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2022 JUL 14 8:13P



Town of Orleans

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Finance Committee Meeting

19 School Road Orleans Massachusetts 02653-3699

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 14, 2022 - 7:00 pm

This was a virtual meeting of the Orleans Finance Committee convened via remote participation using “Zoom” webinar technology with real-time public access provided by Orleans Channel 18 on the Town website and cable television.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Finance Committee Chairman Lynn Bruneau. Also present and thus constituting a quorum were Vice Chairman Nick Athanassiou and Clerk Tim Counihan as well as Committee members Elaine Baird, Chris Kanaga, Constance Kremer and Peter O’Meara. Alisa Magnotta and Ed Mahoney were absent.

Guests: Mia Baumgarten from Media Operations provided technical support for the meeting.

Public Comment: None this evening

Announcements - Wastewater project info on the Town website on the “Government” page – with information about the Downtown project wrapping up as well as plans for the next phase for MHP area. If you have questions - whether about connecting for the Downtown area with “first flush” scheduled for late Sept/early Oct or the next phase/MHP - contact the “Sewer Ombudsman” Reggie Donoghue. Contact info posted - phone and email. Also “Sewer System FAQ” bulletin is posted with Frequently Asked Questions about the project, betterment assessments and getting connected.

-Reminder - 2022 beach stickers and transfer station stickers - today was last day to pay FY22 rates but good news is that Sticker Office is now open at DPW Facility - weekdays 9am-1pm. Same rates for beach stickers except \$5 replacement fee for lost sticker. Transfer Station rates up from \$165 to \$185 for both residential and commercial stickers.

-Fall Town Meeting - mark your calendars - Monday, October 17 at the Middle School gymnasium. Early evening. Likely childcare will be provided.

-Next Wednesday, July 20 as part of regular Select Board meeting, the annual “Summer Information Meeting”. Purpose is to provide non-resident taxpayers, voters and anyone else with an opportunity to discuss problems, policies and progress. Select Board and Town Administrator and others will be available to answer questions on any areas of Town government either in person or via Zoom.

-First quarter Property Taxes are due August 1 - should have received bill by now w/ payment info for 1st and 2nd quarters. 2nd part is due November 1. August 1st payment - by check by mail or in person at Town Hall or in Town Hall Drop Box or pay online. More info on Town Website or call Town Tax Collector at Town Hall.

Reorganize Finance Committee for FY23 - Election of Officers

Ms. Bruneau noted that she has been Chairman of the Finance Committee since February 2017 - almost 5 and a half years - currently finishing year 2 of a 3-year term. Not knowing whether she would be appointed to another 3-year term next spring by Town Moderator David Lyttle, she suggested that it would likely be a good idea to make a change in Fin Comm leadership now, to

ensure an orderly transition. Accordingly:

Motion by Ms. Bruneau to nominate Mr. Athanassiou as Finance Committee Chairman, second by Mr. Kanaga. The vote was 7-0 with Mmes. Baird, Bruneau and Kremer and Messrs. Athanassiou, Counihan, Kanaga and O'Meara all voting aye by roll-call.

Ms. Bruneau then turned the meeting over to Mr. Athanassiou, who then guided the election of the other Fin Comm officers:

Motion by Ms. Baird to nominate Mr. Kanaga as Finance Committee Vice Chairman, second by Ms. Kremer. The vote was 7-0 with Mmes. Baird, Bruneau and Kremer and Messrs. Athanassiou, Counihan, Kanaga and O'Meara all voting aye by roll-call.

Motion by Ms. Kremer to nominate Ms. Baird as Finance Committee Clerk, second by Mr. Athanassiou. The vote was 7-0 with Mmes. Baird, Bruneau and Kremer and Messrs. Athanassiou, Counihan, Kanaga and O'Meara all voting aye by roll-call.

Ms. Baird then suggested that in recognition of Ms. Bruneau's long-term commitment and contributions to the Finance Committee, that she should be recognized as "Chairman Emerita" of the Committee. Accordingly:

Motion by Ms. Baird to nominate Ms. Bruneau as Chairman Emerita of the Finance Committee, second by Mr. Counihan. The vote was 7-0 with Mmes. Baird, Bruneau and Kremer and Messrs. Athanassiou, Counihan, Kanaga and O'Meara all voting aye by roll-call.

