

Provincetown Finance Committee Minutes
Public Hearing
October 18, 2012, 6 p.m.
Judge Welsh Room, Provincetown Town Hall

Members Present: Tom Donegan, Doug Cliggott, Tim Grobleski, Catherine Russo, Duane Steele, Clarence Walker

Excused Absent: Mike Canizales

Others Present: Town Manager Sharon Lynn, Finance Director Dan Hoort

Meeting called to order at 6 p.m.

Tom Donegan, Chair, opened with recap of October 2, 2012 motion regarding Special Town meeting article 7. The Committee has since received additional information. The recommendation of the Finance Committee is dependent on the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen.

Chair opened the public hearing on the Special Town meeting warrant articles and invited those who wished to speak to step to the microphone.

Dave McGlothin: A teacher who experiences the effects of water leaks on a regular basis. The repairs are basic requirements involving safety and learning.

Peter Grasso: Resident and past school committee member. A builder who knows buildings, the longer we wait, the more it will cost.

Dr. Beth Singer, Superintendent of Schools: The amount needed for the entire project is \$1,621,984 and includes scaffolding, contingencies and possible issues with asbestos. The amount will be reduced by balance remaining from April Town meeting article.

Kerry Adams: School committee member is concerned about safety.

Jamie Kryszkiewicz: School committee member and parent. It's a real school committee responsibility. Issues with leaks affects those in the school and all in town who use the auditorium.

Beth Francis: Eighteen years as an educator in Provincetown Schools. Read letter from Lynn Stanley in support of repairs.

Name Unknown: Has children in schools. Don't put a band-aid on the building. Fix it now.

Eva Enos: Three children in school. They are very happy in the school, she wants the children safe. School makes it worth staying in Provincetown. Our school is part of the community.

Candace Nagle: Concerned about process. The Committee voted to postpone prior to reading the report, prior to the site visit, prior to having the School Superintendent and Committee present the facts.

Stuart Reed: Are there alternatives? Is this an update or a repair? The Finance Committee should consider the options.

Regis LeJune: Resident of Wellfleet who had children in Provincetown Schools. Daughters are now high school seniors. For students who may get lost in a larger school system Provincetown Schools has a good program for people who want another option.

Liz Lavaty: Two children in school. Kids need to be safe. Eighty-one year old building is an asset that we should maintain. We need to maintain our buildings. Likes the new IB program.

Lisa Osowski: Piece of gym ceiling fell and hit her daughter. It was a small piece resulting in no injuries, but what if it was a larger piece?

Robert Spizer: Two children in school. School has been energized by IB program. School is an asset that benefits everyone.

After everyone spoke chair closed the meeting to further public comments.

The Committee then voted on recommendations for articles.

Article 1 Budget Adjustment to Division I, General Government

Clarence Walker moved to recommend article 1, second by Tim Grobleski. Motion passed 6-0-0

Article 2 Budget Adjustment to Division V, Public Services

Tim Grobleski moved to recommend article 2, second by Doug Cliggott. Motion passed 6-0-0

Article 3 Budget Adjustment to Water Enterprise Fund

Duane Steele moved to recommend article 3, second by Clarence Walker. Motion passed 6-0-0

Article 4 Prior Year Bills

Tim Grobleski moved to recommend article 4, second by Doug Cliggott. Motion passed 6-0-0

Article 5 – Amend Funding Source for April ATM Article 18

Tim Grobleski moved to recommend article 5, second by Duane Steele. Motion passed 6-0-0

Article 6 – Stabilization Fund

Committee did not feel they could make a recommendation until the Board of Selectmen finalized their recommendation.

Article 7 – Capital Improvements for Provincetown High School

Committee did not feel they could make a recommendation until the Board of Selectmen finalized their recommendation.

Article 8 – Cemetery Commission Authorization to re-purchase plots.

