

YARMOUTH FINANCE COMMITTEE
July 23, 2008
Conference Room A

Committee Members in Attendance: Chairman Patrick Foran, Vice Chairman Robert Kaiser, Clerk Carol Serafino, Betty-Jane Burkhardt, John Henderson, Peter Slovak, Randall Stiffler and Carlene Veara

Committee Member Absent: Edward Weissberger

Staff: Robert Lawton, Town Administrator

Guests: Susan Colgan and Curt Sears

Chairman Foran called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m..

Following a review of the minutes of June 9, July 7 and July 14, and corrections to the spelling of Mr. Stiffler's name,

On motion of Ms. Veara, seconded by Mr. Henderson, the minutes of June 9, July 7 and July 14 were unanimously approved as amended.

Regional School Committee Meeting

Mr. Stiffler and Mr. Kaiser reported on the School Committee meeting held on July 21, and Mr. Lawton reported on the special administrative meetings held on the logistics of the Regional Meeting. The following information was announced:

- Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the DY High School football field.
- Tent(s) and 3000 chairs are being rented by the School Committee for \$16,000.
- The anticipated audience is 3,000 Dennis and Yarmouth residents.
- People may bring folding chairs.
- Non-voters will sit in back of the goal posts.
- As only 450 parking spaces at DY, shuttle buses will run from the various schools in Dennis and Yarmouth, plus Town Hall.
- Paper ballots will be used; a tear-off yes and no; 15,000 are being printed..
- The meeting will follow the rules of Town Meeting Times.
- No picture ID's will be required.
- There will be 10-14 registrars and 10 tellers from each town.
- The School Committee and Moderator will be on the platform.
- First two rows have been reserved for Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees.

During the discussion which followed, concern was raised regarding provisions for the elderly, specifically from Thirwood, Mayflower and Kings Way. It was suggested that those places be contacted as they have vans which could transport their residents. Mr. Lawton distributed and briefly reviewed "Town of Yarmouth Budget Reduction Options" and "D-Y School Budget Impact on Yarmouth Town Departments. He explained that both were drafts and would be discussed at the Department Head meeting this Thursday. He also explained that a reduction in business hours at Town Hall has not been included as this is a negotiated item.

Mr. Lawton advised that he has requested an interpretation of the School Committee motion to be presented. Once the motion is made, a recommendation will be requested from the Boards of Selectmen. Chairman McAuliffe will read some information from the summary, but the departments will be present to answer any questions.

Mr. Lawton also distributed for review the “concept” document presented by Phillip Morris at the School Committee meeting on Monday which had not been read in its entirety. The ending of the document contained five D-Y budget levels which could be framed for consideration.

Mr. Lawton advised that next year will be difficult as all unions are up for negotiations. If the \$1.5M is approved for the school, that amount is added to their base for next year. Any reductions needed in the operating budget require a Special Town Meeting which will probably be held the end of August/beginning of September.

Mr. Henderson suggested presenting a statement to the Board of Selectmen giving guidance on a figure the School Committee might present at the district meeting which might be acceptable. During the discussion it was stated that the maximum tolerable level would be about 4%.

On motion of Mr. Henderson, seconded by Ms. Veara, it was voted 7-1 (Peter Slovak) to recommend to the Board of Selectmen a 4% departmental reduction which the Finance Committee believes would be in the vicinity of \$850,000-\$900,000.

Chairman Foran will meet with Mr. Lawton to develop the letter.

Report dealing with Chapter 70 Legislation

Mr. Lawton announced that Jeremy Furrer, an intern assigned to his office, developed a report on state funding for the educational system of the Cape. The report deals with Chapter 70 legislation and the inequities between off-Cape and Cape towns. The report details the discrepancies in the Chapter 70 formula that skew funding away from Cape schools. The report uses all state figures. The report will be submitted to the Cape Cod Selectmen’s Association, and hopefully then forwarded to the Cape and Islands legislative delegation.

It was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. The Committee will meet July 28, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at DY High School.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty-Jane Burkhardt, Recorder

Carol Serafino, Clerk