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TOWN OF ORLEANS
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE

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FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The September 15, 2010, meeting of the Orleans Finance Committee was convened by Chairman Larry Hayward at 7:30 p.m. in the Nauset Room of the Orleans Town Hall in a joint public hearing on the town's budget with the Board of Selectmen. Present constituting a quorum were Chairman Mr. Larry Hayward, Vice Chairman MS. Gwen Holden Kelly, Secretary Mr. Mark Carron, Members Mr. Dale Fuller, Mr. Walter Bennett, Mr. John Hodgson, Mr. Ed Barr and Mr. Paul Rooker. Absent was Mr. Rick Sigel.

Guests:

Approximately 20 taxpayers and reporter(s) were in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

No minutes were presented for approval at this special joint meeting

Budget overview:

Mr. David Withrow, Director of Finance, presented an overview of how Proposition 2 ½ is calculated and reviewed the first draft of the Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2010 prior to the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen calling the public meeting to order. Major points discussed were;

- \$600,000 (+/-) will be turned back to free cash from FY 2010.
- Free cash is 2% over the prior year, FY 2011
- FY 2012 will be the first time in many years the town will have a lower town wide valuation.

Public Hearing:

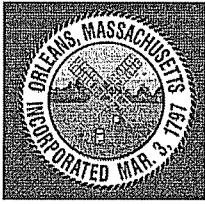
The Chairman of the Board of Selectman and the Finance Committee called the public portion of the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public Comment:

Ms. Megan Fates commented that we need to remember the people who serve us, our children, special needs, schools and the library. She closed by thanking both committees for their work and dedication.

Mr. Robert Jones (Chairman of the Regional School Committee) indicated that this is the year the rubber hits the road! He went on to indicate

- Class sizes are now reaching 30 students per class at the High School
- The Teachers Union contract expires this year
- Last year they attempted to negotiate a furlough program – in return the union wanted a two year extension, but the School Committee did not approve the offer.
- The School Committee most likely will be looking for an override this year.



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- The School Committee looks forward to working closing with the Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees.
- School received a grant for "Race to the Top" – Direct grant \$10,000 to \$12,000 over 4 years.
- Received a Jobs Bill grant of \$16,000 to \$19,000 for Orleans – no strings
- Regional School received a grant of \$ 160,000 to \$170,000 under the jobs bill.

Mary Allen Bradley questioned the percentage of benefits to town employees. In particular, Health Insurance, where the town employees get 75% paid by the town the balance 25% is paid by the employee.

Kenneth Mayo questioned:

- Why the Finance Committee meets so often and reviews items that do not carry a financial impact.
- He felt the Fire Department should be allowed to hire two additional men
- Suggested it was time for all committees to work together.

Rob Sethares asked the Board of Selectman to reconsider their decision to drop the issue of plovers from their Fiscal Year goals.

Stewart Broach asked both boards to look into the funding paid by the town for public transit. He calculated that the town paid \$70,000 per year for 1.8 riders per trip and that this expense could not be justified.

Judith Bruce made several recommendations:

- Waste Water should be front and center for funding
- That the lack of financial planning automatically causes delays
- Need to fund Education
- The Board of Selectman and Board of Heath need to reconsider their position on the 5% room tax.
- Should set aside \$50,000 for use on future studies, so monies are always available.

Mary Little (Chairman of the Orleans Elementary School Committee and Chairman of the Non Profit Town Committee) indicated she looks forward to working with both committees.

Tim Linkkila noted that in the past 12 years since moving to Orleans his property taxes have doubled and felt that at this time the town needed to "sharpen their pencils".

Norma ????: felt that the rents in Orleans were too high for businesses to succeed.



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Ben Buck:

- Needed to look at long term debt
- Need to look at a mixture of regionalization with in-house
- No need to layoff anyone, just don't hire anyone when an employee leaves
- Waste Water, need to work together on a solution

Diane Carrerio is the (Principal of the Orleans Elementary School):

- Need to keep jobs local
- Watch for those expenses that are not planned for, as an example this past summer the school:
 - Lost their freezer at a cost of \$5,000 - \$6,000
 - Lost their speaker system at a cost of \$2,000
 - Floor cleaning machine died at a cost of \$4,000

The Chairman of the Selectman read two e-mails that were received, one from Tom Finan who suggested that the town review their fee structures more frequently – moving to annually. The second was received by Mr. and Mrs. Allen McCledden who said a study of our infrastructure was important, where is the plan to coordinate the improvements to the infrastructure and look at long term solutions, not short term solutions.

Adjournment:

There being no further business public comment the public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Mark E. Carron
Secretary

Next Meeting:

Thursday September 23, 2010 at 7:00 at the Town Office Building, Nauset Room.

Attachments:

None

