

PROVINCETOWN FINANCE COMMITTEE

Joint Session with the Provincetown Board of Selectmen
Town Hall, Judge Welsh Common Room

August 9, 2004
6:00 PM

Members Present: Matthew Clark, Gail Enos, Ruth Gilbert (Chair), Mark Leach, Ann Maguire, Tom Thurston, Robert Vetrick

Members Absent: Sue Buerkel (Vice Chair – Excused) and Virginia Ross

Others Present: Selectpersons (Andrews, Couture, Olson, and Peake); Town Manager Keith A. Bergman; Acting Assistant Town Manager Michelle Jarusiewicz; and Attorney Gretchen Van Ness

The meeting was called to order by Ruth Gilbert at 6:00 p.m.

Ruth Gilbert indicated that the Finance Committee had requested this joint meeting with the Selectmen to discuss the costs to the Town of the litigation related to same-sex marriage. In particular, she indicated that the Finance Committee wanted to know why Provincetown was the only town involved in the litigation that was paying for its own legal counsel—the others being represented *pro bono* by the ACLU and Palmer and Dodge.

Board of Selectmen (BOS) Chair Andrews indicated that our questions touched on sensitive issues of litigation strategy and suggested that we would be able to have a more substantive discussion were the BOS and the Finance Committee to meet jointly in executive session.

After some further discussion—which stressed the Finance Committee’s belief that the BOS needed to explain this matter publicly to the citizens soon—a motion was made by Robert Vetrick & seconded by Matthew Clark to go into executive session by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Discussion ensued.

At 7:30 a motion to leave executive session was made by Robert Vetrick & seconded by Matthew Clark. It passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

No further business to address, the committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew Clark