

MINUTES  
OF THE  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2013  
7:00 P.M.  
TOWN HALL  
130 MAIN STREET

TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF SANDWICH

OCT 16 2013

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Present: Paul Sylvia, Gene Parini, Richard Reilly, Linell Grundman, Matthew Terry and Anne Dessertine

Absent: Ellen Yaffe, Mike Dwyer and Tom Hickey

Also Present: Doreen Guild, Financial Director; Selectman Chair Jim Pierce; School Committee Representative and SCT

**ITEM #1**  
**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ITEM #2**  
**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of Tuesday, August 27, 2013-

**\*MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. PARINI TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 27, 2013 AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY MR. REILLY VOTE – UNANIMOUS**

**ITEM #3**  
**TOWN MANAGER / FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT**

- a. If needed – None
- b. Other - None

**ITEM #4**  
**FUTURE MEETING WITH BOARD OF SELECTMEN ON FY'15 BUDGET PROCESS**

Mr. Sylvia noted that, at a recent Board of Selectmen's meeting, the Selectmen voted to not meet with the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee can have a meeting with Mr. Dunham, and Mr. Pierce agreed to sit in on it and we can voice our opinions on things and have them bring our opinions back to the Board of Selectmen.

General Discussion-

Mr. Parini noted that he would like to go on with the Finance Committee meeting. He is disappointed that the Board of Selectmen has voted to not include the FinCom in that meeting. It is a good exchange of ideas and believes the Tri-Board meeting is valuable.

Mr. Pierce offered to speak on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Grundman noted that, with all due respect to Mr. Pierce, she feels we should defer to the Finance Committee.

On behalf of the new members of the Committee, Mr. Sylvia noted that the Finance Committee is an advisory committee to the tax payers at Town Meeting – per the Town Charter. We don't set policy and we don't vote on what the budget will be.

Ms. Dessertine asked what the intention of meeting with the Board of Selectmen was. Mr. Sylvia – to have a discussion on some of the budget assumptions.

Ms. Grundman noted that Budget Summits for Tri-Boards are actually popular and expressed disappointment that it was voted down by the Board of Selectmen. It is healthy to have a meeting in the fall to review the numbers.

Mr. Terry thinks the FinCom should have the meeting. There is clearly a need to have the meeting. Just because it is not going to be a unified meeting doesn't mean it is any less important.

Mr. Parini noted that last year we were showing a deficit for a good portion of the budget season. Sometimes the deficit was significant. It is important to deal with any deficits earlier on.

Mr. Reilly noted that he hears the word disappointed and doesn't think it is the right word...thinks it is divisive...we are all working toward the same end.

**\*MOTION WAS MADE BY MS. GRUNDMAN TO CARRY ON WITH THE MEETING AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2013. SECONDED BY MR. PARINI. VOTE – UNANIMOUS**

**ITEM #5**  
**COMMITTEE**

Mr. Sylvia would like to know from those present...would you like to have regular meetings or not unless needed i.e. the regular budget season. The Committee discussed having regular meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

Mr. Terry doesn't believe that meetings are necessary all the time...does want the FinCom to be on the same track as the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Dessertine suggested having the meetings earlier in the evening.

Mr. Sylvia noted that it is hard to do that...due to the working schedules of some members.

Ms. Grundman offered that she is not available to meet on Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.

It was agreed that the next FinCom meeting would be scheduled for Tuesday, October 15 and that there would be regular meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays October, November and December, 2013. **It was also agreed that there will not be a meeting on Tuesday, October 1, 2013.** Mr. Sylvia asked the Committee members to e-mail him if there is anything they would like to discuss.

Ms. Grundman noted that there might be a Fall Special Town Meeting and there might be articles on the warrant that would require FinCom meetings.

Mr. Pierce offered that a Special Town Meeting is possible for Monday, November 18, 2013.

Ms. Dessertine, speaking as a member of the Sandwich 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, asked if there is any conflict of interest to her going to businesses asking for donations for the anniversary event. It was suggested that she discuss the matter with the Town Manager.

**ITEM #6**  
**ADJOURN**

**7:28 pm**

**\*MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MS. GRUNDMAN. SECONDED BY MR. PARINI VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane M. Hanelt, Secretary

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

Supporting Documents:  
None