



# Finance Committee

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, September 14, 2009 @ 5:00 pm  
Multi-Purpose Room at the Veterans Memorial Elementary School  
Called to Order: 5:03 pm

## Membership:

<b>P</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>Name</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thomas Coen, Chair	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ann Maguire, Vice Chair	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Virginia Ross	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thomas Thurston (arr. 5:50)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Frederic Biddle (arr. 5:12)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Philip Gaudio	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gabrielle Hanna	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Daniel Hoort (arr. 5:55)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	David McChesney	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Erik Yingling, Alternate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Voting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oliver Kamm, Alternate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Voting

(Note: **P** = Present **E** = Excused **U** = Unexcused)

*These minutes are in brief format. This meeting was filmed and is available on DVD at the Provincetown Television office.*

**Also Present:**  
Alix Heilala, Finance Director

**Order of Business:**

1. To review and vote on Article 2, Prior Year Bills.
2. To review minutes of prior meetings as time allows.
3. To attend Special Town Meeting and present the Finance Committee's reports and recommendations on the warrant articles.
4. To consider any other business that may legally come before the Finance Committee.

## Article 2, Prior Year Bills

Ms. Heilala presented the details of Article 2 and answered the Committee's questions.

<b>Motion # 1:</b> To recommend STM Article 2, Prior Year Bills, in the amount of \$11,456.39.			
Motion By: Ann Maguire		Second By: Gabrielle Hanna	
For: 7	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recuse:

### Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes of its August 10<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen and suggested minor corrections.

<b>Motion # 2:</b> To approve the minutes of the August 10 <sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm meeting as amended.			
Motion By: Ann Maguire		Second By: David McChesney	
For: 5	Against: 0	Abstain: 2	Recuse:

### Other Business

Mr. Coen and Ms. Maguire briefed the Committee on their meeting with the Town Manager and Finance Director regarding the development of the five year fiscal policy plan and financial policies. At that meeting it was agreed that the Finance Director would take the lead in developing the five year fiscal policy plan using the example from the Town of Harwich. The Committee will take the lead in developing financial policies. Once the draft recommendations have been developed, we will schedule a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen.

After some discussion the Committee agreed that it would like to meet as a whole to get the process started. Mr. Coen will assemble sample policy

documents from other towns in the Commonwealth and schedule a meeting in early October.

*(The Committee went into recess at 5:25 until the Town Moderator called the Special Town Meeting to order at 6:00 pm).*

### **Special Town Meeting**

The Committee attended the Special Town Meeting and made its reports on the articles in the warrant. *(Copies of the reports are attached).*

Next Meeting:	TBD
Adjourn:	6:30 pm
Minutes by:	Thomas Coen

Approved by  on October 8, 2009  
Thomas Coen, Chair

## **Finance Committee Report**

### **Article 1. Water System Capital Improvements – Borrowing Authorization.**

Article 1, if approved by the voters, will authorize the Town to borrow up to \$2.7M to provide 25% matching funds for several grants that have been requested from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for improvements to the Town's water system. The total amount of the requested grants is \$10,430,000.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently implemented new regulations for groundwater contamination that govern the level of harmful coliform bacteria in drinking water, including e-Coli. Exceeding the new EPA bacteria limits triggers a mandatory "boil water" order until the system has been thoroughly sanitized.

As you may have seen in the media recently, the state Department of Environmental Protection issued a mandatory "boil water" order to the City of Gloucester due to high levels of coliform in the water system. It remained in effect for 18 days during the height of the summer tourist season.

A "boil water" order requires all residents to boil tap water for at least one minute before drinking or using for purposes of human consumption such as cooking, ice-making, dishwashing, or teeth brushing. Food preparers and restaurants must boil their water for five minutes.

While these measures cause inconvenience to individual households, the economic impact on food preparers and restaurants is substantial. In addition to boiling tap water for cooking and dishwashing, the use of automated coffeemakers; ice machines; and soda fountains is also prohibited.

In Gloucester this meant that most coffee shops shut down, while restaurants had to truck in ice, bottled water, and bottled soda to continue operating. Imagine this happening to Provincetown at the height of the season!

There are two key elements proposed in the grant proposals that would specifically address these water quality issues for Provincetown.

The first is the proposed new water treatment plant that will meet the new EPA regulations. It will also remove manganese and iron from our water (the causes of "brown water"); and filter out 22 other trace impurities, including traces of

detergents, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals that are likely to be regulated in the future.

The second key element is raising the Mt. Gilboa tank by eight feet. This will make it the same height as Winslow 2, helping to equalize water pressure across the Town. In addition, this will improve the circulation of fresh water in both tanks and reduce the potential for harmful bacteria to develop.

Funding for USDA grants is part of the federal stimulus package, meaning that it is available on a one-time basis only. This presents the Town with a unique opportunity to pay only 25¢ on the dollar for these projects now, rather than 100¢ on the dollar down the road.

The Finance Committee strongly recommends this article to you tonight, by a vote of 8-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas Coen". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Thomas Coen

September 14, 2009

## STM-Article 2

This article, if approved by 9/10s of the voters, will provide \$11,456.39 in funding to pay outstanding bills from last fiscal year.

The source of the funds will be as follows:

\$7,119.14 to be transferred from ATM 06 Article 11 (Cape End Manor Transition Costs),

\$143.50 to be transferred from STM 08 Article 7 (Prior Year End Bills), and

\$4,193.75 to be raised and appropriated this fiscal year.

The Finance Committee *recommends 7-0-0*

