



Town of Orleans

Finance Committee

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Memorandum

To: Jon Fuller, Chairman, Board of Selectmen

CC: Board of Selectmen
John Kelly, Town Administrator

Date: June 15, 2017

Pursuant to its role as defined in the Town of Orleans Home Rule Charter, the Orleans Finance Committee ("the Committee") analyzes issues with a financial impact on the Town and its taxpayers. Consistent with that mandate, the Committee is following up on an important issue regarding the Revenue Committee.

At the Town Meeting held in May of 2016, the Committee sponsored a warrant article for the creation of the Revenue Committee, with the goal of creating a committee of experienced financial professionals who would be charged with analyzing the Town's revenue-generating activities with a view to improve non-property-tax revenue-generating activities and to make specific recommendations to the Town and the taxpayers on opportunities to increase such revenue.

At the Town Meeting held in May of 2017, the Revenue Committee made three such proposals in the form of warrant articles, each of which would have been an important step toward increasing non-property-tax revenue for the Town. Unfortunately, only one of these articles passed - the one allowing for the establishment of Enterprise Funds - making it clear that the Revenue Committee's work is unfinished.

In a unanimous vote at its June 8, 2017 meeting, the Finance Committee passed a motion of support for the Revenue Committee and its activities, as well as a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen that the Revenue Committee be established as a permanent standing town committee so that it can properly and thoroughly see its work through to its conclusion: the confirmation and adoption of policies and warrant articles designed to generate meaningful non-property-tax revenue sources for the Town and the easing of the burden of significant property tax increases in the coming years, as well as analyzing projects and services in terms of cost to the taxpayers.

We hope that you will give some thought to our recommendation. Please call with any questions.

On behalf of the Finance Committee,

Lynn Bruneau / Finance Committee Chair