

PROVINCETOWN FINANCE COMMITTEE

Judge Welsh Meeting Room - 3:00 p.m.

March 6, 2014

Members Present: Mike Canizales, Clarence Walker, Duane Steele, Raphael Richter, Doug Cliggott, Stan Sikorski, Catherine Walker

Others Present: Dan Hoort, Finance Director, Mary Jo Avellar, Town Moderator, Beth O-Rourke, PTV, David Gardner, Acting Town Manager

Public / Member Comments:

Tony Fuccillo, Director of Tourism, stated that he would like to speak on several things discussed in meetings. He first commented that parking is an issue that affects tourism. He noted that visitors would rather spend money on lunch or shopping rather than parking, and would like to see resolution to parking that would not deter visitors to the town. He went on to discuss space at 330 Commercial Street. He states they could share space with the Disability Commission who is looking for space. He would like to coordinate their volunteers to work with his agency volunteers. He shared some concerns regarding confidential information in sharing space, including financial information. Mike asked about other space. Mr. Fuccillo stated they could possibly use some Art Commission Space upstairs opposite PTV. Clarence Walker asked whether volunteers would interfere with confidentiality, and Mr. Fuccillo stated it would not.

Barbara Rushmore discussed two issues. She discussed the need for support on the money article on water bills. Specifically an article to remove the water meter charge on water bills, stating the charge is now very large. She states to drop the meter charge and put costs of the water usage on how much water people use, and people who use the most water (restaurants, large homes, etc) would pay more. She stated that seniors are paying more than their share, and there needs to be dialogue on this article. Put a nominal charge on people who don't use their homes. Mike Canizales asked how the water usage would be determined – who would the lower users be. Dan Hoort stated the water enterprise fund is just under two million but not sure of meter vs. water usage charge. Clarence Walker asked if condos have their town water meters, and stated the Town should look at reimbursement for installation, and the cost of maintenance of meters. He inquired about meter charge and gallon charge. Mike stated the meeting on warrants was coming up and that the Department of Public of Works should be invited to discuss the issue and have a debate as a group.

Mrs. Rushmore also discussed the town debt. She stated she has read about raising parking fees and feels the Committee should look for another source. She shared that her idea would be to look at real estate transfer fees. She stated that condos are bought by people who do not live there, but rents weekly to summer people. She went on to say that condos are mainly bought to make money, and the Finance Committee should debate this. These condos are not an addition to the town; they are to make money. This article needs to pass the Joint Committee on Revenue. This is an un-tapped revenue source. There is a need to look at the people buying and selling real estate in town, and the need to speak with Sarah Peake and Ann Maguire. Duane Steele added that he has made this type of a proposal which includes a condo fee and real estate tax.

Disability Commission:

Clarence Walker distributed to Committee members a handout of a letter written by the Disability Commission. The Disability Commission supported moving an article on the beach access mats. Clarence made a motion for this article from the Disability Commission for application of \$25,000 for the stated purpose which was seconded by Duane Steele. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed 7-0-0.

PTV:

It was reported by Mike that approximately three months ago the Board of Selectmen accepted a recommendation from PTV that the money from Comcast go directly to PTV, thereby bypassing the annual appropriation process. Mike reported that he had spoken with Steven Roderick, a board member, and they discussed a compromise which would be that an advisory article be put in by the Finance Committee, which could be at Town Meeting as well as when the contract is reviewed that an advisory article be put in by the Finance Committee which would acknowledge and recommend an amount subsidized from the building, approximately X, and the Town approves in kind, revenue being given to them. It would be every three years. Clarence Walker stated that it is public money and cannot just be handed out without oversight. Duane Steele stated that there is a need for oversight in the budget done on an annual basis. Clarence asked what the oversight is. Mary Jo Avellar stated that if another cable company moved into Provincetown, they would not be allowed to compete. She also stated that public money needs to have public accountability by the Board of Selectmen and the Town Meeting. She feels that the public should have input. Mike discussed the need to put visibility on what they are getting. This gives an opportunity for

debate. Mary Jo again stated that anything that has to do with money has to go through the town. Doug Cliggott wanted to know the time frame for negotiation. Mike stated it's used for activities that PTV does. Doug stated that Provincetown should maybe use some of the money from cable for their own internet infrastructure so they are not held captive by Comcast. Clarence stated that we are missing a point - that so many funds are allocated for use by the town, but that's negotiation with the town, and those are town funds. Mike discussed that the Board of Selectmen made the decision to send the money directly to PTV, and that he believes that oversight is critical. Clarence shared that he feels that it's setting precedence that the Board of Selectmen can just go ahead and bypass the town. Mike stated that the Board of Selectmen took us and the town meeting out of the decision, and that there is no direct way to undo that. He stated that his idea was an alternative and that he feels there should be regular oversight and visibility at some regular interval. Clarence discussed the decision by the Board of Selectmen to take received funds and bypass the Town Body and the Finance Committee, and give directly to PTV for three years stating "what is the oversight" – it's not right. Mike suggested to put a warrant article to Town Meeting endorsing the \$125,000 per year from Comcast to PTV and endorse free rent of \$25,000 per year and let the town way in - that will give an opportunity for debate. Duane Steele made a motion that the Town shall require PTV to submit an annual budget for review by the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee for monies received in kind or directly from the Town of Provincetown or Comcast. Clarence Walker seconded the motion. Doug Cliggott expressed concerns about oversight. He asked if the committee was providing oversight for what's going on the sewage treatment plan. Clarence stated that the sewer has to come before us with needs, requirements, and requests. There was much discussion about the monies going to PTV. Duane Steele discussed oversight. Raphael Richter stated that the Committee should review the 10 year contract with Comcast, and the contract with PTV. Mike called on Beth O'Rourke who stated that as a 501-3-C, there is a yearly audit and annual financial report so there is oversight, and stated PTV is a service provider for the Town of Provincetown. She feels PTV has a good relationship with the town. After much discussion, Duane withdrew the motion after Raphael Richter again stated the contract should be reviewed. Mary Jo suggested a written statement be added stating that the Board of Selectmen made the decision regarding PTV which is why it is not listed on the budget.

Parking:

Doug Cliggott's write-up was handed out and two letters submitted will be included with the minutes. Doug read the debt figures which are listed on the write-up. He stated the Capital Improvement Program is ambitious with large expenditures listed. Parking fees are 8% of revenue. Doug listed articles (parking related) to assist with revenue which are in the write-

up. Nobody wants to hurt tourism. Mike is looking forward to debate. Duane Steele stated he feels extra burden should not be placed on full-time town residents. Raphael Richter made a motion to accept the four warrant articles (without titles) which was seconded by Duane Steele. The Committee discussed parking at the airport. These articles are to be considered non-binding. Senior resident permits were discussed, and also the need for additional parking spaces for tourists. The motion was approved 7-0-0.

Mike adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Maghi Geary