

Finance Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, March 12th, 2008, 1:00pm  
Judge Welsh Meeting Room  
Called to Order: 1:00pm

**Membership:**

<b>P</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>Name</b>	
X			Gary Delius, Chair	
X			Ruth Gilbert, Vice Chair	
	X		Robert Vetrick	
X			Virginia Ross (arrived 1:07)	
X			Thomas Thurston (excused 3:02, PG voting)	
X			Walt Winnowski	
X			Edward Gage	
X			Thomas Coen	
X			David Bedard	
X			Philip Gaudiano, Alternate	X Voting (3:02)
X			Frederic Biddle, Alternate	X Voting

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

**Also Present:**

David Gardner, Asst. Town Mgr      Alex Heilala, Finance Director  
Sharon Lynn, Town Manager (4:00pm)  
Austin Knight, Selectman  
Paul Gavin, Principal Assessor  
Warren Tobias, Acting Chief of Police (1:55)  
4:00pm- T. Nelson & P. Grasso, School Committee, J. Waugh, School  
Supt.

**Order of Business:**

1. Review of Articles for the 2008 Town Meeting.
2. Final action of FY 2009 School Budget.
3. To consider any other business which may legally come before the Finance Committee.

**Topic: Review Pier Corp Budget-**

Presented by Gary Delius, Chair

A request has been made by the BOS through the Town Manager that the Finance Committee or a sub group review the Pier Corp Budget.

Discussion:

- It was a consensus of the committee that this request was unusual in nature. It was felt that a formal request should come directly from the BOS.
- If the committee where to go ahead with the request, it was felt that it would be impossible to do anything between now and Town Meeting.
- The Pier Corp’s not-for-profit structure was briefly discussed and the fact that it’s contract renews next year with FY 2009 being the last yr.
- It would be difficult to conduct this review since there is no “history” in this regard.
- This may be part of the beginning process in restructuring the Pier Corp.
- The question was raised whether it was within the committee’s purview to conduct such a review. It was noted that Mass General Law alludes to the fact that it may be within our scope to conduct this review.

**Motion # 1:** To request that through Town Manager, a written opinion be obtained from Town Counsel as to whether or not it was within the Finance Committee’s purview to conduct a review of the Pier Corps financial operations.

Motion By: Ruth Gilbert		Second By: Tom Coen	
For: 7	Against: 2	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

**Topic: STM-1 FY2008 Budget Adjustments-**

Discussion: It was noted that FY2008 budget adjustments are not finalized.

**Motion # 2:** To table til time certain STM-1

Motion By: Edward Gage		Second By: Virginia Ross	
For: 9	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

STM-1 (when completed) to be presented by R. Vetrick.

**Topic: STM-2 Wastwater Optimization and Expansion-borrowing authorization \$200,000 -**

Discussion:

- Borrowing necessary for additional connections & expansion of the sewer project...completion of phase II.
- Necessary to continue with getting certain properties on-line (ie. Red dot delays).

<b>Motion # 3:</b> To recommend STM-2 in the amount of \$200,000.			
Motion By: Tom Thurston		Second By: Tom Coen	
For: 9	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

STM-2 to be presented by Tom Thurston

**Topic: STM-3 Water Department Block Grant \$50,000-**

Discussion:

- Without this borrowing the town is unable to go forward with matching grant requests (between 600-800,000).
- STM-3 has no impact on the general fund.

<b>Motion # 4:</b> To recommend STM-3 in the amount of \$50,000.			
Motion By: Tom Thurston		Second By: Ed Gage	
For: 8	Against: 1	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

STM-3 to be presented by Gary Delius

**Topic: STM-4 Fund Collective Bargaining Agreements-Police Contract**

Presented by Warren Tobias, Acting Chief of Police

Discussion:

- Amounts necessary to fund collective bargaining agreements with the police union- \$167,500. (FY 2007=\$59,042, FY 2008=108,458)
- As part of the bargaining process, in lieu of current major medical coverage & switching to HMO coverage, officers picked up partial dental insurance coverage. Therefore, it was determined that line item#51202-Dental Insurance in budget 910-Insurance, is now

overstated by approximately \$18,000, since this amount is part of the 210-Police budget.

<b>Motion # 5: : To revisit budget 910-Insurance.</b>			
Motion By: Ruth Gilbert		Second By: Tom Coen	
For: 9	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:
<b>Motion # 6: Within budget 910-Insurance, adjust line item #51202-Dental Insurance by \$18,000 from \$28,080 to an adjusted amount of \$10,080.</b>			
Motion By: Ruth Gilbert		Second By: Tom Thurston	
For: 9	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:
<b>Motion # 7: To recommend STM-4 in the amount of \$167,500.</b>			
Motion By: Tom Thurston		Second By: Tom Coen	
For: 9	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

STM-4 to be presented by Tom Coen

**Topic: STM-5 Aerial Photographs for Assessors Maps \$23,000-**  
Presented by Paul Gavin, Principal Assessor

Discussion:

- Done every three years, necessary in updating assessor's maps.
- This is Provincetown's share of a three way agreement between Truro, Provincetown & although waiting for them to sign on, Wellfleet.
- We can wait an additional year for these photos to be taken, but as of 04/09, the maps will not have been updated for four years.
- Funding comes from the Overlay Surplus within the Assessors Office, therefore does not have an effect on the tax rate.