Mr. Athanassiou noted that going forward, in his role as Finance Committee Chairmen, he will need and will seek the support from all Committee members. He has thus asked Ms. Bruneau to lead the discussion on several topics on tonight's agenda.

Review/Approval of Any Special Year-End Budget Amendments and/or Reserve Fund Transfer Requests to Address Short-Falls in Various Department Accounts

-Ms. Bruneau noted that she had sent updated info this morning and an earlier explanation w/ more detail last Sunday. Today's update noted that the Legal Expense number has increased from \$28k to almost \$32.5k, with more account line items shown to cover that increase in expenses.

-One more point noted during last night's Select Board meeting re the Wiring Inspector Expenses and the Plumbing/Gas Inspector Expenses. The fees for this work - the revenue - is posted to the General Fund - not directly to these Expense Accounts. Thus the need to cover the overrun this way at the end of the fiscal year.

Motion by Mr. Counihan to approve the Special Year-End Request for Budget Amendments as approved by the Select Board on July 13, 2022; second by Mr. Kanaga. The vote was 7-0 with Mmes. Baird, Bruneau and Kremer and Messrs. Athanassiou, Counihan, Kanaga and O'Meara all voting aye by roll-call.

-Ms. Bruneau also noted that at last night's Select Board mtg, John Kelly said that the Water Dept overrun in Chemicals expense that Fin Comm approved at its 6/23 meeting will be covered by the sewer project (about \$8800). Cost cause, testing of the wick wells, not included in the Water Dept. budget.

-Also - Fin Comm was copied on letters from Cape Tech to Town Treasurer Scott Walker. At the end of their fiscal year, Cape Tech ended up with sufficient "free cash" ("Excess & Deficiency" that they were able to share with their towns. Orleans received a reduction of almost \$28.5k in the August 2022 payment due for its quarterly assessment (dropping the Orleans assessment for the quarter from

\$67k to \$38.6k). This should show up in an FY23 Budget adjustment for Fall Town Meeting. -Finally - one other year-end budget adjustment that Fin Comm won't need to approve. In mid-October, the Select Board approved a \$24k increase in the annual compensation for the Finance Director - re-writing her contract mid-year, and mid-contract, retroactive to July 1, 2021. Also added a \$400/month automobile allowance. And a 0.5% merit increase (not a bonus but a merit increase) if she exceeds a performance category subtotal score of 4 (above average). In the May month-end Appropriations report in the Finance Dept pages (pg 10) - there's a transfer of \$24k from one sub-account to another - from 516300 - C&T Un Clerical to 511500 - Non Un Dept Mgr to fund the mid-year raise. As we learned or had confirmed last week during our EF discussion w/ Tom Daley and Nate Sears, budget adjustments like this apparently can be done without the approval of the Select Board and the Finance Committee - this is a Salary to Salary transfer within a Department - thus apparently no need for additional oversight or approval. Also no transparency.

Review/Approval of Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Draft Minutes for 6/9/22 sent Tuesday - AECOM/Tighe & Bond Sewer Project update meeting

Motion by Mr. Counihan to approve the minutes for the 6/9/22 Finance Committee meeting; second by Ms. Baird. The vote was 7-0 with Mmes. Baird, Bruneau and Kremer and Messrs. Athanassiou, Counihan, Kanaga and O'Meara all voting aye by roll-call.

Draft Minutes for 6/23/22 sent Wednesday - DPW/Natural Resources EF mtg; first budget amends

Motion by Mr. Counihan to approve the minutes for the 6/23/22 Finance Committee meeting; second by Ms. Bruneau. The vote was 6-0-1 with Mmes. Baird and Bruneau and Messrs. Athanassiou, Counihan, Kanaga and O'Meara all voting aye by roll-call. Ms. Kremer abstained as she was absent from the 6/23/22 meeting.

