

YARMOUTH FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Yarmouth Town Hall, Room A

March 18, 2015

**Present:** Joseph Goldstein, Chair, Cathy Romboli, Vice Chair/Clerk, Nathan Ladley, Phillip Morris, Robert Ciavarra, Jack Moylan

**Administration:** William Hinchey, Town Administrator; Ed Senteio, Director of Finance

**Guests:** Carol Woodbury, Superintendent, DY Regional Schools; Larry Azer, Director of Business and Finance, DY Regional Schools; Jim Dykeman, DY Regional School Committee

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Goldstein, Chair, at 6:30 p.m.

**MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes as presented.

**Motion by:** Mr. Morris

**Seconded by:** Mr. Moylan

**Vote:** 6-0-0

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 24, 2015 with the Selectmen at 6 p.m. The Finance Committee will submit their recommendations for the Warrant Articles, Capital and Operating Budgets, the Schools, and CPA Articles. On Wednesday, March 25, 2015 the Zoning Articles will be discussed, and on Wednesday April 1, the Petition Articles will be presented (2 of 4).

**TRANSFER:**

The amount of \$1,500 was moved from the Health Budget to pay for Selectmen's attendance at the MMA conference. More Selectmen attended the MMA conference than anticipated.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

CPA Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$73,500 from the Community Preservation Act Fund for the following recreation and open space purposes:

See Attached Article 26 and Explanation.

Pat Armstrong answered questions regarding this Article. She explained that the Sailing Center has already put \$425,000 into the Sailing Center before the request in Article 26 #B for \$100,000, which will allow the Town to do landscaping, put a second floor on the building, and do some painting. Pat Armstrong explained that 750 children a year plus the high school team of about 30 students used the Sailing Center. Ms. Armstrong also discussed the Recreation Master Plan to look at the economic feasibility of building and developing Sandy Pond into a sports complex and expanding Flax Pond use to include additional sports fields (Article 26 #C, Amount \$35,000). Ms. Armstrong gave a history of the bocche courts and said that funds were requested to replace the pop-up tents with something more permanent and safer. Article 26 #F Sandy Pond Softball Field Fencing in the amount of \$7,500 was also discussed.

**MOTION:** To recommend Article 26 in the amount of \$73,500.

**Motion by:** Mr. Moylan

**Seconded by:** Mr. Morris

**Vote:** 5-0-1

Mr. Ciavarra abstained, and he disclosed that he is an abutter to the Sailing Center.

DY REGIONAL SCHOOLS: There was a discussion of pay raises. Teacher contracts are for one year and then three years. The first year teacher contracts the teachers get a 1% half way through the year (effectively ½% per year), the next year, FY16, all teachers get 1% on the first day and 1% half-way through the year (equaling 1 ½% for the year); FY 17 is the same as FY16; FY18 teachers receive 2% on the first day and ½% half way through (2 ¼% for the year). Right now there are 374 teachers. Teachers with a Masters degree plus 60 credits or a doctorate (14 people) will get an extra 1% additional pay increase for FY17. Teachers with Masters Degrees plus 60 credit and those teachers with Doctorates get an extra 1% on the last day of the year FY16 and 1% on the last day of FY17. The “cash layout” over 4 years is less than 7%, averaging 1.72% per year; “on paper” the increase is 8.6 over 4 years.

