

**TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN - BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING  
JOINT MEETING WITH FinCom and SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2014 5 PM  
TOWN HALL – JUDGE WELSH ROOM**

Chairman Elaine Anderson convened the meeting at 5:00 PM noting the following:

Board of Selectmen attending: Austin Knight, Elaine Anderson, Tom Donegan, David McChesney and Erik Yingling

Other attendees: Acting Town Manager David Gardner and Finance Director Dan Hoort

Recorder: Mary Timmons

Finance Committee members attending: Michael Canizales, Catherine Russo, Duane Steele, Clarence Walker, Douglas Cliggott, Raphael Richter, Stanley Sikorski, Sean Patrick Harrington

School Committee members attending: Elizabeth Lovati, Shannon Patrick, Cass Benson, Anthony Bracket, and Kerry Adams

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Beth Singer

Finance committee took a roll call to enter session:

School committee took a roll call to enter session:

The following are meeting minutes

**1. JOINT MEETING WITH FINCOM SCHOOL COMMITTEE (FY2015 School Budget)**

Kerry Adams read a short summation about the schools then turned the meeting over to Dr. Beth Singer superintendent who presented a PowerPoint presentation. Dr. Singer outlined the status of the schools in regard to location, grade levels, and funding. Dr. Singer focused on the issue of per pupil expenditure (PPE). Twenty-five percent 25% of PPE is teacher salaries. Salaries are divided by the number of Provincetown Students. We are charged the highest amount on the Cape for students attending charter schools. The only way to reduce our expenditures is to increase the number of families with children residing in Provincetown.

Dr. Singer covered several issues regarding the budget. Provincetown has highest percentage of low income families on the Cape, but we are consistent with lowering the achievement gap. It is a school committee goal to build middle school grades 5-8, and Dr. Singer anticipates more families being interested in a middle school program. She explained how money is disbursed regarding school of choice students. When a student goes to a neighboring school district, that district gets \$5,000 for that student. The town in which a student resides does not receive this. We have had a balance of students choicing in and out but we now no longer have a high school. The goal of the School Committee is to have Provincetown children educated in Provincetown.

Dr. Singer also spoke of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. This organization works to develop challenging programs encouraging students to become active lifelong learners and Provincetown is now one of the districts offering the program which is exciting. The IB program makes for a more robust campus. It is an approach to teaching and learning, not curriculum. We teach the common core.

In considering five year planning, the Committee has to look at high school data. The law states that if we do not provide a high school, we have to pay tuition to the city where students go. We have 42 students that reside in Provincetown and go to Nauset High School. In FY2015 the tuition to attend Nauset will jump as we will be negotiating a new contract. We are negotiating for 5 years, they want 3 years. Mike Canizales would like to have the School Committee negotiate for at least 5 years due to cost.

Selectman Yingling asked for clarification regarding the two students on the middle school waiting list. Dr. Singer stated, we can't let them in because we have a diminished budget and need to save room for Provincetown kids if they move in. After being asked about retention, Dr. Singer stated it varies a lot. We do retain unless the family moves out of town.

The School Committee is proposing two budgets and Dr. Singer went over the budgets after which the Board of Selectmen voted.

**MOTION:** *Move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the FY 2015 Comprehensive Budget for Provincetown Public Schools in the amount of \$2,811,290.50 following budgets for FY 2015*

**Motion by:** Austin Knight **Seconded by:** David McChesney      Yea 5      Nay 0

**MOTION:** *Move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the FY 2015 Provincetown High School Budget in the amount of \$779,007.25 following budgets for FY 2015*

**Motion by:** Tom Donegan **Seconded by:** David McChesney      Yea 5      Nay 0

## **2. JOINT MEETING WITH FinCom FY 2015 BUDGET**

Michael Canizales spoke about OPEB and recommended \$540,000 be placed in the fund. Selectman Yingling stated we need to acknowledge OPEB but we are never going to fully fund it. Discussion went back and forth between FinCom and the Selectmen. If we put a significant amount of money in over 25 years we would have put aside \$18.4 million. The accumulated savings would be a little less than \$19 million and we would have a fund equal to \$40 million, assuming we can get a 6% return on our money.

Clarence Walker stated that over time we decided to make a commitment. We now have the numbers and he thought this was a settled issue. He is shocked there were other enticements but that is not the issue. We should have the ability to stick to this. He believes the board needs to come to a conclusion.

After much discussion between the Board and FinCom agreement was attained.

**MOTION:** *Move to adjust the FY 2015 Finance Committee reserve fund to \$101,943 and recommend department 131, Finance Committee, FY 2015 budget in the amount of \$106,268*

**Motion by:** Erik Yingling **Seconded by:** David McChesney      Yea 5      Nay 0

**MOTION:** *Move to recommend department 910, Retirement/Benefits/Insurance, FY 2015 budget in the amount of \$6,144,646.*

**Motion by:** Erik Yingling **Seconded by:** Austin Knight      Yea 5      Nay 0

### **3. REPORT FROM COMPENSATION STUDY**

Dan Hoort stated we are starting to get some of the information from the study. We have a first draft of the survey. We should get another one January 29, 2014. They should have a final report no later than February 28, 2014. He expects nothing to happen to it, and if there any changes we won't see anything until the fall Town Meeting.

Michael Canizales believes we need the final report so we can ask questions. We have to get through the February 28, 2014, then have some meetings with FinCom and personnel. Dan agreed with this statement. Their next step is to suggest a different classification range. That would be more useful. If they can provide a classification schedule that makes sense, it might be worth our while.

### **4. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION REGARDING PARKING REVENUES**

Selectman Donegan was unsure we were ready to talk about parking revenues based on the information received. David Gardner stated this is intended as a workshop, not expecting that decisions would be made. At a minimum, we should have a conversation about what the expectations are so we can make them. We are running out of time. If we are going to respond in this season, by adjusting fee schedules, we need to do that now or soon. This requires public hearings and we need the time to do that. We are hoping not to put this on spring traffic hearing but in a special public hearing.

After reviewing the information, Selectman Donegan asked for year over year on a spreadsheet with the correct numbers.

Parking lot revenues have increased but parking tickets decreased significantly in 2013. There are also parking tickets that have not been paid. Dialogue was exchanged as to how we might best increase revenue. A suggestion was made by Selectman Yingling that we make Commercial Street resident parking only, making MPL not available to residents in the high season. One consequence would be the safety of the pedestrians and bikes. This could be an issue. David McChesney suggested grandfathering MPL permits so a new permit would not allow you to park there but a permit renewal would. We need to make the lot most convenient for tourists as well as property owners.

If we and maybe our residents would come up with ideas, we may be able to increase revenue. It would help if the community could become part of the solution. It was stated the

following information may be helpful at the next workshop.

- Year over year permit numbers resident-nonresident
- Year over year revenue over various parking aspects
- Month over month as well as year over year
- What would happen if we raised fees
- What if we raised rates at MPL
- What are private vendors charging
- Numbers of residents/non-residents

5. **OTHER** – None.

Motion to adjourn by David McChesney at **7:27** PM.

Minutes transcribed by: Mary Timmons