Continue Discussion re Fin Comm Focus/Priorities and Topics of Interest

Mr. Athanassiou introduced the next agenda item, but then turned the microphone over to Ms. Bruneau to lead the discussion for the first three sub-topics:

a. Continue Discussion re Fall/Special Town Meeting, Including Potential Warrant Articles

-Ms. Bruneau noted that there was nothing new in this week's Select Bd mtg packet. The draft Warrant Index dated 7/1 is still current. Still TBD whether there will be anything re next sewer project after MHP or the Comm Ctr or Gov. Prence demolition. TBD re Rock Harbor parking program or OPD/OFD union contracts (no new news). FY23 Budget Amendments - TBD. Blue Economy; Town Landings - all TBD. Kevin Galligan would still like to see a budget reduction in favor of tax payers; maybe by funding projects w/ grants or ARPA money to get that done. -Also TBD - any Fin Comm-supported Articles, eg, related to Affordable Housing - or to shift or share Universal Pre-K funding to also support free lunches. Affordable Housing might be an Article like Eastham to establish a "Community Fund" that c/ support any kind of Town projects - with tax-deductible donations. More work to be done on this. Also waiting to hear from AHTB re whether they are going to propose any Articles - to support and fund attainable housing - and perhaps to increase funding for AHTB in general (eg, an up-tick from \$275k to something more).

b. Update re Charter Review Committee Final Review of Chapter 8 Fin Comm-Related Changes; Re-vote Any Further Changes if Needed

-Ms. Bruneau noted that she and Mr. Athanassiou went to the CRC meeting on Monday, 7/11 to support to CRC vote on final Chapter 8 Fin Comm-related changes. Good news - integrity of definition of Fin Comm role has been preserved as voted by CRC on January 3 - as supported then by Town Moderator David Lyttle. Section 8-1-6 stays the same as it is now - not watered down/diluted -

still “independently examine and analyze the Town’s financial affairs, including proposed budgets, the CIP and all other proposals which would have a financial impact”. Also - as Fin Comm suggested - 8-1-6 was moved to the top of the section - to become 8-1-1 - so the section starts w/ the definition of Fin Comm’s role.

-Then 8-1-2 is the section on how many members, appointed by the Moderator. The CRC agreed w/ our concept of ending Fin Comm terms on 7/15 instead of 6/30 so that our seasoned members c/be the ones to vote on fiscal year-end budget amendments, rather than expecting rookies to vote on such changes - or perhaps having empty seats at the table. So 8-1-2 now refers to terms ending on 7/15.

Section 8-1-3 reflects the same thing - with Fin Comm duties beginning the 16th day of the fiscal year. -Back to section 8-1-2. Originally Fin Comm voted to add 2 associate members to the Finance Committee. Last fall we voted to have a Finance Committee of 7 full-time members plus 2 associates - which seemed like a good idea at the time. And this is what we sent to the CRC. But given the value we derive from “huddles” - small meetings of 3 or 4 of us to keep things moving - we might want to reconsider the 7 vs. 9. With a 9-member committee, the quorum is 5 and thus we can “huddle” with up to 4 people. If we dropped down to 7 full-time members, our quorum would drop to 4 and any “huddles” w/be limited to just 3 people.

-Pros and cons re a smaller quorum - easier to achieve a quorum for meetings. But - it looks like our remote Zoom meetings are going to continue - at least for a while - so we may be OK with a quorum of 5 in a Zoom setting. A larger quorum, as noted, allows for larger “huddles”. But - we would need to re-vote to confirm that Fin Comm supports going back to the 9+2 number, instead of the 7+2 that we had recommended previously.

-On January 2, I had sent our full set of Charter change recommendations to Town Moderator David Lyttle - before his meeting w/ the CRC on January 3. He never commented on the idea of associate members. I re-sent the material to him about 10 days ago - before the 7/11 meeting w/ the CRC - asking specifically for his views on associate members, and the 7+2 vs. the 9+2 configuration - but no reply. The CRC voted on Monday, 7/11 to support a 9+2 configuration.

