

TOWN OF ORLEANS FINANCE COMMITTEE

Orleans Town Hall

SEPTEMBER 12, 2013

ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

'13 OCT 4 11:48AM

THOSE PRESENT: CHAIR GWEN A. HOLDEN KELLY, VICE-CHAIR DALE FULLER, RALPH CUOMO, MARK CARRON, JOHN LAURINO, BILL WEIL, JOSHUA LARSON, RECORDING SECRETARY PETER O'MEARA. ABSENT: PAUL ROOKER

Guest: Alan McClennen, Board of Selectmen Liaison

NOTE: The entire meeting is available on the Town website.

Gwen A. Holden Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Mr. Larson moved approval of the June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 minutes. Approved 5-0-3. Mr. O'Meara moved approval of the July 12, 2013 minutes. Approved 7-0-0.

Gwen A. Holden Kelly reviewed concerns raised by the Board of Health regarding the role of the Finance Committee in the on-going wastewater debate and that they have expressed frustration with the position taken by some members of the committee at the Town Meeting and felt there was a divide on this issue among the committee and were looking for additional documents regarding the Finance Committees' deliberations. Gwen A. Holden Kelly informed them both a majority and minority report were given at Town meeting and they are available for viewing and that regarding the financing of any future wastewater projects the Finance Committee was in agreement that our role is to focus on the financing and cost of the project as opposed to assisting in developing the solution.

It was further noted that the Board of Health was frustrated with what they perceived as a lack of openness with them by both the Selectmen and Finance committee liaisons. The role of the liaisons is prescribed in terms of sharing events and activities as opposed to actively engaging in the deliberations of that group. Mr. Fuller emphasized that as liaisons we can weigh in on issues before other groups if it within our purview and related to the role of the Finance Committee.

{VIDEO 12:04}

Gwen A. Holden Kelly urged members to attend the Joint Public Hearing with the Board of Selectmen to be held on Sept 18, 2013 at 7:30 PM on FY 2015 Budget Priorities. A discussion followed regarding

Approved P O Meara 9/26/13  
6-0-1

inviting the DPW Director to discuss the budget of Public Works. Mr. Fuller recommended asking him for his preferences as to how best we could facilitate a discussion. Gwen A. Holden Kelly will follow up with him on arranging the presentation.

{VIDEO 27:00}

Gwen A. Holden Kelly noted that with the number of projects and activities on the horizon it might be advisable to schedule additional meetings in November to assure adequate time for the Committee to review them .All were in agreement that that would be necessary.

Mr. Fuller commended Susan for the excellent job she has done in recording the minutes over the past year however she is not able to continue. The position will be posted and advertised within the next two weeks and hopefully will be shortly. Best wishes and thanks were extended to Susan by the Committee.

Department and Committee Liaison assignments were handed out and discussed. .

Gwen A .Holden Kelly moved to the review /prioritization of items on the Finance committee FY 2014 "issues list". The list assists us in developing recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Laurino stressed the importance and need to have a clear picture of revenue and expenses as well as the exact source of each .The problem of not using precise numbers and setting three year projections leads to variability in fee setting and uneven expenditure patterns. Mr. Carron noted that now is the time to request this information and the Town charter does permit the Committee to go directly to the Town Administrator. Gwen A.Holden Kelly noted that the Board of Selectmen need to develop a consistent reporting policy that reflects the data needed relative to revenue and expenses. Mr. Fuller noted that theTech School budget was a good model to look at. Mr. Laurino noted that we need a format so we can determine what is being subsidized to determine real costs and not use the format from last year.

Gwen A. Holden Kelly emphasized that by seeking more precision with regard to financial information is not meant to be negative but is intended to be more constructive and helpful in balancing the needs of the Town and the various departments.

{Video48:30}

Mr. Larson suggested that we come up with form/tool/template similar to a P and L statement that would accurately reflect revenue and expenses and that we approach Mr. Kelly about sitting down with Mr. Withrow to develop a new format agreeable to all .Gwen A. Holden Kelly suggested we deal with the priority issues at our next meeting. A discussion followed regarding the Nauset School District in terms of getting a clearer picture of where there revenue comes from as well as their pattern of expenditures. Mr. Carron suggested it might be helpful in the future to have representatives from the school district come in as he knows that a great deal of information is available and it could potentially be quite helpful to the Finance Committee. Gwen A .Holden Kelly will follow up. Mr. Larson raised the question whether other towns' Board of Selectmen and Finance Committees were having a similar issue.

{VIDEO 62:00}

Mr. Fuller noted that there were numerous town reports available that provided valuable information and he would be willing at our next meeting to review them with the committee .The monthly expense report is one that could be helpful. Gwen A .Holden Kelly will look at next agenda for best time to have Mr. Fuller review them. Additionally she asked committee members to go thru the priority list and identify issues they would like to raise .Mr. Carron felt the Town should do a technology audit .

{VIDEO 77:00}

Mr. Laurino mentioned that the clock is ticking with regard to having input into the construction of the budget priorities and we need more data on revenue and expenditures. Mr. Larson and Mr. Laurino will draft a template and take to Mr. Withrow. Again the intention is not to complicate the process but to get a better understanding of the issues. We also need to accommodate the demands placed upon them.

Gwen A. Holden Kelly will clean up the issues list and as there was no further comment or discussion requested that members keep attuned to issues in their assigned liaison area. Moving on to the status updates she noted that the Board of Selectmen working meetings on the wastewater issue were an excellent format and a very positive development.

Mr. Fuller met with the DPW Director on July 10 to review the new road management software and other software upgrade initiatives around Fleet management, Town Hall server upgrade and the GIS Water Survey that will ease the integration of information among various departments .The OES boiler project is moving along .With regard to ambulance receipts there is a pretty broad look and we need more data around write offs and allowable costs by Medicare and insurance companies. Mr. Laurino noted that there is a huge gap between the real cost of the service and what is charged as evidenced when you look at hospital bills Again we need a clearer picture of who is paying . Mr. Fuller stated the Deputy Chief is preparing an update on this issue as well as the Beach EMT program.

Mr. Weil reported the OPD roof project is moving along according to schedule and he will continue to monitor and provide assistance. Gwen A .Holden Kelly reiterated the concern raised previously that the Town needs an aggressive routine maintenance program for all of its facilities. With regard to Rock Harbor dredging and classification Orleans is ready to proceed however Eastham still needs to vote on both measures.

{VIDEO 108:00}

Mr. Larson updated the committee on the Cape Cod Commission Watershed planning process and they are seeking stakeholders from those impacted areas to participate in the process.

Mr. Weil mentioned that at the BOS working meeting on wastewater possible cuts in state funding could impact mosquito control efforts and the plover issue has caused a serious negative impact on Town revenue.

Mr. Laurino remarked that we should be challenging assumptions that are made in constructing the budget and asking what you need to get the job done. A number of members cautioned that the term

zero based budgeting is not fully understood and we need to explain that we need to challenge both historical spending patterns and the assumptions that budgets are built on to assure we have an accurate assessment of the needs and requirements that are current. Both Mr. Laurino and Mr. Carron used the example of spending dollars for software and hardware upgrades when the cloud based environment offers a host of options that are continuously updated reducing capital investments.

{VIDEO 129:00}

There being no further business Gwen A. Holden Kelly moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Carron. Approved 8-0-0

Respectfully Submitted



Peter H. O'Meara

Recording Secretary