

MINUTES
OF THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2009
MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING
16 JAN SEBASTIAN DRIVE
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Present: Paul Kilty, John Vibberts, Bill Diederling, Tom Hickey, Glenn Pare', Ellen Yaffe, Veronica Mooney and Hank Tuohy.

Absent: Ellen Scott

Also Present: Mr. Dunham, Ms. Grundman, Mr. Pierce and SACAT

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ITEM #2**  
**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

No minutes were presented.

**ITEM #3**  
**TOWN MANAGERS REPORT**

Overview of Cherry Sheet-  
Comm of Mass Dept. of Revenue 1) Notice To Assessors of Estimate Receipts FY2010 2) Notice To Assessors of Estimated Charges FY2010 3) FY'10 Cherry Sheet Receipts (GHD Draft – 6/30/2009).  
General Discussion.

**ITEM #4**  
**FINISH DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED SUB-COMMITTEE**

Mr. Kilty noted that he received an e-mail from John Kennan, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen regarding an opinion from Town Counsel John Giorgio about the Finance Committee's involvement with this type of a sub-committee (i.e. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Finance Committee meeting to discuss issues and reporting back to their respective Board/Committee). Town Counsel's opinion was absolutely that the Finance Committee should be involved if it so chooses. John Kennan and Dana Barrette, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Selectmen and Bob Simmons and Shaun Cahill, Chair and Vice-Chair of the School Committee were invited to attend tonight's Finance Committee meeting. They were unable to attend for various reasons. Ms. Yaffe asked what is the purpose of the sub-committee?

Mr. Kilty offered that it is to facilitate communication between the committees. A 'Conference Committee' trying to address certain issues as they come up. The committee would sit around, talk candidly about the issues and go back to the respective Boards/Committees.

Mr. Tuohy noted that he previously state that he felt uncomfortable with the thought that we might get into a situation that we are not impartial. Today, with the information that you are bringing me about the town's attorney's opinion, I believe the opportunity for communication is very important. I am willing to revisit it now and I feel more comfortable going forward with that idea.

Ms. Yaffe doesn't feel comfortable with it at all. It should be done at a Tri-Board meeting. The discussion should be opened up rather than make it smaller. I can see having a sub-committee on specific issues to the Town. I am not having a committee like this; I want to be part of the discussion.

Mr. Kilty noted that it is important that we have discussion. It is not intended to keep it smaller. I can be any two members of this committee.

Ms. Yaffe mentioned that she is not opposed to having the sub-committee but not a standing sub-committee on everyday issues.

Mr. Hickey mentioned that he did not think it was a good idea at the time (when it was discussed at the last Finance Committee meeting). He feels a little differently now because of Town Counsel's opinion. One fear Mr. Hickey still has is the perception by the Town's people that they have about this committee (Finance Committee). A second thought and still a fear is how the Town's people feel about this new committee...to discuss on going issues. Still not 100% comfortable.

Mr. Vibberts offered nothing right now.

Mr. Pare' noted that he originally worked on the Covenant Committee to melt the ideas and he agreed to dissolve that committee. This looks like one step up from that committee.

Basically six people discussing items that all School Committee members should be part of. If there is agreement from six people that this is the approach we are going to take, I have a problem with that. I'm not for the new committee at all until I see a clearer understanding of what the committee will be doing.

Mr. Kilty mentioned that he personally felt the Covenant Committee was a farce, an absolute joke. A Committee that couldn't agree on anything. It was in an override year and was jammed down the School Committee...it was not about co-operation. It got to a point that the participants agreed they weren't getting anywhere.

Mr. Kilty noted that in 2010 we are going to have to make sure that the managers are controlling everything correctly and we have to put an FY'11 budget together and still think ahead to FY'12. Some very important capital items may fall through the cracks.

Ms. Yaffe asked, what would have done better in the past with this type of committee?

Mr. Kilty offered it is mostly for squelching of rumors.

Ms. Yaffe noted that she does not see the benefit.

Ms. Mooney offered that she does not see the benefits.

Mr. Tuohy noted that he thinks the Finance Committee should never lose the credibility of what its charge is. As long as we stay within the guidelines, Mr. Tuohy doesn't have as much of an issue as he had last week.

M. Diederling mentioned that generally he is in favor of anything that encourages communication. This could be an opportunity to do that. Mr. Kilty's assessments of the Covenant Committee it pretty close to how he saw it. Mr. Diederling doesn't think the Covenant Committee did any harm and is willing to give it another try. I understand the idea of everyone being involved; however, the Tri-Board meetings don't work. It is too hard to harness all the thoughts of 22 people. It is unwieldy...it doesn't work. In the end, with the proposed new committee, we still have a vote. I am leaning toward giving a new committee a try.

Mr. Vibberts suggested rotating two members of the Finance Committee on a new committee so we don't disenfranchise any members of the Finance Committee.

Ms. Yaffe noted that she wants to participate. The Tri-Board is a worthy attempt to do this; But, no one ever thought it is a chaotic idea. I would like to try a Tri-Board meeting.

Mr. Vibberts thinks the Conference Committee is a good idea. A smaller group can sit down and hash things out. I don't think we would disenfranchise anyone. Anyone can go to these meetings. I am in favor of having the Finance Committee represented on the Conference Committee. I don't care who it is that represents us.

Mr. Pare' noted that the Chair and Vice-Chair may not be the same people I would have voted for. Mr. Tuohy offered that the Finance Committee functions very well as appointed people. There is no hidden agenda. Everyone is allowed to speak and we go to Town Meeting. We are a team. We may not all agree all the time but we all love this Town. We respect any member of this committee to do the job and bring the information back to us. If we find that this is not working out, at least we have taken a step forward.

**\*MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. DIEDERING TO APPROVE OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S PARTICIPATION IN THIS SUB-COMMITTEE MADE UP OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN, SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE. SECONDED BY MR. VIBBERTS.**

Discussion-

Mr. Diederling thinks it is an attempt to have Town boards work together.

**VOTE – MR. TUOHY, MR. KILTY, MR. VIBBERTS AND MR. DIEDERING IN FAVOR. MS. YAFFE, MR. HICKEY, MS. MOONEY AND MR. PARE' OPPOSED. MOTION FAILS.**

Mr. Dunham noted that if there is a new committee or not, it is important that people know the Treasurer, Human Resources, Accounting and Administration Depts. do the workers compensation, insurances and many other services for all departments every day. The day to day people do this all the time. We would have done it whether there was a Covenant Committee or not.

**7:45 P.M.**

**\*MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MR. TUOHY. SECONDED BY MR. VIBBERTS. VOTE - UNANIMOUS**

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane M. Hanelt  
Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_