



Minutes Finance Committee September 10, 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, the Governor's March 23, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, and Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, 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:

To participate in this meeting, dial [+1 857-327-9004](tel:+18573279004) United States, Boston (Toll) [\(833\) 579-7589](tel:+18335797589) United States (Toll-free)

When prompted, enter the following Conference ID number: 582 479 36 #. Please:

- Keep your phone muted at all times when not talking
- 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. Use *6 to mute or un-mute your phone.

You may also view the meeting, but NOT participate, by watching PTV GOV Channel 18, and the online live stream of PTV GOV at: <http://www.provincetowntv.org/watch.html>

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 telephone. 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; Mark Del Franco (MDF); Mark Bjorstrom (MB); Kathleen Goodwin (KG); Chip Cappelli (CC); Dorie Seavey (DS); David B. Panagore (DP); Alternate.

Excused Absence: Scott Valentino, Vice-Chair.

Staff Present: Josee Young (JY), Director of Finance; Thaddeus Soule (TS), Town Planner.

MH opened the meeting at 4:04pm. TS read through the remote meeting protocols then took roll-call by remote.

1. Public discussion section pertaining to the Warrant Articles

None; closed at 4:07pm.

2. Questions and/or discussion

3. The Finance Committee will discuss Articles pertaining to our purview and votes will be taken on recommendations; with presentation assignment for Town Meeting given out (Majority Report/Minority Reports) as needed

FINCOM Voting Board members: MH, MB, KG, CC, DS.

Article 1: Prior Year Bills

MB made a motion to recommend as printed. KG seconded the motion and it passed, 5-0-0.

Article 2: PEG (Public Education and Government) Access and Cable Related Fund Acceptance

MB made a motion to recommend as printed. DS seconded the motion and it passed, 5-0-0.

Article 3: DPUTNC (Department of Public Utilities, Transportation Network Company) Ride Share Fund Appropriation

CC made a motion to recommend as printed. KG seconded the motion and it passed, 5-0-0.

Article 4: FY 2021 Operating Budget

MB made a motion to recommend as printed. DS seconded the motion and it passed, 5-0-0.

Article 5: FY2021 Cape Cod Regional Technical High School

JY reported no notification per changes in assessment per student or estimated students.

KG made a motion to recommend as printed. DS seconded the motion and it passed, 5-0-0.

Article 6: FY 2021 Enterprise Fund, Water

CC made a motion to recommend as printed. KG seconded the motion and it passed, 5-0-0.

Article 6: FY 2021 Enterprise Fund, Wastewater

MB made a motion to recommend as printed. DS seconded the motion and it passed, 5-0-0.

Article 7: Emergency Response Stabilization Fund

JY described this Fund as a measure to enable access to remaining Free Cash from FY 2019 in the amount of approximately 450k, decided on by 2/3rds vote at Town Meeting.

DS made a motion to recommend as printed. MB seconded the motion and it passed, 5-0-0.

Article 8: Ryder Street Dune Enhancement Project

DS asked if this was primarily about legal funds around the easement work at about 200k, to which MH corroborated and would be determined by the Select Board.

MB asked if the Acting Town Manager has reviewed the articles proposed by the Select Board and former Town Manager, to which MH said it was so late in the process that the Acting Town Manager, David Gardner, would probably continue per previous policy.

DS made a motion to recommend as printed. MB seconded the motion and it passed, 5-0-0.

Article 9: Community Preservation Budget for FY2021 (covering Part I, Part II, and Part III, items A through J)

MB asked if the \$7,000 grant for the Soup Kitchen in Provincetown is included in this Article as he is the Treasurer of SKIP, to which JY said it was in the Consent Agenda, not here.

DS made a motion to accept as written. KG seconded the motion and it passed, 5-0-0.

JY reminded the Chair that the motions are to recommend, not accept.

Article 10: FY 2021 Capital Improvements Program (covering items A through N)

MH confirmed to MB that none of the articles of the CIP has changed since the time they were reviewed.

MB made a motion to accept as written. CC seconded the motion and it passed, 5-0-0.

