



## Finance Committee

# Minutes

Minutes – July 31, 2013

The meeting of the Provincetown Finance Committee on July 31, 2013 came to order at 1:42 p.m. in the Judge Welsh Meeting Room, Town Hall, Provincetown, MA

**Present:** Clarence Walker, Raphael Richter, Mike Canizales, Duane Steele, Doug Cliggott, Catherine Russo, and Stan Sikorski. Also present were Dan Hoort (Finance Director), Police Chief Jeff Jarran, Lt. Golden, Town Moderator Mary Jo Avellar, Town Manager Sharon Lynn, Selectman Austin Knight, and Building Committee Chair Tom Coen

1. John Giorgio discussed litigation claims and trends over the past three years citing that many were zoning, building, land court issues. Over five years our legal budget has averaged \$200,000 dollars. In 2013 it was \$250,000 due to special projects. Mr. Giorgio expects issues with the sale of the Grace Gouveia Building, solar projects, conservation restrictions, pier, waste water, all of which may involve litigation.
2. Public statements: Austin Knight, Chair of the Board of Selectmen, presented his comment that, once again, the Finance Committee was not in a position to make or influence policy, or handle personnel matters.
3. Member statements: Clarence Walker expressed extreme unhappiness with Austin Knight's statement and he stressed that we all need to work together. Duane Steele stated that he would like to see the requirements for a 76 room, 3 floor, police department for a town of our size. Raphael Richter suggested that the VFW purchase be used for affordable housing. Duane Steele agrees. Stan Sikorski suggested more focus on the tourism industry. Katherine Russo suggested that citizens and committees continue to work with other towns to achieve solutions to financial woes. Mike Canizales stated that we need to continue to work together to develop creative solutions which optimistically will result in financial gain. He stressed that if we are not honest with ourselves as

a Finance Committee, we will have to break promises to our employees as money is depleted.

4. Minutes were not brought forward to be discussed.
5. Public Comments: Tom Coen, the Building Chair, reports that there is a Chatham Police Department Field Trip scheduled. Mr. Coen requested that Finance Committee Members attend. It will be to assess use of space, and cost of building to help prepare for a new police building in town. There is discussion of a merged lock-up, and the regionalization of police departments by the Finance Committee. Austin Knight stated that at the November Town Meeting, voters will be asked to purchase property. We will then begin the design phase and quotes for the Spring Town Meeting next year. Clarence Walker agrees to attend Building Committee Meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month as the Finance Committee liaison. Mr. Knight also suggests that the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee have a joint meeting regarding pensions, public health care, and OPED.
6. The Outer Cape Finance Committee Meetings have been held with members of Finance Committees and Selectmen from other towns. The Finance Committee members report much shared interest and workability with other towns. Our next meeting, posted by Judy Cannon of the Town Crier Motel, will be in Eastham. We will discuss police department statistics, and sharing of personnel and equipment by various town departments.
7. Pension and health care costs are a major problem for every municipality. The Town of Provincetown's pension and health care costs are much higher than other towns. Doug Cliggott discussed the percentage of costs for healthcare as well as retiree's healthcare.

Stan Sikorski departed the meeting.

8. Mike Canizales handed out FBI statistics, resort town police stats, and a New Jersey study of police department size and requirements on which metrics seem to be most useful when benchmarking with other towns. His handout also was given to Sharon Lynn and Lt. Golden who have information on

department size, union involvement, etc. He asked that they include the information in their budgeting process.

9. Sharon Lynn and Police Chief Jarran reported that there is no discussion of a mediator budget.
10. Marine Patrol by the Environmental Police on the high speed ferries is being conducted. Police Chief Jeff Jarran stated that heightened security by the State Police, Coast Guard, and Environmental Police is proceeding, and other than that, he currently has no information for the public. Chair Canizales suggested being pro-active to educate visitors regarding drugs on boards might be a better approach.
11. The five year plan needs to be a joint effort of the Town Manager, Selectmen, and the Finance Committee. Doug Cliggott suggested giving a copy of the completed five year plan to each department with Finance Committee recommendations.
12. Doug Cliggott motioned that at the earliest possible meeting, there be a joint meeting between the Selectmen, the Charter Committee, and the Finance Committee. It was seconded by Clarence Walker and passed by 6-0-0. The hypothesis is to streamline the budgeting process in order that each department does not have to have three separate meetings with senior staff before their budget is approved. This will require action by the Charter Committee and Town Meeting.
13. Special Town Meeting: The Finance Committee will provide a handout with a timeline for the Fall Town Meeting to make it as efficient as possible.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. after being moved by Clarence Walker and seconded by Duane Steele and passed 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted:

Maghi Geary