

Town Clerk

TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF SANDWICH

JUL 30 2014

11 H 47 M A M  
RECEIVED & RECORDED

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2014  
7:00 P.M.  
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM  
130 MAIN STREET, SANDWICH, MA**

Present: Ellen Yaffe, Gene Parini, Tom Hickey, Mike Dwyer, Rich Reilly, Linell Grundman, Matt Terry and Anne Dessertine

Also Present: Town Manager George Dunham, Assistant Town Manager Doug Lapp, Financial Director Doreen Guild, Selectman Chair Jim Pierce, Jim Lehane 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, April 1, 2014-

**\*MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. PARINI TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 1, 2014 AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY MS. GRUNDMAN VOTE – UNANIMOUS**

**ITEM#3  
TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

-Overview of Projected Revenues and Expenses – FY'15

The numbers that may change the most would be the numbers from the State. The Cherry sheet and Assessor's numbers...nothing that would cause us to change any current assumptions.

Remember that, although our budget is based on this best assessment, we don't vote it as it is at Town Meeting, what we vote at Town Meeting is based on the accounting office numbers.

-Thursday night the Board of Selectmen's budget meeting including – FY'15 Budget Totals, FY'15 Recommended General Government Budget (Summary of Significant Budget Changes) 4/15/2014; FY'15 Capital Budget Summary...nothing has changed since voting a couple of weeks ago.

-Overview of NRG Canal LLC (formerly Mirant) Tax Valuation Agreement dated April 3, 2014 noting that it is valued as Personal Property.

General discussion on various aspects of the NRG agreement: the market value of personal property; the fact that anyone who may buy the plant has to honor the current agreement; if they ever decided to repower it at any time in the future it could be huge money; NRG agreed to this for fiscal year 2015 through and including fiscal year 2018; a business plan; land owned by the power plant.

Discussion as to whether the Committee is ready to vote on this article #12 (approval of NRG Tax Valuation Agreement) tonight or, possibly, wait until the night of Town Meeting. It was suggested that it could be confusing to Town Meeting voters if the Finance Committee doesn't vote the recommendation until Town Meeting.

Continued discussion: differences between the new agreement with NRG and the one currently in place...it is almost verbatim; the agreement is between the Board of Assessors and the Board of Selectmen but the State requires Town Meeting vote.



**\*MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. HICKEY TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF ARTICLE #12 AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY MR. PARINI. VOTE – UNANIMOUS**

Mr. Dwyer noted that he would like to have had this information earlier than tonight. It was noted that the Finance Committee gets the information in the Board of Selectmen packets when they are sent out.

Discussion on section 7.1 (g) (Article VII) of the Town Charter – Financial Provisions and Administration -Submission of Budget and Budget Message...After the Annual Town Meeting, but before June 15, the Board of Selectmen will meet in joint session with the Finance Committee to review the assumptions used to project budgets for the next 2 fiscal years. If necessary, the Board of Selectmen shall vote to reset any of those assumptions.

The Town Manager gave an overview of the proposed time line for the FY'15 budget parameter.

Ms. Yaffe noted that she feels the quality of the Finance Committee discussions on information is what is important to the public and will help people decide at town meeting.

General discussion of the Fiscal Year 2015 Finance Committee Budget Message which the Chairman wrote with input from Finance Committee members.

The Town Manager was asked to speak about Sections 7.1 and 7.2 in the Town Charter relative to the Finance Committee and there was a general discussion.

It was suggested that the Committee should be more proactive...should go out and get the information it is looking for.

The Committee can talk about the process and it was agreed that being more proactive is a good way to go.

Mr. Parini noted that when it comes to the School budget the process should be 'all hands on deck'. We really want Dr. Canfield to be responsible to the savings he has promised. Instead of reviewing the budget individually, we can do it as a group.

Ms. Yaffe suggested having a sub-committee as long as it is not a quorum of the Committee.

Mr. Dwyer suggested having a work shop.