Motion by Ms. Bruneau to approve a change to the new Charter section 8-1-2 to read: “The Finance Committee, appointed by the Town Moderator, shall consist of nine members and two associate members appointed for three-year overlapping terms, arranged so that the terms of at least three members shall expire at the end of the 15th day of the fiscal year, provided that no more than one associate member’s term expires in any given year.”; second by Mr. Counihan. The vote was 7-0 with Mmes. Baird, Bruneau and Kremer and Messrs. Athanassiou, Counihan, Kanaga and O’Meara all voting aye by roll call.

-Separately - no other Fin Comm changes have been made - whether to Chapter 8, or any other Chapter. We fought especially hard for 8-8-1 - requiring an annual joint meeting of the Select Board and the Finance Committee each year w/ the external auditors to review the audit report - but they weren’t buying. And none of the CIP or capital planning changes were seriously considered - and none of the other recommendations for simplifying the Charter were considered at all.

c. Update re First Monthly Meeting of Select Board Chair with Board/Committee Chairs and Fin Comm Follow-up)

-First meeting of Town Board/Committee Chairs w/ Select Board Chair Andrea Reed was on Friday, July 1 - “First Friday” meetings - no set agenda. Next ones - 8/5 and 9/2. About 10 people; introduced ourselves and our roles but no sign-up sheet Ms. Bruneau missed some of the names and Board/Committee affiliations; however, group included Nancy Renn (AHC) and Fran McClennen (AHC); Alan McClennen (AHTB); Barry Alper (CPC for Walter North); Ginny Farber (Cons Comm); Energy/Climate Action; Ron Peterson (Historical Comm); Human Svcs Advisory Comm - plus a few others.

-As noted - no agenda - but Energy/Climate Action Chair took notes on a flip chart. Focus was primarily on Board/Committee needs, training, getting started, training for chairs, mentoring, growing new members, working w/ and sharing info w/ other Boards/Committees.

-Later that afternoon Ms. Bruneau sent a number of follow-up emails to Andrea Reed re open Q's - one asking about Select Board goals - knowing that they were working on these in separate 2nd Friday meetings/working sessions. Also asked about accountability for Town Administrator and Finance Director - for their goals, noting that some of their goals are simply part of their job descriptions. Reply re Select Board goals - a way to bring the Board together but she doesn't see it in the context of "accountability" - not tied to contract for Select Board. Welcome to attend Select Board mini-meetings. No reply to Q's about JK/CD goals and accountability. Last year Select Board goals were finally "approved" on 9/21 but never reviewed again.

-Asked again for a Fin Comm "huddle" w/ Ms. Reed in her new role to help w/ a "re-set" for communications w/ Town Hall. No direct reply to that question. At the end of May, she had asked for a couple of weeks to get started w/ her new responsibilities and to meet w/ each Select Board member. We're now almost 2 months into her tenure, and haven't had this meeting.

-Asked again about the status of the 5-year look-ahead worksheets - especially the FY23 budget requests - what has been included already in the FY23 budget (other than the 3 new positions) and what might get added w/ any FY23 budget adjustments? Added to that request some specific questions that Tim Counihan had drafted related to capital planning - are there any tools available to help with the process. No reply. She had replied initially to the 5-year look-ahead question on June 8 - asking for a few weeks to coordinate w/ JK - but nothing since then.

-After the 7/1 group meeting, Ms. Bruneau forwarded the Fin Comm "on-boarding" outline and referred to Fin Comm Code of Conduct. Ms. Reed replied that afternoon - noting that she was aware that Kevin Galligan was very impressed w/ Fin Comm Code of Conduct. Brief ref to other emails - "looking forward to connecting after the holidays" - but she didn't say which holidays . . .

d. Continue Discussion re Fin Comm/Other Liaison Assignments / Liaison Role

-Mr. Athanassiou said that he would put the Fin Comm Liaison discussion topic onto the agenda for the 7/28/22 Fin Comm meeting. He had looked at current assignments, reviewing overall coverage, and identifying a number of gaps (eg, looking at Enterprise Funds separately, tracking quarterly financial reports). Also considering time commitments, Committee priorities and reporting processes. He will send the list out again, ask for suggestions, and plan for discussion on 7/28. Meanwhile, we will continue with our FY22 assignments.

e. Continue Discussion re Counihan Draft 15-year Capital Plan

-Mr. Counihan shared his screen to drive the discussion of his draft 15-year capital plan - noting that this has been one of his own priorities.

