



Finance Committee

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
 Monday, August 23, 2010 @ 5:00 pm
 Larkin Hall at the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies
 Called to Order: 5:06 pm

Membership:

P	E	U	Name	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thomas Coen, Chair	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ann Maguire, Vice Chair	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thomas Thurston	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	David McChesney	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Erik Yingling	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tom Donegan	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Open)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Open)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Open)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oliver Kamm, Alternate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Voting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Open), Alternate	<input type="checkbox"/> Voting

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

These minutes are in brief format. This meeting was filmed and is available for viewing at <http://www.provincetowntv.org/> or on DVD at the Provincetown Television office.

Also Present:	David Gardner (Asst. Town Mgr.)
Michele Couture (BoS, Chair)	James Meads (IAC)
David Bedard (BoS)	Pam Hudson (Benefits Admin.)
Austin Knight (BoS)	Linda O'Brien (IAC)
Elaine Anderson (BoS)	Cheryl Duarte (IAC)
John Santos (BoS) – arr. 5:30pm	Paul Gavin (IAC)
Vernon Porter (BoS recorder)	

<p>Order of Business:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joint public meeting with the Board of Selectmen and the Insurance Advisory Committee regarding Medicare for retirees.
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2. Any other business that may legally come before the Finance Committee.

After calling the Finance Committee meeting to order, Mr. Coen announced the resignation of Gabby Hanna and asks for residents to volunteer on the Finance Committee.

Medicare for Retirees

Ms. Couture announced that this is a workshop to get the conversation started on Section 18 and get questions answered. The Selectmen will hold a public hearing in September to take further input prior to making any decision.

Ms. Hudson - Gave a brief overview of the contents of the agenda item as presented to the Board.

Mr. Meads – Insurance Advisory Commission held a public hearing today at 4 PM and a motion was made not to consider adopting Chapter 32B Section 18 or 18A. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Meads’ also read the attached statement.

Mr. Coen – Gave an update on the meeting that the FinCom held last week on Medicare for retirees.


Ms. Couture – We have to look at commitments we have made in the past to our employees as well as to our taxpayers and how to balance things.

Mr. Knight – Workshop in September will be very valuable. I will have several questions for you at that time.

Mr. Bedard – thanked everybody for all the work they have put into this project.

Ms. Couture – Not going to vote for anything that will negative impact any of our retirees. We will look at all the possibilities and we will look at whatever necessary to control the costs.

Next Meeting:	TBD
Adjourn:	5:57
Minutes by:	Vernon Porter / Thomas Coen

Approved by  on December 2, 2010
Thomas Coen, Chair

Attachment A – James Meads Statement

My reasons why the Town of Provincetown should not be considering making changes in the Health benefits to the retirees , by either adopting Chp . 32B, Sec. 18 or 18A.

Adopting either section of Chp. 32B would put all retirees into a Medicare program that presently a lot of Doctors are refusing. This poses a great hardship on finding new doctors that will accept them. Maybe waiting until these Health questions are answered, as amendments to the new health care law are made, would be more prudent.

Presently there is one retiree in their 90s, 9 in their 80s, 21 in their 70s and 15 in their 60s. With the economy being what it is today, Interest on savings in banks are down and the amount that they would be able to count on for living expenses has gone down. These retirees pay taxes, plus insurance on their homes, pay their share of their health insurance, buy food, clothes and other essentials. I have a sampling of some monthly gross incomes from retirement for 20 retirees that produced them upon my request. Many of these people receive between \$775.00 a month and \$2500.00 a month. To substantiate these low monthly retirement benefits, I have a list of 17 Town positions, showing what they made for salaries in the year 1975, 1985, 1995 and 2005. These amounts that they received for salaries will show why their monthly retirements checks are so low.

Quite a few of the retirees live in other states, some in nursing homes who aren't going to be able to reach an intelligent decision as to what medicare supplement is going to be best for them.

The big question is, What is the Town going to do with the money saved on the "Backs of the retirees". Will they buy more land to plant flowers on as they did in the East end of Town for \$250,000.00, or will they have another project like painting the Library, which was never going to cost the taxpayers a dime.

A way for the Town to save money, is to consolidate our town owned property and to sell off what is not needed. If the old library has to go back to the heirs of the property, so be it. At least, we won't have to maintain it, and it will go onto the tax roles.

Not only is this the way I feel, but these are the sentiments of a lot of retirees, both in town and out of state. I honestly feel that I have let them down by not publicly expressing our views.