



FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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Meeting of the Town of Orleans Finance Committee

Thursday, October 24, 2013

Nauset Room, Orleans Town Hall

Those Present: Gwen Holden Kelly, Chair, Dale Fuller, Vice Chair, Ralph Cuomo, Paul Rooker, Joshua Larson, Bill Weil, John Laurino, Mark Carron and Peter O'Meara, Recording Secretary.

Guest: Alan Mc Clennen, Member Orleans Board of Selectmen

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by the Chair, Gwen H. Kelly.

There was no public comment.

Deputy Chief Pike of the Orleans Fire Department was introduced by Mr. Fuller. Mr. Fuller felt because of the short time frame last spring starting the program up that it would be helpful for the Finance Committee to hear from Deputy Pike what went well, what did not work well and any suggestions for improving the program going forward. Deputy Chief Pike provided a review of the 2013 summer Nauset Beach EMT program and acknowledged the challenges in the shortened start up however he felt overall the program was quite successful and served two important functions for the town. First they were able to provide EMT support to the Beach where we usually see crowds between 2,500 and 5,000 people on a daily basis in season and also address the dangerous marine life intrusion problem which has surfaced in recent years.

Deputy Chief Pike noted that the level of cooperation among the Natural Resources staff and the EMT's was excellent and the presence of the additional staff allowed the lifeguards to focus on water safety and patrols which heightened overall safety at the beach as well as significantly improved response time to incidents. Overall no complaints were received about the program however if the program continues he would like to see that everyone is trained before Memorial Day if possible and that he work with other town assets regarding boat/water rescue protocols. It would also be helpful if financing was in place prior to 1 July 2014. He also reviewed the incident and response data as well as the coverage/staffing data for the program and noted the two EMT's hired were exceptionally well qualified and worked well with the beach staff.

A number of questions were raised by Committee members regarding Lifeguard recruitment, staff coverage patterns being sufficient, how the National Seashore provides EMT coverage and is there a need to look at similar coverage for Skaket Beach .Gwen H. Kelly felt it was important for the Deputy Chief to give us a sense of the ideal situation and what is needed for the next beach season. The Deputy Chief responded that he will provide same and will work with other Departments including the Harbormaster as it would be helpful to have a shared and unified communication system especially when responding to water rescues .There being no further questions the committee thanked deputy Chief Pike for his service and cooperation.

Gwen H. Kelly reviewed the agenda as well as items to be found in the drop box. She also reviewed future agenda items and requested that committee members share any requests for items they would like to have discussed in the future.

A motion was made by Ralph Cuomo to accept the minutes of the Oct. 10, 2013 minutes of the Orleans finance Committee. Seconded by Mark Carron. The vote was 7-0-2 with John Laurino and Peter O'Meara abstaining.

(Video 65:00)

Mr. Cuomo reported on his attendance at Association of Town Finance Committees and will share all the documents provided at the meeting with committee members. He noted that the budget format utilized by the Town of Northboro might be particularly helpful to us.

Gwen H. Kelly will prepare a draft report summarizing the Finance committees activities that is required for inclusion in the Annual Town Report. Gwen H. Kelly also noted the Town is continuing recruitment efforts for a recording secretary and reminded members to check their assignments to attend Board of Selectmen meetings .Gwen H. Kelly reviewed the status of setting up meetings with various Town officials and Committees including the School Committees and Dr. Hoffman .No dates have been agreed to as yet .It was felt that possibly in November we could schedule Mr. Hull, Tax Assessor, to attend a meeting and that we should request that Selectman McClennen give us an update on the work of 208 plan and the status of developing a water quality improvement plan and the attendant financing and revenue models required to support same

Mr. Carron noted that the Police Chief provided an excellent overview of the Departments activities as well as current challenges and future needs at the recent Board of Selectmen meeting and felt it would be valuable for us to invite him to a future meeting. Everyone was in agreement. Gwen H. Kelly reminded everyone of the challenge of coordinating everyone's schedule for these meetings.

Mr. Fuller reviewed the Finance Committee Budget request for FY2015 . **It was moved by Mr. Carron that we request funding for the Finance committee at last year's level. The motion was seconded by John Laurino. 9-0-0**

Related to the Budget it was felt that going paperless would be an important cost saving move as all budget documents are now available on line. Going forward it will be optional as some felt more

comfortable working with larger spreadsheets in printed format. It was also noted as we look at the FY 15 budget we discuss how to set limits/parameters on overtime usage.

Next on the agenda were various status updates. Gwen H. Kelly reported that the boiler project at the Orleans Elementary School was completed on time and under budget .The Budget Analysis Template is in process. The Tri-Town report is in the drop box and there is a joint meeting in Brewster regarding Tri-Town with representatives of the three towns to discuss the future of the plant. Emphasis was made to the Planning Board regarding the importance of the changing demographics in Orleans and the impact on strategic planning for the Town. The BOS recently approved the resurrection of a Town citizen Advisory Committee and Gwen H. Kelly noted this could be a valuable resource in containing rising insurance costs. Mr. Cuomo summarized the discussion regarding the request for surplus property by The Cape Cod Village to serve individuals with Autism. The Orleans Elementary school committee did not make a decision on surplus property. Gwen h. Kelly felt this was not about the worthiness of the project but rather the process in declaring property surplus. Mr. Larson noted that the School Committee budget process both for operating and Capital expenses is still ongoing.

There being no further business Gwen H. Kelly entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Mr.Laurino and seconded by Mr. Carron.9-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Peter O'Meara
by Raepa A. Cronin

Peter O'Meara

Recording Secretary