-Introductory comments - a 5-year plan is "haphazard and incomplete" (eg, no number for the anticipated Fire Station). The 5-yr plan changes from year to year; capital items get added that haven't been included in prior plans. Long-range capital planning is important for any organization spending a lot of money on capital projects. Helps to prioritize - to focus on any trade-offs between competing needs/wants. Helps to focus on fiscal responsibility. Also supports transparency - everything is in the open.

-Projects listed are not his priorities - pulled from various town reports/presentations. Full list to drive discussion. Suggested follow-up "huddles" to continue discussion - and maybe share information with others.

-At the top - base load with on-going capital projects. He differentiated between on-going operating budget and debt excluded budget. Columns include run-out of debt for various projects, existing debt. Assumptions are foot-noted. Straight-line interest rate 3.5% as discussed at prior Fin Comm meeting though likely various projects could have different terms. Spreadsheets construct allows for manipulation - for "what if" scenarios - to adjust cost burden.

-Projects further out - numbers more speculative, though some (eg, sewers) firmer.

-"Total Excluded Debt" summarizes all capital project debt (line toward the bottom). Line with "Levy w/out debt exclusion" set to grow by 3.5% annually. Property value line also grows by 3.5% annually. Calculation of tax rate, and debt impact on tax levy.

-Spreadsheet provides a transparent vehicle for decision making. Other assumptions/considerations -

how to consider grants, special funding (eg, sewer project support).

-Ms. Bruneau suggested that a follow-up “huddle” might include Alan McClennen, who has expressed interest in the model.

-Mr. O’Meara said that the model provides an incredible overview - with the ability to add/subtract projects - to run scenarios. What about adverse consequences/events - eg, a devaluation in property? What could be the impact of that? Economic environment impacts/downturn impacts. An economic downturn like the 70’s and late 80’s would make it hard to support projects.

-Mr. Counihan agreed - noting that an increase in interest rates w/ likely impact property values. Ms. Bruneau suggested talking to Town Assessor Brad Hinote for any views on property values in this evolving economy.

-Mr. Athanassiou suggested that this would be a good management tool to share w/ Select Board Chair Andrea Reed - a tool that Fin Comm uses to look at the overall picture.

-Ms. Kremer agreed with Mr. Athanassiou - but making sure that all understood that this was a working document.

-Ms. Bruneau agreed, noting that the numbers aren’t meant to be “final”. It demonstrates the good use of a tool. It has often been difficult to get any numbers into the CIP. Mr. Counihan agreed - Town Hall doesn’t like putting numbers into plans (until they’re finalized).

-Follow-up - “huddle” with Mr. Counihan, Mr. Athanassiou, Alan McClennen - and Ms. Bruneau or Mr. O’Meara or Mr. Mahoney.

-Mr. Kanaga cautioned that the numbers that have been provided in the past often have proved to be unreliable - historically underestimated.

f. Review Proposed Home Rule Petition Material re Prohibiting the Application of Fertilizer in the Town of Orleans; Vote if/as Appropriate on Any Fin Comm Action at This Time

- Material was shared earlier this week w/ a cover letter signed by Michael Herman - oddly, as Select Board member and not as Vice Chairman. At the 7/6 Select Board mtg, they voted to support the initiative - to create a webpage; to OK a letter going out to Town Board/Committee chairs and various organizations, seeking support for the initiative; also to OK organization of workshops/info sessions by Michael Herman.

-Material includes a copy of the Nantucket Warrant Article from their May Town Meeting (passed by vote of 374-105). Essentially prohibiting the application of fertilizer in the Town except for farming purposes. Section 3 - “the application of fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorous or any other pollutants in the Town (of Nantucket) is hereby prohibited.”

-Nothing in the Article about enforcement - or who defines “other pollutants”.

