



# Meeting Minutes

## PROVINCETOWN FINANCE COMMITTEE

Judge Welsh Meeting Room - 1:00 p.m.

July 15, 2014

**Members Present:** Mark Hatch, Duane Steele, Clarence Walker, Mike Canizales

**Others Present:** Dan Hoort, Finance Director, Mary Jo Avellar, Town Moderator

Mary Jo Avellar began the conversation by stating that she was informed that Public Records has requested for e-mails from the Finance Committee Members since May 1<sup>st</sup>. She stated that until the Town of Provincetown releases e-mails requested over a year ago between the former police chief and a person who was a resident of Provincetown, no one should have to provide anything. She also went on to say that she was disappointed that the Board of Selectmen has decided to rail OPEB funds by \$92,000, and that the Chairman of the Finance Committee was not notified. Dan Hoort stated that that did not happen. Mary Jo stated that she heard the vote was 5-0. Mike Canizales also addressed issue.

Mike Canizales discussed travel reimbursement related to the search for a Town Manager. He stated that there needs to be a policy and that there needs to be funding for travel. The search committee was not informed about this. Mike stated that we are now in a catch-up mode. The Board of Selectmen discussed the issue in their meeting. Mike stated that candidates would be expected to fly up to Provincetown twice for interviews, and that there should be travel reimbursement or the Town could lose a well-qualified candidate, especially if they are traveling long distances and have to pay their own fares. Mike stated that since there was no prior planning, the money may have to be taken out of the reserve fund.

Mark Hatch agreed with Mike regarding travel reimbursement and lack of funding. He also addressed the record's request brought up by Mary Jo Avellar. He stated that committee

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members do not have a Town of Provincetown e-mail address. Mary Jo stated that the e-mails she has seen only include a meeting date and time, and a meeting agenda. She also commented on the question of whether Mark Hatch should be on the Finance Committee due to residency issues, and that the registrars are required to have a hearing regarding this issue. Clarence Walker stated that it should be demanded that Council be there.

**Budget Transfers:** Mike Canizales asked Dan Hoort to comment. Dan stated that transfers are allowed during certain periods of time, and that there are limits on what can be transferred. Mike discussed the OPED budget line. He said he would discuss the need to raise money with taxes, and that he would discuss this with the town. Mike also discussed departments that are over budget and possible solutions. Mike shared that he would like to say no to the proposal voted on 5-0 by the Board of Selectmen. Dan discussed that monies left over from 2014 would go into free cash. There was much discussion by all members regarding recovery mode and movement of monies. Mike stated that this will need to be explained at Town Meeting. Mark questioned why taxes would have to be raised if there was only a need to transfer monies between accounts. Mike stated that taxes would have to be raised anyway to meet other obligations. Dan feels the Town will understand transfers but not the raise in taxes. There was considerable discussion regarding OPEB funding. All committee members did agree on transfers.

The meeting adjourned at 2pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maghi Geary