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FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The November 10, 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. Dale Fuller, Mr. Paul Rooker, and Mr. William Weil. Members absent were Mr. Mark Carron, Mr. Larry Hayward, Mr. John Hodgson and Mr. Rick Sigel.

Guests:

Mr. John Fuller, Selectmen liaison
Mr. Mark Fiegel

Public Comment

None

Water Quality Data and Statistical Analysis Briefing 02:10 on Video Tape

Ms. Holden-Kelly introduced Mr. Mark Fiegel who gave a presentation on his statistical analysis of the Nauset Estuary System. He served six years on the finance committee and his background is in mathematics, computer software, and computer systems engineering. Mr. Fiegel stated the Orleans Marine Fresh Water Task Force had taken water samples at three different depths (top, middle and bottom) over a period of eight years (2003 to 2010) at sixteen different stations of the Nauset Estuary and they in turn sent the data to the University of Massachusetts (UM) to perform an analysis of the data. Mr. Fiegel took the spreadsheet figures the UM had supplied to the town and performed some data cleaning to isolate the Dissolved Oxygen (DO) and Nitrogen data. His two major findings were the DO samples were above the state water quality standards except for Mill Pond, Salt Pond, and Town Cove near the Orleans Yacht Club. This indicates that the Estuary waters have a healthy oxygen environment. Since the state has no nitrogen standards, Mr. Fiegel took data samples from the Atlantic Ocean station and used that data as a benchmark guideline to compare the Estuary areas. His findings were that the middle and surface depths of the Estuary were similar to the Atlantic Ocean and the bottom depths were elevated in Mill and Salt Ponds along with the Town Cove testing station by the Yacht Club. Mr. Fiegel's observation concerning this data indicates that the nitrogen concentrations in the Estuary may not be elevated because of septic nitrogen. A question was raised if any core samples were taken at the testing sights to be analyzed and Mr. Fiegel said he is not aware if any were taken and that this should be done.

According to Mr. Fiegel, the Massachusetts Estuaries Project water quality monitoring measurements do not seem to support the assertion that a significant reduction in the septic nitrogen discharge to the Estuary will improve water quality throughout the system, especially as dissolved oxygen is already in a healthy state throughout the surface and middle depths.



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The committee thanked Mr. Fiegel for his informative presentation and making the subject matter easy to understand.

Approval of Minutes 57:26 on Video Tape

On a motion made by Mr. Weil, seconded by Mr. D. Fuller, the minutes of the October 27th Finance Committee meeting was approved 5-0-0.

Other Business: 58:10 on Video Tape

Ms. Holden-Kelly had stated that Mr. Rick Sigel had submitted an article about aid items from the State. One being that the State aid fund allocated 6.2 million dollars for the ice storm which occurred in 2008. Ms. Holden-Kelly found that the County of Barnstable was not included among eligible recipients for these funds.

Boards, Committee and Department Reports: 59:20 on Video Tape

Mr. Rooker reported that at the Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting on November 2nd, Mr. George Meservey discussed affordable housing issues. Since the banks are reluctant to offer funds for condominium projects the Affordable Housing committee asked the BOS to look at donating property to Habitat of Humanity so they can develop more affordable housing in Orleans. Funds would need to be approved to purchase property. A question was raised about the \$255,000 that was approved for affordable housing and maybe those funds could be used for purchasing property.

Mr. D. Fuller reported that the Board of Health (BOH) met on November 3rd and announced that the next flu clinic will be held on November 18th at the Council on Aging and any resident of Orleans over the age eighteen is eligible but must register. They also voted to raise some of the BOH fees for FY 2012 and they are listed on the website. About \$10,000 in additional revenue will be generated from the increase of fees. In the Tri-Town Waste Water Treatment Plant board minutes it was stated that the financial condition of the plant is in jeopardy as they lost a large client and competitor plants having more modern equipment can offer rates lower than the Tri-Town plant. Also, due to the age of equipment many parts are no longer available so the plant staff has been doing a great job in fabricating parts to keep the equipment running. However there are not enough funds available to purchase a piece of equipment if it needs to be replaced. Another topic that was discussed is the unfunded liability issues with the tri-town plant employees' retiree health plan fund.

Mr. Barr reported that at the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners' has not met since our last meeting.



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Ms. Holden-Kelly reported there was a Regional School committee meeting last week and they discussed a proposal to allow Eastham to build or increase the size of the Nauset Regional High School water plant so it may supply water to the town. The other towns' BOS were not aware of this proposal until this meeting and many questions were asked such as DEP approval issues, can property be used that encroaches the Cape Cod National Seashore, water value and rights, and other legal and operating issues.

The Sustainability committee met on Nov 1st with seven members present and formed a list to be looked into. Topics included were: why are we here, the charge of the committee, why did each person attend, brain storming on the strengths of the schools, weakness of internal areas, opportunities for improvement to sustain, threats of external forces that can weaken our goals, and Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Problems (SWOP) analysis. The next steps are what data and information is needed to explore options, and can each attendee serve on the committee. The attendees discussed items such as the effect of the new regional school in Harwich, school choice issues. Most of the attendees signed up to stay on the committee.

Mr. Rooker reported the Renewable Energy committee did not have a quorum so no meeting was held. On another topic, Mr. Rooker stated that Falmouth has decided to shut down the #1 turbine and resume operation of the #2 turbine which will be carefully monitored.

Brewster has signed a 30 year lease agreement with My Generation Energy Company to install a solar panel array on town property. The town will receive \$12,000 for the first lease payment and that figure will escalate annually.

New Business: 81:10 on Video Tape

Ms. Holden-Kelly reported that the scientific panel Barnstable County had convened to review the MEP modeling approach used to produce TMDL's for various water bodies and will be reporting their initial findings at 1:00 PM on November 16th at the Hyannis Regional Transportation Center. It was noted by Mr. J. Fuller that the meeting place has been changed to Barnstable Town Hall.

Adjournment: 83:48 on Video Tape

There being no further business before the committee the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted


William Weil

Secretary

Next Meeting:

Thursday December 8, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the Nauset Room at the Town Office Building.