Mr. Azer distributed a handout of the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District FY 2016 Budget. The Superintendent recommends FY16 Budget of \$55,609,590; \$28,925,169 plus a debt service of \$507,861 totaling \$29,433,030 is Yarmouth portion of the budget for FY16. Target Contributions with Yarmouth and Dennis, the closest they have ever been, are approaching the state target. Yarmouth’s Foundation enrollment declined by 64 students. Mrs. Woodbury said that projection of enrollment over the next several years looks “fairly level”. More school choice students are coming into Yarmouth. Debt Service is reduced. Mr. Azer explained the Revenue Changes from FY15 to FY16 resulting in a net loss of \$670,484. He added this loss to the level funded budget resulting in a budget increase for FY16 of \$511,265. Mr. Azer said that it is not an expense problem, but rather a revenue problem that has created the gap in the FY 16 budget. Mr. Azer reviewed priority expenses for the DY Schools. The total increase over FY15 is 4.12% for FY16, which includes Cost of Revenue Changes, FY16 Level Service Costs, FY16 Priority Expenses, totaling \$28,925,169 (Debt Service adds \$507,861 to this figure) for Yarmouth’s FY16 Assessment. Mr. Azer said that in the past DY Regional Schools had utilized the E & D Account for the budget, but that account is now depleted.

Mr. Ciavarra pointed out that the decrease in Charter Aid on the Revenue side of the Budget (305,389) was offset by the decrease in Charter School tuition expensed (303,507). There was a discussion of the reduction of School Choice Students, Transportation Costs (Gross for DY 3,261,840 less State Reimbursement of 1,553,639, net \$1,708,201 (\$1,114,838 is Yarmouth’s portion of the net), E & D and its certification in October, and Non Public Schools line (Special Needs Education).

Mr. Ciavarra noted that without the loss of E & D, the increase in the budget was better than 3 percent, short of the 2 ½, and he expressed concern at the trend of a budget over 2 ½ percent.

The Committee had further discussion of their options in approving the DY Regional School Budget, and the impact on the Supplemental Capital Budget and the Debt Drop Off.

Mr. Hinchey noted that Yarmouth’s share of the Revenue loss in the DY FY16 budget represented \$278,000; however, this Town’s share of the override is \$448,775. Mr. Hinchey said this is a good time to look at the expenditure of E & D.

Mr. Goldstein expressed the opinion he was in favor of building a better Town with a good school system, as well as providing good Town services.

**MOTION:** To support the DY Regional School Budget, as presented (\$55,609,590), with a recommendation in the amount of an increase of \$448,775 above a 2 ½ % increase in FY16 over FY15 with an override and recommend that the override be approved.

**Motion by:** Mr. Ciavarra                      **Seconded by:** Mr. Ladley                      **Vote:** 5-0-1  
Mr. Morris, a member of the School Committee, abstained from a vote on this motion.

The Yarmouth Finance Committee has spent a collective 120 hours in session discussing the Operating and Capital Budget, and the Warrant and CPA Articles. This does not include the time individual members have spent studying and researching this material when not in session.

**ADJOURN:**

**MOTION:** To adjourn at 8:52 p.m.

**Motion by:** Mr. Moylan                      **Seconded by:** Cathy Romboli                      **Vote:** 6-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

*Grace E. Buckler*

Grace E. Buckler

Recording Secretary

Yarmouth Finance Committee

Addendum: CPA Article 26 and Explanation

4. Methodist Cemetery, 646 Willow Street, South Yarmouth (map 42/49)
5. Woodside Cemetery, 562 Route 28, West Yarmouth (map 31/104)

The iron fences are an important contributing feature to the historic character and fabric of the landscape. Iron fencing surrounds most of the older cemeteries and can be found inside the grounds surrounding family plots. The marble and granite posts and metal cross sections have decayed over time. Funds would be used to address the most significant deteriorated sections and to secure some ornamental metal fencing.

**Project C. South Yarmouth Methodist Church Steeple & Roof: \$358,794**

This article would provide funds to restore the church steeple, bell tower and roof, which are currently in fair condition. The project will include rebuilding the steeple and bell tower; restoring the clock, bell mechanism, spire and finial. The roof will be replaced and a portion of the east roof at the valley rafter would be rebuilt. The applicant has contributed \$518,000 in matching funds for the rehabilitation of this building.

**Project D. Cultural Center Educational Wing: \$100,000**

The purpose of this project is to complete the basement level of the new Owl Club Education Wing of the Cultural Center of Cape Cod. The Educational Wing will have a culinary arts center, artists' studios, performance space, and exhibit space. CPA funds would be used for construction costs only and the Cultural Center continues to raise funds to equip the studios. The applicant has received \$120,000 in matching funds from the Massachusetts Cultural Council Facility fund to complete the first and second floors.

