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Meeting of the Provincetown Finance Committee Tuesday March 16, 1999

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Dougal at 5:05 p.m. in the Judge Welch Hearing Room. Members present were: Michael Hattersley, Rick Holland, Secretary Sue Buerkel, Vice Chair Alice Foley, Robert Vetrick, Gail Enos, Lynn Mogell and Chairman Bill Dougal. Absent was John Strong.

I. Minutes of the meeting of Friday February 19, 1999. Minutes were submitted by Rick

Holland who acted as secretary for that meeting. A motion to approve was made by Michael Hattersley and seconded by Alice Foley. The minutes were approved by a vote of 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

2. Fiscal Realities. Michael Hattersley passed out a one page sheet with an outline of most costly

and least costly scenarios relative to the recent discussions with the Selectmen about Fiscal Realities.

Mr.

Hattersley indicated that he would like to have the consultants who have been working on that project present the town with a similar one page summary.

Mr. Dougal said that Vice Chair Alice Foley also had prepared some remarks and asked that this discussion be taken up later.

3. Future Meetings. Mr. Dougal discussed the many agenda items left to address and a Memo

from the Town Manager relative to the difficulties of holding meetings on Friday evenings.

The following meeting schedule was planned: Friday March 19, 1999 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Michael Hattersley acting as secretary. Monday March 22, 1999 7:00 p.m. Meeting with the Selectmen (rescheduled from March 15) Tuesday March 23, 1999 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Public Hearing on Capital Improvements Friday March 26, 1999 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Lynn Mogell acting as Secretary.

Michael Hattersley made a motion to ask the consultants who were conducting the Fiscal Realities meetings to provide the town with a one page summary answer relative to the least costly/most costly scenarios. A second was made by Alice Foley. The Committee voted to approve 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

4. 300 Budget for Provincetown Public Schools

In attendance Dr. Susan Flemming, Superintendent, Michael Marino, High School Principal, William Rocecki, Middle/Elementary School Principal and Lois Borghesi and William Rogers, School Committee members.

Dr. Flemming presented the budget with a zero percent increase explaining the philosophical approach as one of fiscal responsibility. She remarked that the budget was actually down as it included salary increases. She gave a comprehensive review with excellent supporting documents for which Fincom members expressed their appreciation.

Chairman Bill Dougal asked about the demographic study. Dr. Flemming answered that it would be presented to the School Committee in early April and discussed relative to a 5 - 10 year plan. Michael Hattersley asked if Fincom could send a representative as an observer to that meeting. Dr. Flemming's reply was yes.

Chairman Dougal stated that the schools are a crucial factor in the planning process.

Mr. Hattersley asked about SPED. Mr. Marino explained that the program was being redefined. He stated that student achievement will be the measure of success and that we must graduate students with a quality education.

Mr. Dougal asked if we could create a Charter School. Dr. Flemming asked if students would also have the opportunity for public school if they chose not to attend a Charter School.

Mr. Dougal stated that there may be a need for innovative suggestions.

Mr. Vetrick remarked that we need to quantify and be data driven.

Mr. Marino said that we can have fewer students and a smaller budget and still have a quality education,

Vice Chair Foley asked who attended the alternative school and remarked that she would not want to see SPED cuts at the expense of the students.

Mr. Dougal stated that we must respect challenges, collective bargaining, parents and demographics as we move forward.

A motion to approve budget 300 Provincetown Public Schools was made by Robert Vetrick and seconded by Rick Holland. Vote to approve 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

At this time School Committee member William Rogers thanked Fincom for their support.

5. Budget 310 Cape Cod Tech

Dr. Flemming explained that this budget is not negotiable. This expense is for the four students who attended in 1998. We are billed for the cost one year later.

Sue Buerkel gave a report about the consortium at Cape Tech which she attended in February as the Fincom's representative. Cape Tech's budget was presented at that meeting and discussed by Finance Committee members of several Cape Cod towns. Cape Tech has made a great deal of progress over the last several years and has an excellent reputation at this time.

Robert Vetrick made a motion to approve, second by Alice Foley. Vote to approve 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

6. Capital Improvements for the Schools - Roof Repair at the High School in the amount of \$110,000.

Dr. Flemming explained that the school is getting structural damage with what is the original roof.

Michael Hattersley moved to approve, second by Robert Vetrick. Vote to approve 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

Robert Vetrick will report on this item at Town Meeting.

7. Unpaid bill to Honeywell in the amount of \$1065.00 for work that had been done and inadvertently not paid.

Motion to pay by Robert Vetrick. Second by Sue Buerkel. Vote to approve 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

8. Town Meeting Articles relative to the Schools Community Center and Annex to Affordable

Housing

Dr. Flemming explained that the schools were not consulted about these ideas. Mr. Bergman had asked if the programs and personnel could be incorporated into the school buildings. Dr. Flemming stated that it would take some thoughtful planning and time to figure it out.

School Committee Member Lois Borghesi said that many aspects would need to be considered and that the School Committee would need time to look at the feasibility assuming there were funds to consolidate.

Dr. Flemming commented that the annex could not be assumed without some redesign of the High School.

Mr. Dougal asked about the progress of the consolidation study of the community center and library with the schools.

Dr. Flemming asked that if the Community Center and Annex were given to Affordable Housing projects instead of sold (with all due respect for the need for affordable housing), where would the money come from to improve the current school buildings in order to integrate the programs.

Mr. Vetric asked how the school felt about the Library relocating to the school. Both the School Committee members and administration thought it would be great.

9. Recap of work to be done. Mr. Dougal reviewed the work to be done in future meetings.

Michael Hattersley will write the message to voters. Chairman Dougal prepared a preliminary statement.

Committee members were asked to review it and get comments to Michael Hattersley by Friday March 26,

1999.

There was a motion to adjourn by Lynn Mogell at 7:00 p.m. Second by Sue Buerkel.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Buerkel, Secretary

Finance Committee