

**TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN - BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2015 5:00 PM  
TOWN HALL – JUDGE WELSH ROOM**

Chairman Donegan convened the meeting at 5:00PM noting the following:

Board of Selectmen attending: Tom Donegan, Erik Yingling, Robert Anthony, Cheryl Andrews, and Raphael Richter.

Other attendees: Acting Town Manager David Gardner and Finance Director Dan Hoort.

Recorder: Loretta Dougherty

**1. Approval of Ballot Questions(s) for May 2015 Annual Town Election. Votes may be taken.**

**Tom** stated that the BOS has been asked to look at the FinCom's rewording of their 2 ½ override taking it from \$2.5 million to \$500,000 and the correction of two typos.

**David** asked Dan to do a brief recap of what happened at the FinCom meeting.

**Dan** stated that FinCom voted to change the \$2.5 million to \$500,000 in the ballot question which would allow us to assess an additional amount of money in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of creating year-round rental housing in the Town for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015. The BOS had voted to insert at \$2.5. FinCom is asking the BOS to vote to change that amount. The other option which FinCom would like to see is to have the two 3% surcharges on the ballot question if the Modified Community Preservation Act went forward. It will remain at one 3% surcharge, if the BOS does not want any change.

**David** reminded them they had recommended the one 3% surcharge.

**Tom** asked if anyone wants to change their vote.

**Raphael** asked Erik if he wants to reconsider his vote.

**Erik** really did not want to reconsider it.

**Cheryl** noted that the only thing in front of the BOS tonight is the ballot questions. She asked if we could not have both of these options on the ballot; she thought we could.

**David** thinks that would be really confusing for the voters.

**Cheryl** thought we were going to let Town Meeting tell us which one they wanted.

**Erik** asked about the original vote.

**Raphael** commented that the actual vote on the article was 3/2/0. On the ballot question, we voted to put the one 3% surcharge only. He asked Erik if he would reconsider for the two 3% surcharges that would have a better and more meaningful financial impact in the long run.

Raphael, Tom and Erik said they will vote yes.

**Cheryl** again stated that she thought we were going to put both of these options on the ballot and let Town Meeting make the decision and wanted to know if this is not what we are doing.

**Tom** stated that we had originally decided that this would effectively be a tax cut and end of the Land Bank and transfer the funds into the Modified CPA. He now would like to have an actual revenue stream into the CPA and would like to have Option #2 inserted.

**MOTION: Move that the BOS insert Option #2 into the ballot.**

**Motion:** Tom Donegan

**Seconded:** Raphael Richter

**3/2/0 (CA/RA)**

**Erik** wanted to know if FinCom had changed any of their recommendations.

**Dan** stated that they have not changed their plans. They are looking at making a recommendation by reducing Public Safety by \$200,000 or somewhere in that area. Both the DOR and Town Counsel have given opinions that this should not be done in that manner but cuts should be made by depart-

ment line items shown in the warrant. He expects that FinCom will bring forward line item cuts within that budget.

**Tom** said he heard that FinCom will use the 10 yr. spending plan to reduce all the departments; Public Safety, the Pier, Police, Community Development. All of these are above the 10 yr. spending plan and this is what they will be using as their baseline.

**Dan** said that FinCom is using the 10 yr. spending plan and will not recommend increasing budgets above what is in the plan; even though we did not officially vote and adopt the 10 yr. plan.

**Cheryl** commented that this is not the first time this has happened.

**Tom** asked if there was to be a vote on ballot question #1.

**Erik** asked when there was going to be a dollar amount on these ballot questions.

**Dan** said that we would not know any dollar amounts until Town Meeting votes as to what will be put on the actual ballot.

**Tom** commented that this is another reason that we should have the Town Meeting before the ballot questions are finalized instead of before Town Meeting. He asked if there was an objection to ballot question 1.

**Erik** asked David if we hadn't already inserted this question.

**David** said that we have already inserted the ballot questions but we have two potential changes tonight as recommended by the Finance Committee and to correct two typos. The two are the Housing question and the CPA question. Does the BOS want to amend the ballot questions?

**Dan** commented that Winslow should not be on the ballot.

**Cheryl** asked Dan if these appear the way he wants them to appear.

Dan stated Winslow should not be on the ballot because it will be paid for out of Capital funds.

**MOTION: Move that the BOS rescind the vote on ballot question 1, so called.**

**Motion:** Raphael Richter

**Seconded:** Erik Yingling

5/0/0

**MOTION: Move that the BOS insert ballot questions 4, 5, and 6, so called in this packet.**

**Motion:** Raphael Richter

**Seconded:** Cheryl Andrews

5/0/0

**Dan** clarified that #4 is the Pier Floating Docks; #5 is the Capital Improvements on the Pier, and #6 is the Override for \$500,000.

**Cheryl** confirmed that was correct.

**Tom** asked Town Clerk Doug Johnstone how we would change the process so we would do this after Town Meeting.

**Doug** stated that the Charter Review Committee is working on this.

**Tom** wanted to know what the state law was regarding the length of time needed to place something on the ballot.

**Doug** stated that he needs the ballot questions 35 days prior to the election.

**Tom** asked if this is traditional in towns or is this Provincetown's uniqueness.

**Doug** stated that it is just the amount of time between the election and Town Meeting. Charter Review we can look at changing the dates of the Town Meeting.

**Tom** commented that hopefully Charter Review will come back next year and do it.

**Doug** stated that you don't want to wait until it is a large issue. It is a Charter change.

**Dan** noted that the BOS have inserted four questions into the ballot and that is what was needed.

#### 4. Other

None

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 5:19 pm.

Minutes transcribed by: Loretta Dougherty