**Project E. Historical Society of Old Yarmouth Cobbler Building – Climate control: \$5,000**

This proposal is to install a multi split-type heat pump in the Cobbler Shop Archival Vault to control temperature and humidity levels that are appropriate for archival materials. This installation will also include an outdoor unit complete with high performance inverter compressor to be sited on existing precast pad.

**CPA Recreation & Open Space Projects**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$873,500 from the Community Preservation Act Fund for the following recreation and open space purposes:

Item	Appropriate To	Purpose	Amount and CPA Funding Source	Total
#-A	Department of Public Works	To complete the design and engineering for the Cape Cod Rail Trail from Peter Homer Park on Old Townhouse Road to the Barnstable town line.	601,000 Undesignated	601,000
#-B	Yarmouth Parks, Rec. & Cemetery Department	Reduce funding gap for the Sailing Center building improvements between previous estimates and actual costs for construction.	100,000 Undesignated	100,000
#-C	Yarmouth Parks, Rec. & Cemetery Department	Update the existing 2008 Flax and Sandy Pond Master Plan including Peter Homer Park.	35,000 Undesignated	35,000

#-D	Yarmouth Parks, Rec. & Cemetery Department	Signage, landscaping, irrigation, and benches for the Fred Thacher playground located at 460 Route 6A in Yarmouth Port.	35,000 Undesignated	35,000
#-E	Yarmouth Parks, Rec. & Cemetery Department	Rehabilitate the Bocce complex with new shade shelters at the Yarmouth Senior Center located at 528 Forest Road.	40,000 Undesignated	40,000
#-F	Yarmouth Parks, Rec. & Cemetery Department	Rehabilitate the outfield fence and construct additional fencing along backstop area on the softball field at the Sandy Pond Recreation Area located at 482 Buck Island Road.	7,500 Undesignated	7,500
#-G	Yarmouth Fire Department	Improvements to the youth baseball field to include expanding the overhang on current backstop and create a picnic grove at 102 Old Main Street in South Yarmouth.	17,000 Undesignated	17,000
#-H	Yarmouth Conservation Division	To preserve the Taylor Bray Farm property with removal of invasive species at 108 Bray Farm Road North in Yarmouth Port.	38,000 Open Space Reserve	38,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 873,500</b>

Selectman Recommend: (Community Preservation Committee) Finance Committee Recommend:

**EXPLANATION:** This article appropriates CPA funds for recreation and one open space preservation project with each item appropriated as a separate project.

Project A. Cape Cod Rail Trail design: \$601,000

Phase 3 will extend the trail from Peter Homer Park to Mary Dunn Road in Barnstable. This proposal is for engineering design associated with Phase 3 of Yarmouth's portion of the Cape Cod Rail Trail. Phase 3 will run for the 3.5 miles between Peter Homer Park on Old Townhouse Road to the Barnstable Town Line. This design work would include the 75% Design Phase, 100% Design Phase and Construction Documents; Bridge Design; Geotechnical; and Construction Phase engineering services. The Town of Yarmouth has funded the initial 25% Design Phase through Chapter 90 funds and State funding of \$8.1 million has been allocated for construction of this phase. Currently underway, though in different stages, Phase 1 & 2 will extend the trail from Dennis, over the Bass River, to Peter Homer Park along the existing railroad right-of-way.

Project B. Sailing Center Preservation Project: \$100,000

This article would provide the funds necessary to complete the rehabilitation of the Town's Sailing Center building and reduce the funding gap between the previous CPC Grant in fiscal year 2013 of \$425,000 and actual project costs. The total cost of the project is \$543,539. The applicant has applied to various organizations for \$25,000 in matching funds.