Doug Cliggott moved to recommend article 8, second by Duane Steele. Motion passed 6-0-0

Article 9 – Replace Apron and Drainage at Main Fire Station

Committee did not feel they could make a recommendation until the Board of Selectmen finalized their recommendation, specifically what funding source was to be used.

Article 10 – Purchase Heart Monitor/Defibrillator

Committee did not feel they could make a recommendation until the Board of Selectmen finalized their recommendation, specifically what funding source was to be used.

Article 11 – Solid Waste Contract

No immediate financial impact, no Finance Committee recommendation.

Article 12 – Street Paving Project

Board of Selectmen is voting to indefinitely postpone. No Finance Committee recommendation.

Article 13 – Petitioned article on Yard Sales.

No Finance Committee recommendation

Committee went into recess at 6:58 p.m.
Committee called back to order at 7:03 p.m.

Joint meeting with Provincetown Board of Selectmen to review warrant articles.

- Finance Committee Chair noted the committee's recommendations on articles 6 and 7 are contingent on the Board of Selectmen recommendations.
- The Chair also noted the Committee's frustration with the process. The process is too compressed which makes it difficult to make decisions at the last hour.
- Duane Steele spoke of the need to focus on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and preventive maintenance.
- Committee and Board of Selectmen discussed the CIP process and the expedited process to review it earlier in the year.

Finance Director Dan Hoort provided an update on the OPEB liability. During health care reform the state legislature created an Other Post Employment Benefits Commission with the Commission due to issue a report no later than November 30, 2012. It was his feeling that any discussion of the OPEB liability prior to the Commission's report is premature. The Town needs to wait to see the Commission's report and any recommendations of the Commission and also needs to wait until the next actuarial study is completed in 2013. The last actuarial study was completed prior to the health care reform and the numbers will have changed significantly since that report. He suggested the Board of Selectmen wait until the Commission issues their report and then re-visit the issue, perhaps to appoint a local body to review the Commission report and provide possible options to the Board of Selectmen.

Chair discussed the Committee's recommendations from the auditor's management letter:

- Need to purchase a policy manual or hire a consultant to write it.
- Expand inventory system for small assets
- Set up an encumbrance system
- The Committee also felt the Town should consider setting up electronic 'swiping' system in the town.

End of joint meeting with Board of Selectmen
Committee went into recess at 8:05 p.m.
Committee called back to order at 8:18 p.m.

Article 6 – Stabilization Fund

Committee will withhold making a recommendation until the Board of Selectmen makes a decision on the article.

Article 7 – Capital Improvements for Provincetown High School

Dr. Singer, Superintendent of Schools spoke of the grants the school is seeking. Grant applications have been sent to Mass Preservation and to the Provincetown Community Preservation Committee.

Dan Hoort said the motion will request \$1,237,437, all of which is to be paid using free cash as recommended by the Board of Selectmen. If approved by town meeting voters it would leave a balance of \$366,220 in free cash

Clarence stated safety is not negotiable, no one intends to abandon the school. Maintenance should be included in the budget. Life cycle costing should be included.

Duane stated there is no question we will repair this building, the Committee is just trying to figure out how to pay for it. This is not an adversarial relationship.

Tim Grobleski moved to recommend article 7 in the amount of \$1,237,437 to be funded out of free cash, second by Doug Cliggott. Motion approved 6-0-0

Article 9 – Replace Apron and Drainage at Main Fire Station

Tim Grobleski moved to recommend article 9, second by Clarence Walker. Motion approved 6-0-0

Article 10 – Purchase Heart Monitor/Defibrillator

Tim Grobleski moved to recommend article 9, second by Doug Cliggott. Motion approved 6-0-0

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Meeting Documents:

- Provincetown High School Exterior Assessment Report (Mark Almeda Architects)
- Provincetown High School Exterior Assessment Report if project done in phases (Mark Almeda Architects)
- Provincetown High School Exterior Restoration Project Timeline (Mark Almeda Architects)
- Provincetown High School Exterior Maintenance Schedule and Costs (Mark Almeda Architects)