-Cover letter is asking for “support individually and as a committee/organization” and to “please discuss this with your committee/organization and if you agree provide a letter of support by 8/26/22” sent to Michael Herman. They will follow up with further communication to coordinate advocacy and public awareness workshops. Apparently asking if we agree w/ idea of a home rule petition, based on Nantucket model - thus prohibiting fertilizer in Orleans.

-We don’t yet have a Warrant Article - thus nothing official for Fin Comm to vote on. May not want to get ahead of ourselves on this. What would we vote on? What would a Fin Comm letter say at this point? The letter from Michael Herman is not a Select Board letter - it’s a Michael Herman letter - not even “on behalf of the Select Board”.

-Mr. Kanaga noted that as a matter of principle, he would like to keep all poisons out of our watershed, noting that prior efforts have been unsuccessful. He would not vote for the proposed home rule petition because it focuses only on fertilizers and says nothing about herbicides, other poisons.

-Mr. Athanassiou’s point - when do you stop? He noted that in his view, Fin Comm is not central to the science on this topic. What is the financial implication? Likely it is premature for Fin Comm to be voting or writing a letter. He as an individual might write a letter - but not yet Fin Comm.

-Ms. Baird noted that she had talked to Peter Jensen over the weekend - an agriculture/ecologist re the use of fertilizers. His view - most fertilizers - if applied (correctly) between May and October are absorbed by the plants and do not make their way into the watershed. She also wondered about the

financial consequences to the Town - agreeing that it is early for Fin Comm to have a point of view.
-Mr. Counihan believes that there is a financial impact, stating that fertilizers are the #2 contributor to the pollution of our waterways (nitrogen and phosphorous). Mr. Athanassiou said that a Cape Cod Commission report supports this view. Tim suggested that perhaps we would save millions of dollars on sewer/PRB costs (by prohibiting the use of fertilizers). However, he was not saying that Fin Comm should be voting to support the petition at this point.
-The Committee agreed to take no action at this time on the Fertilizer Home Rule Petition.

General Updates Including Recent Select Board/Other Meetings

-Ms. Bruneau reviewed highlights from the Select Board Mtg 7/6/22 - lengthy discussion w/ Town Counsel Mike Ford on a new draft short-term rental by-law - discussed again at last night's joint mtg w/ Planning Board. Meservey noted at last night's meeting - 3500 single family homes in Orleans; of these, more than 700 are registered w/ the state as short-term rental properties. Purpose - protect health, safety and welfare of occupants of short-term rental units and the general public and to maintain quality of life of residential neighborhoods and availability of year-round housing stock. Already required to register w/ state - and pay taxes to state which filter down to Town. This w/ require registering w/ Town, and likely allow/require inspection by Town - and compliance w/ guidelines. Also provides framework for regulation - and enforcement (noise, up-keep, parking, occupancy limits, use-of-property limits). Still talking about registration fee - but it w/ cover cost of administration. One thought - sliding scale - one idea - based on number of bedrooms. Select Bd w/ like to get this ready for Fall Town Mtg. Public Hearing to follow after further discussion.
-Same meeting - "order of taking" for Cedar Pond properties as voted at Town Meeting; discussed "order of taking" for MHP sewer project - but didn't vote yet. No official communication yet w/ those property owners - but committed to go ahead w/ that communication "now" while they complete surveying, etc.
-Authorized Open Space Committee to proceed w/ purchase of property on Cedar Pond Rd; voted to approve Conservation Restriction for 4 Braddock's Way (lengthy discussion re who sets and enforces rules re use of properties led by Mathison - AReed said not Select Board jurisdiction to determine property use; conserving land in perpetuity - vote 4-0-1 w/ Mathison abstaining).
-Approved new Policy on "Service Assumptions" to be part of new member mtrl (signed when sworn in). No mention of "retro-fitting" this to those already on Bds/Comms. Much redundant w/ Fin Comm's Code of Conduct except "chain of command" for communicating w/ Town Hall.
-Formally voted on Fall Town Meeting and December 6 local election dates
-Voted to OK distributing fertilizer ban material (noted above)
-Voted on charge for new "Safer Community Task Force"- front page article in today's Chronicle (response to recent up-tick in gun violence; recent Gussie McKusick Public Comment)