Project C. Recreation Master Plan Update: \$35,000

This proposal includes updates to the existing 2008 Flax Pond and Sandy Pond Recreation Areas Master Plan with the addition of Peter Homer Park. The master plan would explore the feasibility and need to continue to develop Sandy Pond into a sports complex and expand Flax Pond use to include additional sports fields. The master plan will provide the Town with up to date information necessary to evaluate the recreational needs of the community.

Project D. Route 6A Playground Signage & Landscape: 35,000

This proposal is to purchase historical signage noting the historical significance of the playground and background on the Thatcher family for whom the park is named and anchor signage for the Captain's Mile of Route 6A. The park would be landscaped with shade trees and plantings, irrigated, and benches installed. The new playground has been approved by the neighbors and Yarmouth's Old King's Highway Regional Historic District Committee. The total cost of the project is \$45,000 and Community Visions, Inc. a non-profit organization has committed \$10,000 in matching funds towards the project.

Project E. Bocce Court Shade Shelter: \$40,000

Funds for this proposal would be utilized to install shade shelters for the Bocce Complex behind the Yarmouth Senior Center located on Forest Road in South Yarmouth. A new Bocce Complex was constructed in 2014 to the rear of the building using all donated materials and labor. Two courts are in place and a third court is being constructed by the Barnstable County Sheriff's Department in the spring of 2015. The courts are situated in an area that offers no shade for the participants and onlookers making for an uncomfortable environment. The Recreation Department is proposing simple permanent shade structures that can be easily erected and removed based on weather. The posts are expected to last 50+ years. The sail clothes are treated for heavy weather exposure. Once worn beyond useful life the Bocce Club can solicit donations to replace them.

Project F. Sandy Pond Softball Field Fencing. \$7,500

This project is to rehabilitate the outfield fence and construct additional fencing along backstop area to dugout to meet national safety standards. Sandy Pond Recreation Area sports fields make up the primary active use for this facility. The softball field is used by the Cape Cod Senior Softball League (CCSSL) as well as Sturgis East and West Charter High Schools, local youth and adult leagues and a regional church league.

Additional fence panels are needed to protect players in the dugout, bench and bleacher area and to protect park goers from errant balls. The proposal is for two additional straight panels added to the back stop and repairs to the chain link mesh. The goal is to bring the fencing up to safety standards, contain balls within the field area, and significantly reduce liability from car damage in adjacent parking lot.

Project G. Fire Dept. Little League Backstop: \$17,000

This proposal is for improvements to the Youth Baseball Complex behind the Fire Station and the Simpkins Residences off Old Main Street. Improvements would consist of expanding the overhang on the current backstop and to create a picnic area for the 1,000 annual visitors. There are 144 major league participants and 72 minor league participants from Dennis and Yarmouth Youth Baseball Association. This complex is very busy and the need for containing the balls to within the fields of play is well documented. The location behind the backstop cannot be used because foul balls fall directly into this space as well as onto adjacent cars in the Fire Department parking lot.

Acting Deputy Chief Jon Sawyer will oversee the project and coordinate with the Yarmouth Little League Association. The total value of the project is \$22,000, of which \$17,000 in CPA funds is budgeted for materials and several Yarmouth Fire Department employees will donate labor valued at approximately \$5,000 to clear and remove brush, hydra-seed, and install an irrigation system in the picnic area.

Project H. TBF Open Space preservation Phragmite: \$38,000

The project will take place at Taylor Bray Farm, located in Yarmouth Port, MA. The parcel abuts several wetland resource areas that fall within Conservation jurisdiction, included Chase Garden Creek. The farm offers many valuable resources including a large 180-foot handicap accessible boardwalk, views of Black Flat marsh, a farm house, a working barn and livestock that is free and open to the public. The site is a very popular tourist attraction in Town and receives an estimate of 15,000 visitors a year. Funds would be used to remove the invasive species by treating Phragmites and other invasive species along the northern edge of the property to restore the saltmarsh, enhance scenic views, and improve wildlife habitat.