Article 11: Funding for Provincetown Market Rate Year-Round Rental Housing Trust

MB said he has reviewed what was sent around from Louise Vendon of the Select Board and that it was his understanding that most of this article as proposed is for debt relief, to which JY confirmed. MH asked JY if this would be moved into the regular fund. JY said there are no guarantees as the Trust has yet to identify an allocated funding source to be able to continue; reported debt service is insupportable in full; will reimburse the General Fund if at the end of the year there are no excess funds, but debt service obligation must be paid; previously voted as a debt exclusion and this article would have it paid and funded that way for FY2021.

MB asked if the amount was known or a ballpark figure, to which JY quoted the total of \$594,557 as the total Debt Service for FY2021 which, she said, is in a separate article to be funded with the debt exclusion as voted on.

DS said she thought this proposal made sense for the current fiscal year, observed the amount is almost three times the amount the Town was originally told would be the debt service and that there is still not a long-term plan for the repairs and maintenance at Harbor Hill; asked MH if there was an agreement back in March to have quarterly meetings with the Housing Trust and if there is a mechanism in place to the end. MH replied that there is not mechanism in place for that relationship and that only the Select Board has such a formal arrangement with the Housing Trust, but that prior to the pandemic, there was the movement toward that end.

MB asked if his abutter proximity to Harbor Hill precluded him from voting, to which MH it wouldn't unless he had some personal interest or an acquisition of property.

Article 12: General Stabilization Fund

MB made a motion to recommend as written. CC seconded the motion and it passed, 5-0-0.

Article 13: Indigenous Peoples Consultant

MH suggested skipping the vote on this article as it came through the Select Board and said he had no opinion, viewing the measure in the way he would consider the Petition. MB said that as he wasn't clear on what the consultant would be doing, he would propose not making a recommendation.

MB made a motion to not recommend as printed. CC seconded the motion and it passed, 5-0-0.

MH announced that, as in general, the FINCOM does not vote on petitioned articles and proposed refraining from addressing Article 14, Chapter 13: Prohibited Activities - Single Use Plastic Bottles; Article 15, Chapter 17: Climate Policy; Article 16, Chapter 5: Town Boards; and Article 17, Chapter 13: Prohibited Activities – Discharge of Firearms Hunting on Public Property.

MB asked JY if she saw any financial impact on the Town per these articles that might prompt the FINCOM to weigh in. JY responded to MH in stating that the stipend as included in Article 16 had been voted down at the ballot box, but would also go before Town vote and recommended the FINCOM take a vote on the measure at this time. MH then proposed to not recommend as stated, adding that the vote in June was not close.

MH spoke of his personal reasons for not supporting the article as Board participation is, to him, a voluntary position and any significant payment sets a bad precedent. MB said that while he could be inclined to support a stipend increase for the Select Board which spends many more hours than other boards in their tasks at hand, going from \$2,000 to \$15,000 seemed like overkill and suggested that's why it died in June.

MB made a motion to not recommend Article 16, Chapter 5: Town Boards as printed. CC seconded the motion and it passed, 5-0-0.

Article 18: Land Bank Expenses

MH explained the Land Bank as scheduled to expire after this year; State act of 1998 for the purposes of land-type preservation in Town with a sunset clause of 2020 and the legislation was not extended.

MB made a motion to recommend as printed. DS seconded the motion and it passed, 5-0-0.

MH confirmed to MB that the Bylaw issue, like the Zoning articles, has been moved to the spring 2021 Town Meeting.

Article 19: Close Prior Year Unspent Articles

MB made a motion to recommend as printed. DS seconded the motion and it passed, 5-0-0.

MH noted, and JY confirmed, that Articles 19 through 30 are all on the CONSENT AGENDA.

CC made a motion to accept the CONSENT AGENDA, with the exception of Article 24
MB seconded the motion and it passed, 5-0-0.

CC made a motion to accept Article 24: FY2021 Human Services Grant Program. DS seconded the motion and it passed, 3-0-2: CC, DS, MH, in favor; MB, KG, abstained.

4, Other Business

MB noted that, per the Town website, MDF, SV and DP have terms that expired as of July of this year. MH added that none of the FINCOM 2020 minutes have also been posted on the site, and to that end, he has alerted Town Clark; confirmed that MDF, SV and DP have all been re-instated for new FINCOM Board terms.

DS asked per the upcoming meeting schedule. MH suggested meetings once a month until January, 2021, when, thereafter, the hope is to have in-person meetings.

MH mentioned a request to utilize some FINCOM reserve funds to fix the leak in school gym.

MH made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:58pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jody O'Neil