



ORLEANS TOWN CLERK  
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## FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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The October 27, 2011 meeting of the Orleans Finance Committee was convened by Chairman Ms. Gwen Holden-Kelly at 7:00 p.m. in the Nauset Room of the Orleans' Town Hall. Present constituting a quorum were Members, Mr. Ed Barr, Mr. Mark Carron, Mr. Dale Fuller, Mr. Larry Hayward, Mr. Paul Rooker, and Mr. William Weil. Members absent were Mr. John Hodgson and Mr. Rick Sigel.

### **Guests:**

Mr. John Fuller, Selectmen liaison

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Approval of Minutes 00:01 on Video Tape**

On a motion made by Mr. Weil, seconded by Mr. Rooker, the minutes of the October 13th Finance Committee meeting was approved 7-0-0.

On a motion made by Ms. Holden-Kelly, seconded by Mr. Carron, the minutes of the October 17<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee pre Special Town meeting was approved 6-0-1.

### **Handouts: 0:48 on Video Tape**

Ms. Holden-Kelly attended the Annual Committee Orientation meeting on September 26th and supplied the Finance Committee with the updated Guide for Committees, Commissions and Boards booklet, and a memo from the Town Clerk's office concerning the Compliance with the State Conflict of Interest Law online training course that all committee members are required to complete. Also, we received from Mr. John Kelly the answers to our financial questions that we submitted.

### **Special Town Meeting Review: 03:23 on Video Tape**

About 450 residents voted at the polls, which is only about 7% of the registered voters and Article 1 was passed by a wide margin. Mr. D. Fuller mentioned that at the special town meeting many residents came prepared to speak concerning Article 1 and brought up many relevant issues concerning the project.

### **Achieving Long-Term School Sustainability: 05:21 on Video Tape**

Ms. Holden-Kelly stated Dr. Hoffman had invited the Finance Committee to send a representative to attend the school board sustainability committee meeting to be held on



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November 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Hayward will attend this meeting and report back to the committee. Also, based on the comments made by the selectmen at the special town de-briefing meeting they will be pressing the school board into putting together a long term capital plan. Ms. Holden-Kelly stated it would be very important to find out how many students left the region and that we need to do an enrollment study.

Mr. Barr mentioned that back in 2009 an education sub-committee had developed a list of nine issues they planned to study. This was prior to the suspension of the sub-committee due to concerns about the newly enacted open meeting law. *The nine issues were:*

1. What are the cost drivers for the school budgets? How do we contain or control cost increases?
2. How much are benefits for school personnel increasing and how can these cost increases be controlled?
3. Who evaluates Capital Expenditures and is there a 5 or 10 year plan for Capital Expenditures? Are expenditures vetted to make sure the money is well spent? Are any expenditures for current Technology?
4. What are the Special Education cost drivers?
5. What are the results of the Compensation Study for union contracts in the school system? Are the results used in bargaining?
6. What are the commonly asked Questions about the school budget and what are the Answers to the Questions?
7. What programs are mandated in our schools, which Org. mandates them, and how are they funded?
8. What is being done by Principals, the Superintendent, and the School Committee to meet with their peer groups to discuss common issues, control costs, finding better programs, and utilizing Best Practices?
9. Are there SCORE organizations of retired teachers and administrators to utilize expertise in the field of education?

Other topics they discussed were:

How can we measure performance vs. cost for the schools?

What performance measures are truly meaningful and make a difference?

What drives high performance of a school?

Can we use more volunteer tutors in the school?

Are special reading programs utilized to encourage more reading at home?

What opportunities are there for further Regionalization of the schools to offset declining enrollment?

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning the enrollment of choice versus non-choice students and how that will relate to the new Monomoy school which could affect the student population of the Nauset Regional High School. Mr. Hayward mentioned the tuition cost of each student posted on the state website is different than the average cost



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per student the regional school, supplied. We hope to receive the results of the school choice study shortly which is needed for a full study concerning sustainability of each school.

Mr. Rooker asked if there is state requirement for a minimum number of students for the school to be considered for state funding. Mr. Barr said that for a high school to qualify for state funding they must have at least 700 students. The Monomoy High School is designed using a model from other schools that have already been built thereby saving architectural fees.

Mr. Carron stated that the school board should be able to supply the figures and also they should be benchmarking the costs with other schools to see how they are doing with cost containments.

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Mr. Hayward said he put on his review list the enrollment projection issues, the number and school choice students come from, the list that Mr. Barr supplied, what are the costs of regionalization due to declining enrollment, staffing issues due to retirements, and possibly integrating the capital plan with the town capital plans so they can prioritize the projects.

### **Other Business: 40:54 on Video Tape**

Mr. Rooker showed the committee a card that the parents of the NRHS students had printed up listing the football schedule and commercial sponsorships which offer discounts at their establishments. So far they have sold 3,000 cards at \$10 each and are having another 1,500 printed.

Mr. D. Fuller said that the school finance sub-committee is meeting November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00PM and he will attend that meeting along with Mr. Hayward.

### **Boards, Committee and Department Reports: 45.12 on Video Tape**

Ms. Holden-Kelly reported that at the Board of Selectmen meeting held on October 19<sup>th</sup> they approved a single tax rate at 5.19% for the new fiscal year. The board approved the selectmen goals and the comprehensive plan. Mr. Kelly said they signed the P&S for the purchase agreement of the Jackson property contingent on Brewster being able to get the state grant. In addition he has the proposal on hand to do the water tank renovation that was approved at the special town meeting. The refinancing of the bonds has been put on hold for the time being due to the current market conditions and Mr. Kelly will put



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together how the refinancing will be done for the BOS's review as there were questions on how the procedure would be funded.

Mr. D. Fuller reported that the Board of Health (BOH) met on October 20<sup>th</sup> and announced they will have another flu clinic in mid November. They also discussed the BOH fees and most likely there will be changes for FY 2012.

Mr. Barr reported that at the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners' meeting held on October 19<sup>th</sup> they voted to increase the water rates 3 ½% and will submit this to the BOS for approval. Also the lab that performed their water quality tests had closed down suddenly. The Water Department sent the samples to another lab which caused a delay in reporting the results to the state. Therefore they are in non-compliance and might have to report this issue to the public.

Mr. Rooker reported the Renewable Energy committee is still waiting to hear back from the Cape & Vineyard Energy Cooperative if any of the photo-electric solar panel projects have been approved.

**Adjournment:** 56:34 on Video Tape

**There being no further business before the committee the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted

William Weil  
Secretary

**Next Meeting:**

*Thursday November 10, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the Nauset Room at the Town Office Building.*