-Select Board Mtg 7/13/22 - update on Gov. Prence Committee (JSargent and GM) - "have considered all options" - "quite a bit of community outreach" - met w/ Comm Ctr Comm last wk. Noted that some are saying they are only considering housing - Sargent said not true but v. conscious of housing need in Orleans; need range of housing, not just "affordable" - though most fed/state funding is for "affordable". Staying w/in defined zoning bylaws; v. aware of high construction costs. Report due in early Sept - then RFP to developers; Committee role ends w/ Report (guidelines to Select Board). Aware that property will impact Town for decades. Meservey noted that RFP will provide ranges/guidelines for developer. Meff - glad not fully decided - aware of other important Town needs and no available Town land. Discussion re heights - 30' vs. 40' and property slope in back; 3 stories possible. Q re Town Mtg role - Meservey noted, if any money needed. Mathison insisted that no promise had been made about use of property; people pleading for housing but no one pleading for a performing arts center. KGalligan noted that CCTimes article said it's been decided (affordable housing); w/ help to have at least some share-able amenities like conference room (ref Old Colony mtg room). Sargent said he met w/ all abutters - but not Catholic Church. Still concerns about open space and parking. "Community agreement" expectations w/be defined in contract w/ developer (ref Pennrose). Risk if something like Comm Ctr gym - w/ need 80 parking spaces.

-Meservey quarterly report - some interesting info re Wastewater planning w/ abutting towns; new rules pending. Update on Comm Ctr Comm. Update on marijuana shops - also in today's Chronicle.
-Approved charge for Econ Devel Comm - 1 from Plan Bd plus 6 "at large" - likely Town business people; w/ report to Select Bd.
-FYI - at Tuesday's PB meeting - Debbie Oakes elected as Chair; Alice Van Oot as Vice Chair; John Ostman as Clerk.
-Then further joint discussion re short-term rental by-law as noted above.
-Noise by-law discussion essentially postponed - agreed not to do anything about exemption focused on restaurants that serve alcohol. Left it alone for now.
-Approved FY22 budget amendment (as above).
-Liaison Repts - TFinan to Select Board next wk 7/20 w/ update - essentially impasse based on 2 mtgs this wk. Library (KG) - setting up 3 "little libraries" - Skaket, Nauset and 1 at Library. Trustees voted to reactivate Facilities Advisory Committee - will be asking for \$10k for consulting support (from Town? Or Trustees?). AReed talked briefly about mtg w/ Chairs - noted opportunity for Committees to post goals, challenges, training req's on websites; also newsletters.
-Future mtgs - Meff suggested regular agenda item for Exec Sessions focused on property acquisitions; anticipate some properties to change hands w/ sewer hook-ups.

Finance Committee Liaison Reports

-Gov. Prence (Mon, 7/11) - as above
-CRC (Mon, 7/11) - as noted above
-Community Ctr - as noted in Meservey qtrly report. Mr. Athanassiou noted that this w/be a capital project for the Town - not a developer-funded project. To date, no location has been identified.
Planning Board (Tues, 7/12) - as noted above
-NRSD - NRSD Building Project dates forwarded; bids out 6/22; due back 7/27; Bldg Comm to meet 8/3 to review bids; go to bond market 9/6. Maybe invite them to Fin Comm in Fall
-OES/Fire-Rescue Station Feasibility Study Comm (Mon, 7/11 and Wednes, 7/13) - both voted on 7/11 NOT to support a design that would keep the old station and add a parking garage. OES voted on 7/13 to not continue as part of the Feasibility Study - concerned that they weren't included in design discussions as a true partner; that they weren't listened to. Earlier questions not addressed by architect. Feasibility Study Committee voted on 7/11 to support single building design but rescinded that vote on 7/13. Will meet on 8/11 to determine next steps. Mr. Kanaga (Fin Comm liaison) noted that goal posts kept moving with Committee and architects required to consider more ideas (more homework re town owned-properties, idea of keeping the old station) - all distractions to primary purpose.
-BOWSC - mtg next Wednes 7/20; meanwhile, new MA DEP regs w/ tighter timetable for certain watersheds - 20 yrs instead of 40 - maybe more Orleans-specific info next wk; met locally last wk; no news yet on first mtg of Wastewater Advisory Comm.
-Library - Library notes above; waiting to hear from them on mtg w/ Fin Comm re Strat Plan
-Broadband - Mr. Counihan noted that Committee will be reporting to Select Board in a month or so. They will not be pursuing ARPA funding at the County level (determined by John Kelly). Report with ID options such as satellite and 5G; however that doesn't solve business needs downtown.
-AHTB/AHC (AHTB next Tues, 7/19); waiting to hear from them re mtg w/ Fin Comm
-Energy/Climate Change - Mr. Counihan provided an update from a recent meeting w/ Lisa Sullivan, a coordinator for the County. He noted that the Town was awarded "green community" status in 2018 with a \$140k grant. To date, only \$41k has been spent with the rest of the grant "expiring" in September unless the Town is able to get an extension (John Kelly is to apply for this). Meanwhile, the Town s/be seeking competitive recommendations for building out other "green" solutions. Ron Collins reported on a long list of equipment changes that he is making (eg, air handlers) - but it isn't clear as to why some/any/all of these haven't counted toward the "green community" program. The Town is pursuing the installation of solar panels at the old composting site - working with an engineering firm/talking to CVEC. In Mr. Counihan's view, the Town isn't doing nearly enough work re solar energy solutions.

