

APPROVED: 3/28/10

K. DeLuca Asst
TOWN OF ORLEANS
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE

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FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The March 11, 2010, meeting of the Orleans Finance Committee was convened by Committee Assistant Vice Chairman Dale Fuller at 7:00 p.m. in the Nauset Room of the Orleans Town Hall. Present constituting a quorum were Mr. Fuller, Edwin Barr, Mark Fiegel, Rick Sigel and John Hodgson.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by John Hodgson and seconded by Mark Fiegel, the minutes of the Feb. 25, 2010, meeting were approved 5-0-0.

Guests

Julia Enroth, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee and Jane Hinckley member at large CPC, Jon Fuller in his capacity as Park Commissioner, Cathy Southworth for the Historical Commission and John Holt representing the Housing Authority.

Ms. Enroth presented the Community Preservation Committee's final project recommendations totaling \$821,753 for Fiscal Year '11 to be presented at the Annual Town Meeting in May. The plan included allocations for four projects: 1) the rehabilitation of the orchard at Sea Call Farm, 2) document and photograph preservation activities by the Orleans Historical Society, 3) architectural work and painting at the Odd Fellows Hall, 4) funds to assist in the purchase of the Fleck property on Twinings Pond as well as funding for committee expenses, debt service (approximately \$600K of the total) and reserves from a variety of revenue sources including the state, historic reserves and fund balances. Ms. Enroth indicated she expected the state share will total \$160K. Chairman Fuller of the Board of Selectmen attended both as Park Commissioner and in his capacity as liaison to the Community Preservation Committee.

Approval: On a motion by Mark Fiegel seconded by Rick Sigel the committee voted 5-0-0 to approve the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee.

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

Old Business

- a. Joint Meeting March 10, 2010 Rick Sigel complimented the presentation by Finance Director David Withrow and Assistant Vice Chairman Dale Fuller expressed thanks to the public for the turnout to voice opinion in the public hearing.
- b. Budget Reviews:
Department 510 Health Ed Barr distributed copies of the questions posed during his budget review meeting with health agent Robert Canning and recommended approval of the budget as proposed.

On a motion by Rick Sigel and seconded by John Hodgson the committee approved the Health department budget 5-0-0

Department 630 Recreation Rick Sigel reviewed this departmental budget showing a 14% reduction from the prior year most of which comes from a reduction in hours for the recreation director and, reportedly, the elimination of the recreation department's baseball program. However, during discussion it was noted that, while baseball expenses were reduced, they were not totally eliminated. Rick speculated that the recreation direction left some funds in the budget as a contingency in the event he misread the waning interest in Orleans recreational baseball (as a function of the successful Little League program in Brewster) and a potential need to fund a program this summer. Rick understands unexpended contingency funds in this account are placed back into the general fund. On that basis a motion was voted.

On a motion by John Hodgson seconded by Mark Fiegel the committee approved the Recreation Department budget 5-0-0.

Department 541 Council on Aging Mr. Fiegel presented the COA budget and complimented the Director on her ability to maintain service levels while reducing costs by creatively utilizing electronic equipment (Wii), reallocating human resources, recruiting additional volunteer labor, successful solicitation of grants and donations and taking advantage of increasing staff/client ratios in the Day Center. While the committee expressed concern about the ability to meet a reduction of 32.62% in heating fuel expense, we recognized this is an allocated budget item. COA heating expense will need to be carefully monitored in the upcoming fiscal year.

On a motion by Mark Fiegel seconded by John Hodgson the committee approved the Council on Aging budget 5-0-0.

Department 300 Orleans Elementary School Mr. Hodgson and Mr. Fiegel reported on their recent visit to OES and expressed concern that the School Committee has yet to present a final budget proposal. Mr. Carron indicated the warrant has been closed and will be printed showing spending of approximately \$20,000 in excess of the 2% maximum increase guideline. In the discussion that ensued committee members expressed concern regarding a number of budgetary items including failure of the teachers union to respond to the request for foregoing scheduled COLA, pupil/teacher ratios, building security/safety and reductions taken at the cost of delayed maintenance of the building. The committee decided to delay action on the OES budget pending meeting with the School Committee in joint session with the Board of Selectman.