<b>Motion # 8: To recommend STM-5 in the amount of \$23,000.</b>			
Motion By: Tom Thurston		Second By: Virginia Ross	
For: 9	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

STM-5 to be presented by Gary Delius

**Topic: STM-7 Prior Year Bills \$376.31-**

Presented by Alex Heilala, Finance Director

Discussion:

- Detail presented as \$115.10 (DPW) R.F.Morrison, \$261.21 (Water Dept) Viking Office Supplies for a total of \$376.31.

<b>Motion # 9:</b> To recommend STM-7 in the amount of \$376.31.			
Motion By: Tom Thurston		Second By: Virginia Ross	
For: 9	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

STM-7 to be presented by Philip Gaudiano

**Topic: General discussion prior to voting on ATM Articles-**

- ATM-2 FY2009 Operating Budget \$19,498,565. Contrary to the budgets reviewed during Fin Com’s budget sessions, the budget presented in ATM-2 does not reflect, since it is a separate article via an override (ATM-3), the 3% merit increases for town employees.
- Prop 2 ½ Override Items- Due to the nature of an override item, it was felt that it is within Fin Coms purview to present comments for clarification purposes at Town Meeting, but to reserve recommendation on those items.

**Topic: ATM-2A Residential Curbside Collection \$153,000- Prop 2 ½ Override-**

Discussion:

- If ATM-2A does not pass, residential trash collection as we know it goes away. Options are private collection, taking trash to Transfer Station or a Pay-per-bag system.
- If ATM-2A does not pass, there has been no formal plan developed to take the place of our current collection system.
- General pros & cons discussed.

<b>Motion #10:</b> To reserve recommendation on ATM-2A.			
Motion By: Tom Coen		Second By: Virginia Ross	
For: 9	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

ATM-2A to be presented by David Bedard

**Topic: ATM-2B Public Safety & Services Positions \$63,594- Prop 2 ½ Override-**

No formal discussion or presentation. This item would be presented at Town Meeting and if passed moved forward to the May ballot.

<b>Motion #11:</b> To reserve recommendation on ATM-2B.			
Motion By: David Bedard		Second By: Ed Gage	
For: 9	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

ATM-2B to be presented by Ed Gage

**Topic: ATM-3 3% Merit Increase for Town Employees- Prop 2 ½ Override-**

Discussion:

- The fact that Fin Com’s budget review process included the 3% merit increase, it was felt that our reserve recommendation should be presented with that aspect as part of the explanation.

<b>Motion #12:</b> To reserve recommendation on ATM-3.			
Motion By: Ruth Gilbert		Second By: Ed Gage	
For: 9	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

ATM-3 to be presented by Tom Coen

**Topic: ATM-4 FY2009 Cape Cod Regional Technical High School Assessment**

Discussion:

- The article was originally written with the amount of \$153,030. Until the final assessment is in, the article should contain no specific amount.

<b>Motion #13:</b> To recommend ATM-4 with no specific amount.			
Motion By: Ruth Gilbert		Second By: Virginia Ross	
For: 9	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

ATM-4 to be presented by Fred Biddle

**Topic: ATM-5 FY2009 Enterprise Funds-**

- **440 Wastewater Enterprise Fund \$2,334,183**
- **450 Water Enterprise Fund \$1,764,401**

No formal discussion or presentation. This item was already approved as part of Fin Com’s budget review.

ATM-5 WWEF to be presented by Tom Thurston

ATM-5 WEF to be presented by Robert Vetrick

**Topic: ATM-6 FY 2009 CIP: DPW Street/Sidewalk Repair \$50,000-  
ATM-7 FY 2009 CIP: DPW Drainage Maintenance \$50,000-**

No formal discussion or presentation. These items are annual DPW CIP items and can be presented jointly at Town Meeting. Both items are contingent on the passage of a Prop 2 ½ debt exclusion by the voters.

ATM-6&7 to be presented by Walt Winnowski

**Topic: ATM-8 FY2009 Revolving Accounts:**

- **Preservations of Town Hall Auditorium**
- **Shellfish Grants**

Discussion:

- These are “housekeeping” articles and a town meeting vote necessary under Mass General Law if the revolving accounts are to continue for FY2009.

