

'11 OCT 27 10:41AM
K. Darling, ASst.
ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

APPROVED: 9/22/11

On Sept. 7, 2011, the Orleans Finance Committee convened in the Nauset Room of the Orleans Town Hall in a joint session with the Orleans Board of Selectmen for purposes of holding a public hearing on Fiscal Year 2013 budget priorities.

The members of the Finance Committee were called to order by Committee Chairman Gwen Holden Kelly at 7:44 p.m. Present constituting a quorum were Ms. Holden Kelly, Dale Fuller, Laurence Hayward, John Hodgson, and Rick Sigel.

Public Hearing: 63:33 on the video tape

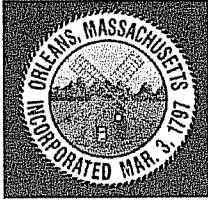
Margie Fulcher, chairwoman of the Orleans Board of Selectmen, read into the record the public hearing notice, which advised that the hearing was being held in accordance with provisions of the Orleans Home Rule Charter, Article 8-2-5, to provide Orleans Citizens the opportunity to share their thoughts on budget priorities for the Town for Fiscal Year 2013..

The hearing opened with a presentation by David Withrow, Town of Orleans finance director, who:

- Reviewed the Town's recently state-certified Free Cash balance.
- Discussed recommendations/assumptions that he had made in developing the first draft of the Fiscal Year 2013 financial plan for the Board's consideration concerning the possible use of unrestricted funds balance over and above the 5% Free Cash balance that Town maintains under Board policy.
- Defined and explained, for the benefit of attendees, levy, levy limit, and levy ceiling; Proposition 2^{1/2}, and the relationship between property valuations and tax rates.
- Reviewed the first draft of the financial plan for Fiscal Year 2012.

Comments were made from the floor by four Orleans residents and property owners on the following topics:

- Increasing Board of Selectmen oversight of school committee meetings to ensure that the Board receives timely notification of any major capital improvement or other initiatives that may require Town financing;
- Including school buildings in the planned Town facilities study and creating a reserve fund to finance school infrastructure improvements.
- "Changing the cost profile" of the Town by exploring alternatives -- such as regionalization and new technologies -- to reducing the cost of providing necessary services to Orleans citizens;



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- Inquiring concerning the potential risk of unanticipated increases in Town's current obligation for payment of unfunded liabilities for the cost of pensions, healthcare, and other retirement benefits.

An email was read into the record by Mrs. Fulcher from one Orleans resident property owner suggesting that funds be appropriated in the Fiscal Year 2013 budget for replacement of windows at the Orleans Police Station.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. Fuller and seconded by Mr. Hayward, the Finance Committee adjourned at 9:28 p.m., 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted



Gwen A. Holden Kelly
Temporary Recording Secretary