Ms. Yaffe agreed but noted that a work shop is televised.

Ms. Grundman mentioned that how we work with the School Committee is critical. The schools will be in transition for many years.

**ITEM #4**  
**COMMITTEE**

Election of Vice-Chairman-

Ms. Yaffe, who is currently serving as Chairperson, thanked former Chairman Paul Sylvia, who recently resigned from the Committee, for his many years of volunteer service to the Town. Ms. Yaffe noted that she is just serving as Chairman until June 30 and noted that the Committee is in need of a Vice-Chairman at least until the end of June.

Ms. Yaffe accepted nominations for Vice-Chairman.

**\*MS. GRUNDMAN NOMINATED MR. TOM HICKEY AS VICE-CHAIRMAN.**

**THERE BEING NO OTHER NOMINATIONS, MR. HICKEY ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION. MR. DWYER SECONDED THE NOMINATION. THE VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

Appoint a Representative to Water Quality Advisory Committee-

It was noted that Health Agent David Mason has asked for a representative from the Finance Committee. After a brief discussion about Ms. Grundman's current knowledge and involvement on the subject...

**\*MOTION WAS MADE BY MS. YAFFE TO RECOMMEND MS. GRUNDMAN AS THE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE. SECONDED BY MR. PARINI. VOTE – UNANIMOUS**

It was noted that a lot of information about the Water Quality Committee is on Sandwich Community TV. The federal government has given the county some money toward this work Cape wide.

Sub-Committee Assignments/Reports-

Ms. Grundman updated the Committee on the schools and Phase 2. Update on Water Quality Advisory Committee.

Ms. Yaffe noted that tomorrow there is a public forum & survey at Sandwich Hollows Golf Club on a recreation master plan. There will be a public hearing on the budget during the Selectmen's meeting on Thursday, April 17. A quorum of the Finance Committee needs to be seated on the stage at Town Meeting. Mr. Riley, Mr. Parini, Mr. Hickey and Mr. Dwyer volunteered (and, of course, Ms. Yaffe).

Future Meeting Schedule-

The next regular meeting will probably by early July.

Discussion about a representative to the Sandwich Economic Initiative Corporation (SEIC). Mr. Dwyer offered that he would like to do this but wants to get more information.

Town Manager noted that the preparation meeting for the Annual Town meeting has tentatively been scheduled for Thursday, May 1 at 3:00 pm in the upstairs meeting room at Town Hall, 130 Main Street.

Other –

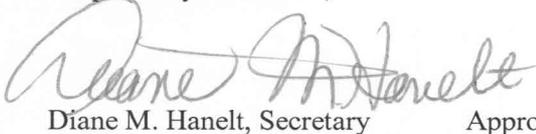
None

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

8:20 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Diane M. Hanelt, Secretary

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

7/22/14

Supporting Documents:

- Projected Revenues and Expenses – FY'15 (GHD BALANCED DRAFT 4/15/2014)
- FY'15 Cherry Sheet Receipts (GHD Draft 4/15/2014)
- FY'15 Cherry Sheet Assessments (GHD Draft 4/15/2014)
- FY'15 Budget Total (GHD DRAFT 4/15/2014)
- FY'15 Recommended General Government Budget – Summary of Significant Budget Changes (GHD DRAFT 4/15/2014)
- FY'15 Capital Budget Summary – Approved by CIPC 3/24/14
- Tax Valuation Agreement - NRG Canal LLC & Town of Sandwich signed 4/3/14
- Fiscal Year2015 Finance Committee Budget Message DRAFT 4/11/14
- Proposed Timeline for FY'15 Budget (GHD Draft 4/15/14)
- Sandwich Town Charter – Article VII – Financial Provisions and Administration (GHD Draft 4/15/14)
- Pertinent pages from Town of Sandwich By-Laws 5/7/12
- Annual Town Meeting Warrant Monday, May 5, 2014 (GHD Draft – 4-15/14)