

Provincetown Finance Committee Minutes
March 11, 2013, 4:00 p.m.
Public Hearing 6:00 p.m.
Judge Welsh Room, Provincetown Town Hall

Members Present: Tom Donegan, Doug Cliggott, Gordon Siegel, Duane Steele, Clarence Walker and Tim Grobleski

Excused Absent: Mike Canizales, Catherine Russo

Others Present: Finance Director Dan Hoort, Town Moderator Mary Jo Avellar

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Chairman Donegan reviewed open issues regarding FY 14 budget. Revenues increase by 3.3% and expenses are increasing by 4.3%. We can't sustain this pattern. A good portion of the budget is non-discretionary. The Committee reviewed the movers of the budget including the difference between school choice and tuition to Nauset Regional High School.

The Committee discussed the process for changing the budget on the floor of town meeting through amendments. The Committee also discussed whether legal should be questioned with the Board of Selectmen. The Finance Director discussed that we are on pace to expend \$198,511 for FY 2013. The Committee believes if the budget is cut an effort will be made to trim costs.

The Committee discussed the CIP program, classifications of CIPs, etc. Work needs to continue on the program. The Chair felt the generator CIP sets a bad precedent and the Committee agreed this may be a problem.

The Committee discussed the first draft of the FinCom letter to voters and roles were assigned by the chair.

Mr. Steele brought up his issues with the Pier Corporation. He has made a public records request for the last four years financial information, but it has not yet been filled.

Meeting Recessed at 5:30pm

Meeting Resumed at 6:00pm with Public Hearing

Letter from Ms. Candace Nagle (attached below) was read into the record.

Town Moderator Mary Jo Avellar stated that Mr. Canizales had informed the Committee of his actions over the weekend.

Scott Caldwell asked questions regarding health insurance and the school budget.

The Finance Committee Chair stated the budget increased by 4.5% while revenues increased 3.3%, this is not sustainable in the future. As we approach collective bargaining we need to keep this in mind, we need to make some hard choices. Mr. Steele thinks we need to focus on collective bargaining. Mr. Walker thinks we are shifting operating expenses to the CIP program.

The Finance Committee Chair addressed the issues upon which the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee are not in agreement.

- Buildings and Grounds – FinCom recommending a reduction of \$6,000 in overtime budget

- Buildings and Grounds – FinCom recommending an increase of \$70,000 in building maintenance.
- Legal – FinCom recommending a decrease in \$20,000

The Board of Selectmen Chair spoke to the direction of the Selectmen. The Selectmen are not expecting to change the budget presented in the warrant. If the Finance Committee wishes to change the budget they have the option of amending the budget on the floor of town meeting or at fall town meeting.

In reference to the CIP article for a generator DPW Director David Guertin stated that we may have a surplus generator available and it's possible the CIP article for the generator may not be needed.

Meeting Documents:

- Open Issues
- Memo from Russ Braun to Sharon Lynn
- Draft of Finance Committee Report and Recommendations

Letter from Ms. Candace Nagle:

To the Board of Selectmen:

I am requesting my following public statement be read aloud at the Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen public hearing on March 11 2013 since I am unable to attend.

There is widespread community concern that someone who has never been to a Building Committee and Finance Committee meeting nor has any municipal finance background could craft such a perfectly worded article, Article 30, on a complex issue that has been unequivocally supported not only by an elected official and Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee but who are both aggressively advocating for it. There is also widespread concern in our community that the Finance Committee Vice-Chair, Michael Canizales submitted in person the Citizen's petition for Article 30 to the Town Clerk's office. In addition, the Town Clerk has gone on record, that Mr. Canizales said to him, quote: don't tell anyone it was me' end quote.

Our former Town Moderator, Irene Rabinowitz, recently posted on the Face Book page, Ptown Community & Politics. She said quote, 'If I was the Moderator, there would be some wood shed visiting, but I'm not and it's Mary-Jo Avellar's problem now! End quote. That is the big question? What is our current Town Moderator, Mary Jo Avellar, going to do about this? It is her duty as Town Moderator to properly oversee the Finance Committee. It is dishonest, underhanded and highly unethical for a Finance Committee member to secretly pen an article for the Town warrant, then deliberate and vote on it. Is she going to take the appropriate actions steps by dismissing Mr. Canizales from the Finance Committee because she believes in transparent and honest government which will then help restore the integrity of the Finance Committee that has been severely damaged? Or are her alliances with board members on the Finance Committee going to trump doing the right thing? It is my hope she will put the Town first. Tonight, is Ms. Avellar's opportunity to show leadership and restore our trust.

Lastly, a transparent poll is currently being conducted on the aforementioned Face Book page which has over 400 members. The poll question is: Do you think Dottie Feld wrote Article 30?

To date: 11% voted YES and 87% voted NO

Yours in Good Government,
Candace Nagle