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TOWN OF ORLEANS
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE

APPROVED: 11/12/09

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FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Nov. 5, 2009, meeting of the Orleans Finance Committee was convened by Committee Chairman Walter Bennett at 7:00 p.m. in the Nauset Room of the Orleans Town Hall. Present constituting a quorum were Mr. Bennett, Edwin Barr, Mark Fiegel, Dale Fuller, John Hodgson, Gwen A. Holden Kelly, and Rick Sigel. Committee members Laurence Hayward, and Paul Rooker were absent.

Guests

Mark Carron, Board of Selectmen liaison to the Finance Committee, was in attendance at the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Ms. Holden Kelly, the minutes of the Oct. 8, 2009, meeting were approved 6-0-1, with Mr. Fiegel abstaining.

Future Meetings Schedule

Mr. Bennett reviewed the Finance Committee meeting schedule through July 8, 2010. He noted that no meetings of the Finance Committee will be scheduled for December, but that the Committee will meet on Thursday in each of the first three weeks of January 2010, holding the fourth Thursday of that month in reserve in case the Committee's budget deliberations suggest a need for an additional meeting. He said the Finance Committee will meet twice in February 2010 and four times in March and April and return to its twice-monthly schedule in May. Mr. Bennett said that he will distribute the meeting schedule to Finance Committee members via email.

Mr. Bennett also called Committee members' attention to the Feb. 24, 2010, public hearing on the Town's capital budget, which will be hosted by the Finance Committee and asked that Mr. Barr put together a campaign to solicit public participation in that hearing similar to the campaign that he managed for the September public hearing on the Town's operating expenditures budget.

New Business

Discussion of Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Issues:

The Finance Committee began its discussion of fiscal year 2011 budget issues with consideration of the local option tax. **On a motion made by Mr. Fuller, the Finance Committee voted to advise the Board of Selectmen of the Committee's support for further exploration and consideration of an increase in the meals tax under the local option tax provision 7-0-0.**

On a motion made by Mr. Bennett, the Finance Committee voted to reconsider the previous motion 7-0-0.

Following approval of the motion to reconsider, Mr. Sigel moved to advise the Board of Selectmen that the Finance Committee's position on an increase in the meals tax under the local option tax provision is favorable. That motion was approved on a 4-2-1 vote, with Mr. Fiegel and Ms. Holden Kelly voting in the negative and Mr. Fuller abstaining.

On a motion made by Mr. Sigel, the Finance Committee voted to advise the Board of Selectmen that the Finance Committee's position on an increase in the hotels/motels tax under the local option tax provision is favorable; 5-2-0, with Mr. Fiegel and Ms. Holden Kelly voting in the negative).

Other topics addressed during the budget issues discussion included exploring opportunities for selling or leasing unused or underutilized Town property; consolidating, reducing or eliminating services; selling services to or purchasing services from neighboring towns; and postponing capital expenditures funded for the current fiscal year or planned for fiscal year 2011.

Subcommittee Reports

The Budget Subcommittee: Mr. Fuller reported on activities of the Budget Subcommittee.

The School Subcommittee: Mr. Barr reported on activities of the School Subcommittee.

The Wastewater Subcommittee:

Mr. Bennett postponed discussion of wastewater management issues to the Finance Committee's Nov. 12 meeting.

Board of Selectmen Reports

- Mr. Bennett read in to the record Mr. Hayward's liaison reports on the proceedings of the Oct. 14 and 28, 2009, meetings of the Orleans Board of Selectmen.
- Mr. Barr reported on the proceedings of the Nov. 4, 2009, meeting of the Orleans Board of Selectmen.

Committee Reports

Committee Liaison Reports

Finance Committee members reported on meetings and activities of the following Town boards and committees:

- Activities of the Orleans Elementary School Committee, Orleans Elementary School Parent/Teachers Association, and Nauset Regional School Committee (Mr. Hodgson);
- Nov. 5 meeting of the Orleans Community Preservation Committee (Ms. Holden Kelly);
- Nov. 5 meeting of the Orleans Board of Health (Mr. Fuller).

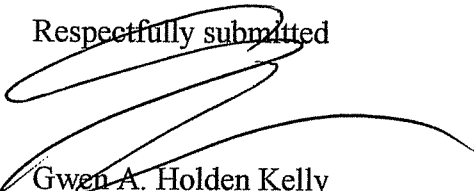
Old Business

None.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. Fiegel, the meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Gwen A. Holden Kelly
Recording Secretary