



# Finance Committee

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, June 10, 2009 @ 10:00 am  
Rice Library, Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies  
Called to Order: 10:05

### Membership:

<b>P</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>Name</b>	
<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"/>	Virginia Ross	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thomas Thurston	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Frederic Biddle	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Philip Gaudiano	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gabrielle Hanna	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Daniel Hoort	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	David McChesney	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Erik Yingling, 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)

This meeting was filmed and is available on DVD at the Provincetown Television office.

### Also Present:

Sharon Lynn, Town Manager	Irene Rabinowitz, Town Moderator
Alix Heilala, Finance Director	

### Order of Business:

1. To conduct a Public Hearing on the June Special Town Meeting warrant articles.
2. To make recommendations on the June Special Town Meeting warrant articles.
3. To outline the Committee's "Letter to the Voters".

4. To review the minutes of prior meetings.
5. To consider any other business that may legally come before the Finance Committee.

## June Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Mr. Coen opened the public hearing at 10:07 and read the public notice into the record as follows:

“In accordance with §5-2-1of the Provincetown General By-Laws, the Provincetown Finance Committee will hold a **Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 10, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, Rice Library, 5 Holway Avenue, Provincetown, MA to hear comments from the public on the Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles. Copies of the Special Town Meeting 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 submitted in writing to that office no later than Monday, June 9, 2009, or in person at the hearing.”

Mr. Coen noted that he had not received any written comments. The hearing was held open for 15 minutes but there were no comments received from the public. The hearing was closed at 10:22 am.

### Recommendations on the June Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles

As the Committee had previously discussed the warrant articles at length, the discussion on most of the articles was brief.

#### Article 1. Town Hall Renovations

**Motion #1** : To recommend STM Article 1 in the amount of \$3.2M.

Assigned to Ms. Maguire.

Motion By: Ann Maguire

Second By: Daniel Hoort

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Recuse:

**Article 2. Fund Step 10 Retroactive Pay**

<b>Motion # 2:</b> To recommend STM Article 2 in the amount of \$15,245.			
Assigned to Mr. Hoort.			
Motion By: Ann Maguire		Second By: Frederic Biddle	
For: 7	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

**Article 3. Community Preservation Act: Acceptance of Administrative Expenses Permissible Under the Act**

Mr. Coen confirmed that the amount stated in the motion at Town Meeting will be \$15,000.

<b>Motion # 3:</b> To recommend STM Article 3 in the amount of \$15,000.			
Assigned to Mr. Coen.			
Motion By: Ann Maguire		Second By: Philip Gaudio	
For: 7	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

**Article 4. Home Rule Petition: Equitable Distribution of Revenue**

<b>Motion # 4:</b> To recommend STM Article 4.			
Assigned to Mr. Gaudio.			
Motion By: Ann Maguire		Second By: Erik Yingling	
For: 7	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

**Article 5. Use of Parking Funds to Purchase Automated Pay Stations**

<b>Motion #5 :</b> To recommend STM Article 5 in the amount of \$17,000.			
Assigned to Mr. Yingling.			
Motion By: Ann Maguire		Second By: Daniel Hoort	
For: 7	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

**Article 6. AMENDMENT to 04-06-09 ATM Article 17: Land Bank – Acquisition of Land for Community Agriculture, Conservation, and Open Space – 6R, 10R and 14R Browne Street**

<b>Motion #6</b> : To recommend STM article 6 in the amount of \$86,400.			
Assigned to Mr. Coen.			
Motion By: Frederic Biddle		Second By: Philip Gaudiano	
For: 7	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

**Article 7. PARC Land Grant – Suzanne’s Garden**

<b>Motion #7</b> : To recommend STM article 7.			
Assigned to Mr. Coen.			
Motion By: Ann Maguire		Second By: Philip Gaudiano	
For: 7	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

**Article 8. Add Alternate Member to Animal Welfare Committee**

No recommendation as the article has no financial implications.

**ARTICLE 9. Waterways Capital Reserve Fund (petitioned)**

The consensus of the Committee was that this article has troubling implications for the finances of the Provincetown Public Pier Corporation. There was also a sense that “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.”

<b>Motion #8</b> : To not recommend STM Article 9.			
Assigned to Mr. Coen.			
Motion By: Ann Maguire		Second By: Daniel Hoort	
For: 7	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

**Article 10. Home Rule Petition: ½ % Real Estate Transfer Fee (petitioned)**

*(Mr. Yingling recused himself from this discussion as he is related to the petitioner).*

The Committee believes that the revised article is greatly improved, but that it can be further improved, and that it needs more public discussion. There was also concern about raising taxes until we have a better understanding of the Town’s overall fiscal condition in the Fall.

Mr. Biddle introduced a motion to recommend the article but it failed to get a second.

<b>Motion #9</b> : To reserve recommendation on STM Article 10.			
Assigned to Ms. Maguire.			
Motion By: Ann Maguire		Second By: Philip Gaudio	
For: 5	Against: 0	Abstain: 1	Recuse: EY

**Letter to the Voters**

Mr. Coen distributed his draft of the Committee’s “Report and Recommendations” on the Special Town Meeting articles and received feedback from the Committee members. He will finalize the document for publication by Monday, the 17<sup>th</sup>, as required by the Town Charter.

**Minutes**

<b>Motion #10</b> : To approve the minutes of June 3, 2009, as amended.			
Motion By: Erik Yingling		Second By: Frederic Biddle	
For: 6	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

## **Other Business**

### **USDA Water & Sewer Grant**

The Town Manager told the Committee that the Town has received a \$6.2M grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for various water and sewer projects. She explained that we will need another Special Town Meeting, tentatively scheduled for late August, because the grant requires a local match that must be appropriated by the voters.

### **Town Hall Grant**

Ms. Lynn also informed the Committee that we will be receiving a \$102K community facilities grant for the restoration of the Town Hall auditorium. Provincetown is the only municipality in the Commonwealth eligible for the grant due to our high unemployment rate.

### **Standard & Poor Bond Rating**

Ms. Heilala told the Committee that Standard & Poor has upgraded our bond rating from A to AA-. A key factor in the upgrade was the fact that we have gotten out of the manor business. As a result, the Town can expect to pay lower interest rates on future bond issues.

### **Boat Excise Taxes**

Following up on an issue that was raised at a previous meeting, Mr. Coen met with the Town Assessor to discuss how we identify and enforce the payment of boat excise taxes. The tax applies to boats that are longer than 16’.

The assessor uses multiple sources of information to identify and bill owners of boats that are primarily moored in Provincetown, including:

- The Massachusetts Environmental Police’s list of active boats registered in Provincetown.

- Lists from the Harbormaster and Flyer's Boat Year of out-of-state and out-of-town boats that are moored in the harbor as of July 1, including temporary moorings.

He also noted that undocumented boats in the harbor are required to register with the Harbormaster.

Next Meeting:	Monday, June 22, 2009 @ 5:00 pm
Adjourn:	12:04 pm
Minutes by:	Thomas Coen

Approved by  on July 15, 2009  
Thomas Coen, Chair