

FINANCE COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING
Judge Welsh Room, Town Hall
Provincetown MA
THURSDAY MAY 7, 2020

NOTE: THIS IS A REMOTE PARTICIPATION MEETING.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Provincetown Finance Committee will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the Provincetown website, at <https://www.provincetown-ma.gov/>. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to watch/listen and participate in the meeting may do so in the following manner:

1. Watch on PTV GOV Channel 18, as well as an online live stream of PTV GOV at <http://www.provincetowntv.org/watch.html>
2. To listen and participate in this meeting, dial **(833) 579-7589**. When prompted, enter the following Conference ID number: **140 604 38#**. When prompted, state your name, then press #.
 - Keep your phone muted at all times when not talking
 - Do not use speakerphone
 - Do not use Bluetooth devices
 - Mute all background noises
 - Mute PTV on the television or computer and use only the phone audio
 - Please do not speak until the chair or the meeting moderator asks for public comments or questions.

No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Provincetown website an audio or video recording or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Members Present by Remote: Mark Hatch (MH), Chairman; Scott Valentino (SV) Vice-Chair; Mark Del Franco (MDF); Mark Bjorstrom (MB); Kathleen Goodwin (KG); Chip Cappelli (CC); Dorey Seavey (DS); Buddy Perkal (BP), Alternate.

Staff Present: Robin Craver (RC), Town Manager; Josee Young (JY), Finance Director/
Moderator.

MH opened the meeting at 4:07pm. JY read through the remote meeting protocols then took roll-call by remote.

As stated in the meeting Agenda:

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the unfolding financial and economic situation with the Town, to provide needed financial discussions and considerations for BOTH working people and the Town's finances, and to draw up some recommendations/ pathways for both working people and the Town as we move forward into a very uncertain Summer.

Talking Points

- 1. Discussion concerning rules for unemployment compensation as it affects BOTH workers and businesses, including timelines for current federal and state payments. This Finance Committee meeting will be information for people who are likely to be directly affected by reduced or no capacity for business to open or be conducted in any normal manner for their consideration in how to proceed.**

MB asked what was the extension allowed for the Town budget. JY replied that the State is allowed an extension by one-month but no more. MB suggested parking receipts would be a big item, which JY said was correct. MB verified a one-month delay regarding parking. MDF asked of there were any anticipated outstanding 2020 issues to which JY said there were not, but that there was a lot to discuss pertaining to 2021.

JY answered questions about YTD budget to actual reports, tax revenue and expected outcome of FY20. RC discussed the budgeting process, plan for Town Meeting in September, FY21 budgets, potential deferral of CIP projects, Finance Committee Reserve Fund. MH explained that property value changes do not impact real estate tax revenue. MB asked about other types of tax revenue, such as personal property tax, excise tax.

MB made a motion to support Town Meeting on September 21, 2020. SV seconded the motion and it passed, 7-0-0; MB, SV, MH, MDF, KG, CC, DS.

RC said she is hoping that a reduction in a quorum requirement does not result in a change of rules if not enough progress has been made by September.

[NOTE: phone call-in number failed after 15 minutes due to incompatibility with the video platform.]

- 2. Budget and debt discussion as related to the revenue sources most likely to be affected in the town, and what that might mean. Recommendations should be made according to the Finance Committee as to Town spending given different scenarios of revenue loss.**
- 3. Discussions concerning what the Town can do, and can't do, and recommendations for actions to be taken on a local basis to assist affected workers, and others in the case of severely reduced services and service availability. Also, looking toward the future, what the reality is concerning State and/or Federally-funded projects.**

RC highlighted the Recovery Coalition recommendations, including discussion on the topic, "What is Provincetown?"; population model, traffic mitigation, reducing parking in Lots; the need to keep everyone safe, regulatory changes to help businesses. RC said a silver lining to the pandemic could be the community support it invokes.

4. Discussion about how local recommendations may differ from State-mandated directives, and pro-active pathways to petition the State for variances where needed. Also recommendations to other regulatory committees that might help with businesses deciding to remain open versus being closed this season (from a financial perspective some regulations might be relaxed to provide non-negative cash-flow situations for local businesses, for example).

5. We expect this to be helpful and informative for people, as there are many factors at play during this time beyond just public health considerations. Hopefully, we can crystallize for people the broad and serious economic impacts that might be much longer-lasting and deeply disruptive to the Town.

MH gave props to the Town staff through the coronavirus and anticipated recovery process, said we will learn from the summer season, whatever that is; suggested that the biggest fear is not financial, but for the safety of the workers; cited broad economic damage with a domino effect from restaurants to workers to suppliers, i.e., fishermen.

MDF expressed concerns for the fishing industry and what the season will be. It was determined that a FINCOM contact list will be compiled and distributed. Agreement that visitors should self-isolate for 14 days.

6. Any other business that may legally come before the Committee.

MB made a motion to approve the February 13, 2017 meeting minutes. SV seconded the motion and it passed, 7-0-0; MB, SV, MH, MDF, KG, CC, DS.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jody O'Neil