

**Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting, Tuesday, February 12, 2002**  
**Judge Welsh Meeting Room, Town Hall, Provincetown, MA 02657**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bill Dougal at 4:00P.M.

Those present were Chairman Bill Dougal, Jennifer Bedard, Rick Holland, Gail Enos, Sue Buerkel, Albert Perkins, Ruth Gilbert and Alice Foley.

I. Minutes from January 29, 2002 were approved 7-0-1

II. Presentation by Keith Bergman, Town Manager of Overview of Selectmen's 2003 Budget Request (handout)

- After review and discussion, Keith was asked why the property tax levy is at 4.8 when the goal is 2.5%? He responded that group health rate increase of 15% and a decrease in revenue (state aid) throws the budget off completely. He also stated that this budget assumes that the town will continue to fund the Cape End Manor, which may not be the case if the new Care Campus is approved.
- The Library Building Project was discussed. Due to the town receiving the anticipated state grant a year earlier than expected, they haven't been able to reach their fundraising goal and therefore will be asking Town Meeting to bridge the gap of about 2M to be paid back by June 2004.
  - Ruth Gilbert expressed shock at the library request and is concerned that the 2.5 target is being ignored.
  - Rick Holland agreed with Ruth and asked Keith if the 2.5 target could be achieved if it was averaged out over a few years.
  - Alice Foley agreed with the above.
  - Sue Buerkel stated that what is happening with the library is exactly what the Finance Committee feared last year. She stated that she thinks the 2.5 target will be easier to achieve when the Manor is no longer an issue.
  - Gail Enos, who is also a member of BOLT, said that they were truly surprised that they got the state grant so soon and that it was never their intention to come back for money from the town.
  - Albert Perkins passed
  - Jennifer Bedard stressed the importance of building up the Stabilization Fund.
  - Bill Dougal commended that Board of Selectmen and Town Manager for the excellent work that has been done on the Pier Project, Wastewater and the Manor. Otherwise he sees the same as usual in that they seem to be ignoring the town's long term fiscal plan. He thinks that political compromises are being made which results in a disparity between cost and needs.

III. School Operating Budget (300) (Dr. Traylor, Dana Berry, Terese Nelson, Frank Wills, Deb Travato and Betty White)

- (Alice Foley announced that she would be leaving the meeting at 5:50P.M.)
- Budget was reviewed and 2-year fiscal plan was handed out. Bill Dougal commended the committee for showing some significant shifts in their budgeting priorities. Rick Holland stated that he appreciated the more business like approach that the committee has taken.
- Ruth Gilbert made a motion to approve the budget, Sue Buerkel seconded and it passed unanimously.
- Meeting was adjourned at 6:15P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Lutsky  
Recording Secretary