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K. Darling, Asst  
ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The November 8, 2012 meeting of the Orleans Finance Committee was convened by Chairman Ms Gwen Holden-Kelly at 7:00 pm in the Nauset Room of the Orleans Town Hall. Present and constituting a quorum were members: Mr. Dale Fuller, Mr. Larry Hayward, Mr. Joshua Larson, Mr. Paul Rooker, Mr. Rick Sigel, and Mr. William Weil. Members absent were Mr. Mark Carron and Mr. John Laurino.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Approval of Minutes** 0:35 on video recording

Mr. Larson moved that the Committee approve the minutes of the October 25, 2012 meeting. Mr. D. Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0-1.

### **Debrief on October 25, 2012 Meeting with the Orleans Elementary School Committee** 1:15 on video recording

Ms Holden-Kelly opened the discussion about the meeting with the OES School Committee by noting that she had received positive feedback from School Committee members. Finance Committee members generally agreed that the tone and the content of the meeting had been very positive. The Committee also discussed how best it can follow up with the School Committee.

### **Implementation of Remote Participation** 6:10 on video recording

Mr. Larson opened discussion on this topic with a description of how a number of different video and audio technologies can be used to facilitate remote participation in committee meetings. He demonstrated how one technology, Skype, can be used effectively, and gave a demonstration of how it works.

Mr. Larson also agreed to meet with Peter VanDyke, the town IT manager, to discuss technology options that would be available to the town for facilitating remote participation.

### **Discussion of Finance Committee FY 2014 budget request** 23:15 on video recording

Mr. D. Fuller explained that some changes had been made to the proposed budget, and reviewed the changes. The Committee members understood the changes and had a brief discussion on the new proposal.

**Mr. D. Fuller moved to vote on the proposed budget request, and Mr. Rooker seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0-0.**

**Follow-up on Town FY 2010 and FY 2011 Departmental Funds Turn-Backs Analysis** 33:30 on video recording

Mr. D. Fuller led a brief discussion on following up the work the Committee had done earlier on the analysis of turn-backs in the town's budget. He noted that further analysis was merited for purposes of future budgets.

**Status Update and Follow up on Finance Committee "Items" List** 35:00 on video recording

Mr. Larson opened this discussion with a review of Massachusetts General Law Section 91, which requires municipal governments to hold the Commonwealth harmless when the Department of Conservation and Recreation undertakes work in that town. The Committee had a detailed discussion of how this law affects towns in Massachusetts. The Committee agreed to continue discussion of the matter with the Board of Selectmen and town administrators, as it has potentially significant financial implications for the town.

Ms Holden-Kelly and Mr. D. Fuller continued this topic with a brief review of a number of issues before the Committee:

- the final version of the Committee's budget recommendations sent to the Board of Selectmen;
- shark-associated revenue loss at town beaches, noting that the town lost a significant amount of revenue (approximately \$15,000) due to shark-related beach closures;
- the expiration of SEMASS agreements in 2015;
- special legislation to provide for payments of benefits for Tri-Town employees, which is now in the Senate Ethics Committee; and
- an independent audit of the town's finances, noting that the audit is addressed to the Board of Selectmen.

**Board, Committee and Liaison Reports** 71:00 on video recording

The following members of the Committee reviewed their most recent participation in the following meetings:

- Ms Holden Kelly reviewed her participation in the November 7 Board of Selectmen meeting, highlighting progress on the Hinckley project for affordable housing, the renewal of the Orleans Community Partnership's lease, a new hire in the Police Department, and the Eldredge Park irrigation system;

- Mr. D. Fuller gave a brief summary of the most recent Board of Health meeting, noting in particular that the board had reviewed some issues surrounding the Tri-Town facility and received a report from the USGS on the plume;
- Ms Holden Kelly told the Committee about the issues raised at the latest meeting of the Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners, noting in particular that progress on the painting of the water towers continues; and
- Mr. Rooker gave a brief review of the current situation with the Renewable Energy Committee, noting that the committee has been busy lately, with progress in CVEC's negotiations with NStar on solar panel integration with the grid, and that the town of Dennis has made considerable progress with their own solar array.

**Future Meetings** 90:00 on video recording

Next Committee meeting - Thursday, December 13, 2012.

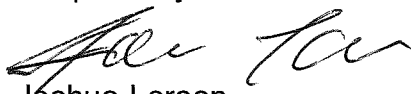
Ms Holden-Kelly noted that at the next meeting, the Committee will discuss, among other things, a review of the Board of Selectmen's recommendations on joint budget review meetings; a discussion of the potential for a town ERP system implementation; a preliminary discussion of a syllabus by which Finance Committee members might familiarize themselves with all aspects of municipal finance in Massachusetts generally and the Town of Orleans specifically; a review of the draft Committee report for inclusion in the Town's 2012 annual report; and an update on the status of recruiting a secretary for the Committee on a temporary basis for budget season.

Mr. D. Fuller suggested that renewable energy be discussed at a future meeting.

**Adjournment** 94:30 on video recording

There being no further business before the Committee, Mr. Larson moved to adjourn. Mr. D. Fuller seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted

  
Joshua Larson  
Secretary

**Next Meeting**

Thursday, December 13, 2012