



Finance Committee

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 21, 2010 @ 6:00 pm
Larkin Hall at the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies
Called to Order: 6:02 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 (Arr. 6:29)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thomas Thurston	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	David McChesney	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oliver Kamm, Alternate	<input 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:	
Dan Hoort, Finance Director	

<p>Order of Business:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public Hearing on the November 8th, 2010 Special Town Meeting warrant articles. 2. Committee recommendations on the November 8th, 2010 Special Town Meeting warrant articles. 3. Committee report assignments on the November 8th, 2010 Special Town Meeting warrant articles.

4. Outline of the Committee's Letter to the Voters.
5. Minutes of prior meetings.
6. Any other business that may legally come before the Finance Committee.

Public Hearing

Mr. Coen opened the Public Hearing at 6:02 pm and read the notice into the record as follows:

“In accordance with §5-2-1 of the Provincetown General By-Laws, the Provincetown Finance Committee will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, October 21, 2010 at 6:00 pm** at the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, Larkin Hall, 5 Holway Avenue, Provincetown, MA to hear comments from the public on the November 8th Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles. Copies of the Warrant Articles are available for inspection in the office of Town Manager/Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 16 Jerome Smith Road, Provincetown, MA.

Comments may be also be submitted in writing to that office no later than Wednesday, October 20, 2010, or in person at the hearing.”

Mr. Coen noted that no public comments had been received in writing.

Ms. Barbara Rushmore, the petitioner of *Article 19, 0.5% Real Estate Transfer Fee – A Home Rule Petition ByLaw*, presented the article. It would raise additional revenue that could be used for capital improvements such as paving the roads. The Town's large summer population requires that the Town maintain a much infrastructure than would otherwise be needed. She disagrees with the objection raised by real estate agents that it would have a negative affect on the housing market. Maintaining our infrastructure would actually enhance values. The fee would raise at least \$350K, based on recent sales figures. She also believes that this fee would help to lower our real estate taxes and reduce our use of debt.

Mr. Thurston pointed out that this new version of the article calls for the purchaser to pay the fee, rather than the seller. Ms. Rushmore noted that she made the change in response to comments made by citizens at Town Meeting.

There were no other public comments, so Mr. Coen closed the public hearing at 6:12 pm.

Recommendations & Assignments on the STM Warrant Articles

Article 19, 0.5% Real Estate Transfer Fee – A Home Rule Petition ByLaw

Mr. Coen asked the Committee members if they wanted to take the articles out of order as a courtesy to Ms. Rushmore.

Messrs. Thurston and Yingling recused themselves from the discussion due to the fact that they both hold real estate licenses. This left the Committee without a quorum to deliberate. The Committee may address this article at its meeting prior to the start of the Special Town Meeting.

Article 1. Prior Year Bills

Mr. Hoort explained that there are three prior-year bills, totaling \$4,384.86. They will be paid using leftover funds from old article.

Motion # 1: To recommend Article 1 in the amount of \$4,384.86.			
Motion By: Thomas Thurston		Second By: Thomas Donegan	
For: 5	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:
Assigned to: David McChesney			

Article 2. FY 2011 Enterprise Funds

This article will correct a mistake that was made in the original article that the voters approved at the April, 2010, Annual Town Meeting.

The amount of the budgets for the Water and Wastewater Enterprise Funds are the same as the amounts approved by Town Meeting in April. This article corrects the funding sources so that they add up to the same amounts as the budgets. The Department of Revenue will not approve this year’s tax rate until this error is corrected.

Motion # 2: To recommend Article 2, Section 1, 440 Wastewater Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$2,817,594.			
Motion By: Thomas Thurston		Second By: Erik Yingling	
For: 5	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:
Assigned to: Erik Yingling			

Motion #3: To recommend Article 2, Section 2, 450 Water Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$2,103,899.			
Motion By: Erik Yingling		Second By: Thomas Donegan	
For: 5	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:
Assigned to: Erik Yingling			

Article 3. Use of Parking Funds to Purchase Automated Pay Stations

This article would fund the acquisition of three additional automated pay stations for the Alden Street, Johnson Street and West End Parking lots.