- c. **Budget Review Schedule and Assignments.** Mr. Fuller reiterated the concern he and Walt Bennett expressed in their morning emails regarding the mistake on the budget schedule. He urged all members to complete their assigned reviews as quickly as possible.

Mr. Fuller announced a joint meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on March 16th with Eastham and Wellfleet to discuss the Tri-town report of possible police

consolidation. Mr. Fuller and Mr. Hodgson will attend to represent the Finance Committee.

Mr. Fuller announced the Association of Town Finance Committees will hold a meeting in Harwich at 5 p.m. on April 18th discusses the open meeting law. Mr. Hodgson mentioned that different towns have different interpretations of the open meeting law.

New Business

- a. **USGS Survey Proposal.** Mr. Fiegel expressed concern that the USGS proposal, as presented, implies the Town of Orleans (as opposed to the Tritown Septage Facility) will share in the cost of nutrient sampling of Namskaket Creek during the period March 2010 through April 2011. Mr. Fiegel questioned what was to be achieved by this additional monitoring as the proposal appears to be for monitoring of ground water rather than the measurement of the extent of the plume. As he understood the concerns expressed by abutters and others concerned with wastewater management issues, with a daily discharge of 35,000 gals/day, there is already some concern about the effluent riding on top of the clay layer that is supposed to be carrying the discharge out into the bay. With the proposal to pump 1M gals/day from the Wastewater plant what will be the effect on the surface water? Will the discharge be contained under the clay layer or will it ride on top of it? What will be the effect of an additional 1M/day on the water table? The proposal was supposed to resume monitoring of the subsurface plume but Mr. Fiegel believes the proposal does not give us what we need to assess the risk of having a treatment plant at Tritown. The committee agreed to request additional data from the Town Administrator regarding the scope and payment arrangements for this monitoring.

Committee and Department Reports

a. Board of Selectman Reports

- I. Mr. Barr reported on the portion of the March 10, 2010 meeting which followed the adjournment of the joint meeting with the BOS. Most importantly the timelines for wastewater CIP were moved out one year and \$150,000 was discussed as a potential addition to the May 2011 town meeting. This would fund a comparative analysis of central v. decentralized wastewater treatment.

b. Committee Reports

- I. Mr. Barr reported on the discussion at the March 10, 2010 Water and Sewer Commission meeting regarding cost sharing with the Town of Brewster to purchase of a 39 acre parcel off route 39 on the Orleans-Brewster line and adjacent to the Orleans water shed. Orleans would not own the property but would be granted a conservation restriction upon it in perpetuity.

Originally planned as a 22.5 acre purchase at a cost of \$187,000 the cost was doubled when the towns did not receive a \$375,000 anticipated grant from the state. In the interim additional adjoining properties have become available and will be added to the original parcel for the 39 acre total at a

cost to Orleans of \$375,000. A purchase and sales agreement has been signed to extend to 12/31/10 which will allow for reapplication of grant money in the new fiscal year starting 7/1/10 and a potential for again reducing the cost to the original \$187,000.

Discussion at the W&S Commission meeting for funding this purchase included a number of proposals including increases to water rates, a one time surcharge on the water bill of \$80 spread over two payments, and/or adding it to the property tax.

Mr. Carron mentioned that this was a subject that would be reviewed by the BOS but he believed, since it was to benefit the water department; it should be funded through that department.

- II. Mr. Hodgson reported the Nauset Regional School Committee certified their budget and moved for the committee to approve it.

He expressed concern regarding the donation for the employment of an Athletic Director at a salary of approximately \$80,000/yr. simultaneous with teacher lay-offs.

Mr. Carron expressed concern about additional cuts in Chapter 70 funds from the state.

On a motion by John Hodgson seconded by Rick Sigel the committee approved the Nauset School Committee budget 5-0-0.

Adjourn

On a motion by Mark Fiegel seconded by John Hodgson the meeting was adjourned by a vote of 5-0-0 at approximately 8:50.

Respectfully submitted,


Edwin W. Barr
Acting Recording Secretary