

**Town of Oak Bluffs
Finance and Advisory Committee
Thursday, April 8, 2010, 3:30 PM
Oak Bluffs Library**

Present: Acting Chair - Thad Harshbarger,
 Steve Auerbach, Doug Best, Frank Case,
 Bill McGrath, Mike Perry, Mac Starks,
 Hans Von Steiger
Others: Recorder – Marni Lipke
Town Staff Administrator – Michael Dutton
 Tax Collector – Cheryl Sashin,
Absent: Mimi Davisson

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:33PM.

- Frank Case was working for the Census and would abstain from all votes due to current conflict of interest laws.

This meeting was to discuss and vote the final version of the Warrant.

Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Article # 7 - Conflict of Interest

• **BILL MCGRATH MOVED TO RECONSIDER SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ARTICLE 7 ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST; THAD HARSHBARGER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION** due to conflict of interest.

• **BILL MCGRATH MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE WARRANT ARTICLE TO AMEND THE BYLAWS BY ADDING CONFLICT OF INTEREST SECTIONS; DOUG BEST SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION** due to conflict of interest.

Article # 9 - Community Preservation Committee Community Housing

• **BILL MCGRATH MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE WARRANT ARTICLE TO PURCHASE THE LOT AT 54 PACIFIC AVENUE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING; STEVE AUERBACH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION** due to conflict of interest.

• The property was on the Town Assessor Rolls at upwards of \$200,000 and was being offered to the Town for purchase at \$22,700 with a short deadline.

The issues were:

- lack of clarity in the Community Preservation Act (CPA) law, disbursement of funds and enforcement (see below: Actions),
- Town/CPA/private ownership responsibility lines,
- dissatisfaction with the CPA and procedures for withdrawing from the program.

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Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Article # 4 - \$110,000 Assessor Reevaluation from Stabilization
(see 2/8/07 Minutes p. 6 and 2/18/10 Minutes p. 3)

- The legislation to forestall it for one year was unlikely to pass before Town Meeting. The mandate was enforceable and refusal could affect the Town bond rating (see below: Actions).

• BILL MCGRATH MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE WARRANT ARTICLE TO APPROPRIATE \$110,000 FROM STABILIZATION TO FUND THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS EVALUATION UPDATE; MIKE PERRY SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION due to conflict of interest.

Article # 6 - \$24,705,776 Town Budget

- All increases were again reviewed.

• MIKE PERRY MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE WARRANT ARTICLE ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2011 OAK BLUFFS TOWN BUDGET; DOUG BEST SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 5 AYES, 2 NAYS – BILL MCGRATH, HANS VON STEIGER, 1 ABSTENTION due to conflict of interest.

- Bill McGrath voted not to recommend as he would propose an amendment on Town Meeting Floor to eliminate new expenditures.

Article # 18 – Establish an Affordable Housing Trust Fund

- This was designed to be used for purchases and opportunities that were time sensitive (as above Special Meeting Article # 9).

• DOUG BEST MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE WARRANT ARTICLE TO ESTABLISH AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND; STEVE AUERBACH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION due to conflict of interest.

- Issues were:

- comparisons with other towns,
- authority to expend and oversee the fund (Affordable Housing Committee appointed by the Board of Selectmen).
- intention for bricks and mortar (not rental assistance).

Article # 19 – Amend Bylaws to Establish an Affordable Housing Trust Fund

• DOUG BEST MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE WARRANT ARTICLE TO AMEND THE TOWN BYLAWS TO ESTABLISH AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND; BILL MCGRATH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION due to conflict of interest.

- The issue was whether money could be used to hire additional staff.

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Article # 20 – \$335,701 Community Preservation Committee Recommendations

- Recommendations were:
 - \$100,000 to fund the Affordable Housing Trust,
 - \$10,201 for the Dukes County Courthouse window restoration,.
 - \$44,000 for Niantic Park and picnic pavilion,
 - \$132,000 for Dukes County Regional Housing Authority (DCRHA) rental assistance,
 - \$49,500 for watershed survey and drainage,
- **DOUG BEST MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE WARRANT ARTICLE TO FUND THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT FUNDS; MIKE PERRY SECONDED; MOTION FAILED: 0 AYES, 5 NAYS, 3 ABSTENTIONS – DOUG BEST, MIKE PERRY - AND FRANK CASE** due to conflict of interest.
- The issue was lack of information.

Article # 27 – Establish Other Post Employee Benefits (OBEB) Trust Fund

- This article will be pulled if authorizing State Legislation does not pass before Town Meeting.
- **MIKE PERRY MOVED TO RECONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE WARRANT ARTICLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DUKES COUNTY OTHER POST EMPLOYEE BENEFITS TRUST FUND; BILL MCGRATH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION** due to conflict of interest.
- **MIKE PERRY MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE WARRANT ARTICLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DUKES COUNTY OTHER POST EMPLOYEE BENEFITS TRUST FUND; BILL MCGRATH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION** due to conflict of interest.

Article # 28 – \$3,500 Reverse 911 (See 2/4/10 Minutes p. 2)

- The issues were:
 - other alternatives,
 - ongoing costs,
 - a ‘knee-jerk’ reaction to a problem more easily solved by adhering to proper procedures,
 - advancing technology,
 - participation of other Island Towns,
 - authority to activate.
- **BILL MCGRATH MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE WARRANT ARTICLE TO FUND THE REVERSE 911 SYSTEM; MIKE PERRY SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 3 NAYS – DOUG BEST, BILL MCGRATH, MAC STARKS, 1 ABSTENTION** due to conflict of interest.

Article # 29 – Full and Part-Time Elected Official Compensation

- **BILL MCGRATH MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE WARRANT ARTICLE TO FIX COMPENSATION FOR FULL TIME AND PART TIME ELECTED OFFICIALS; STEVE AUERBACH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION** due to conflict of interest.

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- Issues were:
 - Town Clerk salary Cost of Living Adjustment as inconsistent with other Town employees.
 - Incorrect FinCom comment – Constable stipends should remain as compensation for specific hours of work (see below: Actions).
- **BILL MCGRATH MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE WARRANT ARTICLE TO FIX COMPENSATION FOR FULL TIME AND PART TIME ELECTED OFFICIALS; DOUG BEST SECONDED; MOTION FAILED: 0 AYES, 7 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION** due to conflict of interest.
- Thad Harshbarger and Doug Best were applauded for their service.
- The next meeting was scheduled for 3:30PM Thursday, May 6, 2010 at the Oak Bluffs Library.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED BY CONSENSUS AT 5:30PM.

Action List:

- Mimi Davisson – cancel 4/20 meeting.
- Correct FinCom comment on Article 29 (Stipends) to cross out elimination of constables.
- Michael Dutton – draft CPA funds accounting report for Town Meeting.

Ongoing Action List from previous meetings.

- All – please inform the Chair if you are unable to attend a meeting.
- Chair and Vice Chair
 - keep up timely communications with FinCom members and Town Government.
 - Inform the Selectmen in writing of all significant FinCom decisions.
- 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.

May 6th Agenda:

- Introduction of and welcome for new members
- Minutes: 3/13/10, 3/18/10, 4/8/10 (Decision)
- Reorganization (Decision)

Future Agendas:

- Capital Program Com. Report (quarterly)
- Capital Program Com. Roles and Responsibilities
- New Website Report
- Ambulance Fund Report.
- Finance Dept. Reorganization

Documents on file:

- Email meeting outline 4/3/10
- Attached Agenda (4 p.)
- Warrant for Special (and Annual) Town Meeting (56 p.)

• **These Minutes approved as written by the Oak Bluffs FinCom 5/6/10.**