

Town of Oak Bluffs
Finance and Advisory Committee
Thursday, May 7, 2009 3:30PM
Oak Bluffs Library

Present: Chairs Thad Harshbarger, Mimi Davisson
Doug Best, Bill McGrath, Mike Perry,
Mac Starks, Hans Von Steiger

Others: Selectman – Ron Di Orio
Capital Planning - Steve Auerbach
Recorder - Marni Lipke

Absent: Frank Case, Linda Marinelli

* Late arrivals or early departures
noted solely to mark vote counts.

The meeting was called to order at 3:37PM.

2. Announcements

- Mac Starks was welcomed to the Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom) and congratulated on his election as was Linda Marinelli in absentia. Mimi Davisson and Frank Case were congratulated on their re-election.
- Congratulations were also extended to Greg Coogan and Kathy Burton on their election to the Board of Selectmen.
- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE FINCOM TO SEND A LETTER OF THANKS TO JOSEPH ALOSSO AND PETER PALCHES FOR THEIR LONG AND IMPORTANT SERVICE ON THE COMMITTEE.

1. Revise this Agenda

The minutes were tabled.

3. Review Town Meeting for Possible Changes in How We Operate

A. Calendar of Events and Keeping on Top of Things.

B. Further changes in Budget Process (Scheduling, Keeping in Closer Touch with Paul and Michael, Advertising)

- It was suggested that the meeting with the Board of Selectmen was too late in the budget process and too close to Town Meeting to be effective. In addition by State Statute the FinCom should present the budget, not the Selectmen. There were a number of suggestions.
 - It might be useful to publish the budget schedule.
 - This year was an improvement on last year with more draft budgets and details earlier in the process.
 - At Town Meetings the FinCom, including the Chair, should be seated as a group near a microphone.
 - A letter could be sent to Finance Director Paul Manzi, Town Administrator Michael Dutton and the Board of Selectmen reviewing this year's process and stating next year's goals (see below: Actions).

Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee
May 7, 2009

2

C. Dealing with Major Expenses Such as Schools and Police.

- The FinCom discussed the schools at some length.
- The Schools believed that they had cut staff for the FY10 Budget.
- Next year it was hoped that the All Island Finance Association could give better and earlier support.
- The FinCom focused on the imminent school contract negotiations and the configuration of the Negotiating Committee.
- **DOUG BEST MOVED THAT THE FINCOM RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN THAT RON DI ORIO BE APPOINTED AS THE OAK BLUFFS TOWN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SCHOOLS CONTRACT NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE; MIMI DAVISSON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENTIONS** (see below: Actions).
- Ron Di Orio expressed his philosophy on; over staffing and/or better staff configuration, over identification of Special Education students, and teacher pay differentiation by market principles—i.e. if science or math teachers were scarce their salaries should be higher.
- Other issues included automatic raises, thinking outside the box, and school committee bias.
- The Police contract would end June 30, 2011.
- The FinCom discussed hiring a third party consultant to study the efficiency of the Police and the Schools.
- The schools should be consenting participants.
- There was a difference of opinion on whether the study should provide facts such as comparable norms, and/or analysis.
- While the police might be an excellent candidate for such a study, the schools were more problematic presenting some philosophical/political factors.
- The MV Regional High School would be audited by the New England Assoc. of School and Colleges (NEASC) in 2011. In addition Prin. Steve Nixon was sending teams of teachers and students to other schools to compare structure, culture and garner ideas.
- In view of the economy the study might be prohibitively expensive.
- It was necessary to have a clear idea of specifics and direction before proceeding further.
- The study should be instituted as soon as possible (see below: Actions).

4. Directions and Goals for Coming Year

3. D. Other Issues We Should Be Dealing with (Solid Waste, Stipends, Plan for Clerk's Salary, Borrowing and Indebtedness, Funds).

The above items in Agenda Item 3.D were included as goals for the coming year to be dealt with in a timely manner.

**Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee
May 7, 2009**

3

5. Election of Officers for Coming Year: Chair, Vice Chair (Planning and Protocol Officer), Permanent Representative to School Board, Two Representatives to Personnel Board, Adjournment Officer

- There was a brief discussion on keeping the same leadership or rotating according to past practice.