Mr. Hoort reported that the trial on Ryder Street has been successful in increasing revenues except during weeks when construction vehicles are parked in the spaces. Overall there has been a 9% increase.

Mr. Yingling said that he supports this article, but has concerns about displacing jobs if they are installed in the main parking lots.

Motion # 4: To recommend Article 4 in the amount of \$51,000.			
Motion By: Thomas Thurston		Second By: Thomas Donegan	
For: 6	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:
Assigned to: Thomas Donegan			

Article 4. Discharge the Regional School District Planning Committee

The Committee has no recommendation, as this article has no financial implications.

Article 5. Cemetery Improvements

This article will authorize expenditure of funds to complete the spade foot toad study, related to expansion of the cemetery. The exact amount to be requested has not yet been determined, but it will not exceed \$2,000.

Motion # 4: To recommend Article 5 in an amount up to \$2,000.			
Motion By: Ann Maguire		Second By: Thomas Donegan	
For: 6	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:
Assigned to: Ann Maguire			

Article 6. Adoption of MGL Ch.138, §33B Sales of alcoholic beverages by on-premise licensees on Sundays and certain legal holidays; sales between 10:00 A.M. and 12:00 noon

This article would allow the sale of alcoholic beverages on Sundays and certain other holidays between 10:00 am and Noon. The Committee agreed that this would be good for both businesses and patrons.

Motion # 5: To recommend Article 6.			
Motion By: Thomas Thurston		Second By: Ann Maguire	
For: 6	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:
Assigned to: Thomas Thurston			

Article 7. General By-law Amendment: 8-16. Hours of Alcoholic Beverage Service

This article inserts existing hours of alcoholic beverage service into a by-law. The Committee considers this a house keeping measure and, therefore, has no recommendation.

Article 8. General By-law Amendment: Deletion Chapter 7

Committee members expressed concern that deleting the Domestic Partnership by-law may have unintended financial and/or legal consequences, e.g. health insurance availability, visitation rights, etc. Mr. Coen will follow up and get clarification. Mr. Hoort will also check whether this would affect insurance benefits for employees.

Articles 9 – 18

The Committee made no recommendations on these articles as they have no significant impact on Town finances.

Article 19, 0.5% Real Estate Transfer Fee – A Home Rule Petition ByLaw

The Chair reiterated that the Committee cannot deliberate on this article due to the two recusals.

Mr. Hoort received this information from the Assessor: In calendar 2008 there were a little over \$94M in real estate transactions. One half of one percent would have been \$470K. That would be the largest possible amount or revenue without factoring in exemptions.

Letter to the Voters

The Committee reviewed the draft version of its *Letter to the Voters*. Mr. Coen would like to add a statement regarding our free cash if it is certified next week.

Mr. Thurston asked how long we have been on the Department of Revenue's watch list. Mr. Coen will research that and include it in the report.

Mr. Donegan suggested that we include something regarding the new room and meals tax revenues in the report. We only have one month of data (July), so it would be premature to include that information.

Mr. Coen is planning to take photos of the Town Hall auditorium with the new chandelier for the booklet. This will depend on whether or not the installation work is completed next week.

Motion # 6: To approve the Committee' November 8 th Letter to the Voters, as amended.			
Motion By: Ann Maguire		Second By: Erik Yingling	
For: 6	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

Minutes

There were no minutes to be reviewed.

Other Business

The Chair distributed copies of Water and Wastewater reports that will be presented to the Board of Selectmen at their October 25th meeting. He is planning to sit in on the meeting. The five year proformas are still being developed. The DPW Director has indicated that the target is mid-November.

The Committee is also interested in seeing the water commitments report as soon as it is available. As a result of the Town's water leakage detection program, metered usage/revenues should be up which will affect the proformas. Mr. Hoort will forward it as soon as he receives it.

Next Meeting:	November 8 th @ 5:00 pm
Adjourn:	7:04 pm
Minutes by:	Thomas Coen

Approved by  on December 16, 2010
 Thomas Coen, Chair