<b>Motion #14:</b> To recommend ATM-8 FY2009 Revolving Accounts.			
Motion By: Ruth Gilbert		Second By: Tom Coen	
For: 9	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

ATM-8 to be presented by David Bedard

**Topic: ATM-9 Greenhead Fly Assessment \$938.75-**

No formal discussion or presentation. This is an annual item.

<b>Motion #15:</b> To recommend ATM-9 in the amount of \$938.75	
Motion By: David Bedard	Second By: Ed Gage

For: 9	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:
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ATM-9 to be presented by Gary Delius

**Topic: ATM-10 Software Licenses \$75,000-**

No formal discussion or presentation. This item was already approved as part of Fin Com's budget review.

ATM-10 to be presented by Fred Biddle

**Topic: ATM-11 Community Preservation Budget FY 2009 \$652,191-**

Presented by David Gardner, Asst. Town Mgr

Discussion:

- This budget was not part of the Fin Com's FY2009 budget review.
- David Gardner presented background on each item listed with this budget.

<b>Motion #16:</b> To recommend ATM-11 in the amount of \$652,191.			
Motion By: Tom Coen		Second By: Ruth Gilbert	
For: 8	Against: 1	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

ATM-11 to be presented by Tom Coen

**Topic: ATM-14 Expenditures from the Tourism Fund \$423,136-**

Presented by David Gardner, Asst. Town Mgr

Discussion:

- David Gardner gave a brief recap/background for each item listed.
- This years municipal projects included DPW items relating to additional rest room attendant hours and third barrel pickup.

<b>Motion #17:</b> To recommend ATM-14 in the amount of \$423,136.			
Motion By: Ruth Gilbert		Second By: Walt Winnowski	
For: 9	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

ATM-14 be presented by Walt Winnowski

**Topic: ATM-15 FY 2009 Human Services Grant Program \$53,799-**



No formal discussion or presentation. This is an annual item, no change from last year.

<b>Motion #18:</b> To recommend ATM-15 in the amount of \$53,799.			
Motion By: Virginia Ross		Second By: David Bedard	
For: 9	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

ATM-15 be presented by David Bedard

**Topic: ATM-16 Imposition of Liens upon Town of Truro Properties-**

Discussion:

- Currently there is approximately \$40,000 in outstanding water bills due from these property owners.

<b>Motion #19:</b> To recommend ATM-16 as presented.			
Motion By: Virginia Ross		Second By: Philip Gaudio	
For: 8	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse: 1

ATM-16 be presented by Ed Gage

**Topic: ATM-22 July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration \$78,000- Prop 2 ½ Override-**

No formal discussion or presentation. This item would be presented at Town Meeting and if passed moved forward to the May ballot.

<b>Motion #20:</b> To reserve recommendation on ATM-22.			
Motion By: David Bedard		Second By: Virginia Ross	
For: 9	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

ATM-22 be presented by Robert Vetrick

**Topic: ATM-23 Fund Collective Bargaining Agreements-**

No formal discussion or presentation.

<b>Motion #21:</b> To table to time certain ATM 23.			
Motion By: Virginia Ross		Second By: Fred Biddle	
For: 9	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

4:00pm- Town Meeting article review & presentation assignments completed.

**Topic: Revisit the School Budget-**

Presented by Terese Nelson-Chairperson, Peter Grasso-S/Committee member, Jessica Waugh-School Superintendant.

Discussion:

- The last budget submitted was now reduced by \$10,000 for a final amount of \$3,637,904.88.
- This reduction was not in one specific area, but spread throughout the budget.
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<b>Motion #22:</b> To recommend the School Budget in the amount of \$3,637,904.88.			
Motion By: Tom Coen		Second By: Virginia Ross	
For: 7	Against: 2	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

**General Discussion-**

**Topic: Five Year Fiscal Plan for Municipal Government & Schools-**

Presented by Tom Coen, requesting that the BOS & School Committee provide five year fiscal plans in their respective areas.

Discussion:

- These plans would provide a clearer fiscal picture, fiscal policy & issues surrounding fiscal policy can be better defined going forward, and a better debt management policy can be developed.
- Alex Heilala indicated that one exists for the municipal side, it just needs to be updated.

<b>Motion #23:</b> To require the BOS (municipal gov't) & the School Committee (school district) provide a 5 year fiscal plan(s) prior to the next fiscal budget cycle period.			
Motion By: Tom Coen		Second By: Ruth Gilbert	
For: 9	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

**Topic: “Recommendations to the Voters” Format-**

Presented by Gary Delius.

Discussion:

- To take the current format to an 8 ½ x 11 inch document.
- To eliminate confusion on Town Meeting floor & despite the cost savings involved, it was generally felt the current format should continue.

<b>Motion #24:</b> To keep the existing format of the “Recommendations to the Voters”			
Motion By: Ed Gage		Second By: David Bedard	
For: 9	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

Next Meeting:	
Adjourn:	4:20pm
Minutes by:	Walt Winnowski

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, 2008  
 Gary Delius, Chair