- **DOUG BEST NOMINATED MIMI DAVISSON AS OAK BLUFFS FINANCE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR; BILL MCGRATH SECONDED;**

- Current Vice Chair Doug Best had recently joined the YMCA Board which was a major time and energy commitment and felt he could not devote the appropriate time to being FinCom Chair.

- **AS SHE FELT STRONGLY ABOUT ROTATING OFFICERS MIMI DAVISSON ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION, MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

- Thad Harshbarger was interested in continuing his active support.

- **DOUG BEST NOMINATED THAD HARSHBARGER AS OAK BLUFFS FINANCE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR; MAX STARKS SECONDED; BILL MCGRATH TRIPLED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

- No permanent representative to the school committees was chosen. Michael Dutton had committed to attend all Oak Bluffs School Committee Meetings.

- **MIMI DAVISSON MOVED TO RE-ENDORSE MICHAEL PERRY AS FINANCE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PERSONNEL BOARD; BILL MCGRATH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

- DOUG BEST NOMINATED LINDA MARINELLI; THERE WAS NO SECOND.

- **MIMI DAVISSON NOMINATED DOUG BEST AS FINANCE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PERSONNEL BOARD; MAX STARKS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

- **MIMI DAVISSON NOMINATED BILL MCGRATH AS THE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE; MIKE PERRY SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE TO NOMINATE AND APPROVE THAD HARSHBARGER AS ADJOURNMENT OFFICER.

- Selectman Rod Di Orio stated the Town was now expecting a \$500,000 revenue shortfall for its recently approved Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10) Budget.

6. Set Calendar

After some discussion on various scheduling possibilities IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE FINCOM TO RETAIN ITS CURRENT MEETING SCHEDULE: FIRST AND THIRD THURSDAYS 3:30PM AT THE OAK BLUFFS LIBRARY (see below: Actions).

- It was likely there would be only one meeting per month in July and August.

**Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee
May 7, 2009**

4

5. Adjourn [Peter]

THAD HARSHBARGER MOVED TO ADJOURN 5:02PM; BILL MCGRATH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Action List:

- Mimi Davisson – post FinCom meeting schedule
- Mimi Davisson – draft letter to Selectmen, Administrator & Treasurer re: FY10 and FY11 budget process.
- Michael Dutton/ Selectmen – act quickly re: appointment to Schools Negotiations Com.
 - Mimi Davisson – Inform Selectmen of Ron Di Orio recommendation.
- Thad Harshbarger – send out as attachments: State website questions on efficiency study
 - Mimi Davisson – contact WT Prin. Michael Halt re: other comparable resort towns.
 - contact UIRSD re: previous financial study process.
- Mimi Davisson – attend Executive Session of Selectmen Meeting 4:00 Tuesday, May 12.
- Mimi Davisson/Thad Harshbarger – post OB FinCom meetings.

Ongoing Action List from previous meetings.

- Chair and Vice Chair – keep up timely communications / follow through with FinCom members and Town Government.
 - Inform the Selectmen in writing of all significant FinCom decisions.
- FinCom – talk about Federal Stimulus money at Town Meeting.
- FinCom – Continue to emphasize \$2,000,000 Stabilization Fund goal.
- Inform Depts. – any item not in dept. budgets will not be recommended for free cash.
 - update Capital Improvement Plan regularly.
- Regular meetings with Bd. of Selectmen and Personnel Board re: Financial Team.

5/21/09 Agenda:

- Minutes 3/24/09, 4/2/09, 5/7/09

Future Agendas:

- Ambulance Fund Report.
- Dukes County Charter Commission Report
- CDC – Cost of Services Survey Results.
- Reconsider Finance Dept. Reorganization

Meetings

- Bd. of Selectmen – 4:00PM Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at OB Library.
- OB FinCom – 3:30PM Thursday, May 21, 2009 at the Oak Bluffs Library.

Documents on file:

- Agenda 3/24/09
- Finance Committee Checklist: Appendix H (2 p.)

• These Minutes approved as amended for spelling by the Oak Bluffs FinCom 5/21/09.