Review Schedule and Items for Future Agendas

- Thurs, 7/28 - Tom Finan/Fire-Rescue Station Feasibility Study Comm update
- Thurs, Aug 11 and Aug 25 - hopefully can begin to vote on Warrant Articles in late August. Any meeting “guests” TBD, perhaps based on Warrant Article priorities.
- Friday, 9/2 - Warrant closes
- Wednes, 9/7 - joint Fin Comm/Select Board mtg for Public Hearing on FY24 Budget Policy; also Warrant Article recommendations due
- Thurs, 9/8 - Fin Comm meeting; final Fin Comm voting on Warrant Article-s before press time
- Fri, 9/9 - Warrant goes to printer
- Thurs, 9/22 - Fin Comm mtg
- Thurs, 10/6 and 10/13 - Fin Comm mtgs; any other Sept and Oct Fin Comm mtgs may depend on Warrant Article priorities/need to know
- Mon, 10/17 - Fall/Special Town Meeting

Adjourn - Motion by Ms. Bruneau to adjourn; second by Ms. Baird. The vote was 7-0 with Mmes. Baird, Bruneau and Kremer and Messrs. Athanassiou, Counihan, Kanaga and O’Meara all voting aye by roll-call. The meeting was adjourned at 9:22pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bruneau, Fin Comm Chairman Emerita

The documents listed below are all in the Fin Comm Drop Box except as noted:

1. July 14, 2022 Finance Committee meeting agenda
2. Special Year-End Request for Amendments to Budgets Approved by Select Board on 7/13/22
3. Draft Minutes for the 6/9/22 Finance Committee Meeting
4. Draft Minutes for the 6/23/22 Finance Committee Meeting
5. Draft Warrant Index for Fall/Special Town Meeting (Select Board meeting packet from 7/1/22 - Select Board website)
6. Charter Review Committee Proposed Charter Changes as of 7/11/22
7. Finance Committee Liaison Assignments (January 2022)
8. Updated Tim Counihan Draft 15-year Capital Plan
9. Proposed Home Rule Petition Material re Prohibiting the Application of Fertilizer in the Town of Orleans (M.Herman memo dated July 7, 2022)
10. Select Board Meeting Packet for the meeting of 7/6/22 (Select Board website)
11. Select Board Meeting Packet for the meeting of 7/13/22 (Select Board website)

Then minutes for the July 14, 2022 Finance Committee meeting were reviewed and approved at the August 11, 2022 meeting. **Motion to approve by Ms. Baird; second by Mr. Counihan. The vote was 5-0-1 with Mmes. Baird and Bruneau and Messrs. Athanassiou, Counihan and Kanaga all voting aye by roll-call. Mr. Mahoney abstained as he was absent from the 7/14/22 meeting.**