, we are confronted with some potentially very serious budget shortfalls in the coming years, and need to make some difficult decisions about how to maintain the Town's services without raising the Town's property taxes to a level that we cannot afford.

For these reasons, the Finance Committee **STRONGLY RECOMMENDS** that you do **NOT** vote to support this article tonight, by a vote of 9-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas Coen". The signature is written in a cursive style and is highlighted with a yellow rectangular background.

Thomas Coen

December 7, 2009