



MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 22, 2023 – 6:15 pm

This was a hybrid meeting of the Orleans Finance Committee, convened in the Nauset Room at Town Hall, with remote participation also provided by Zoom technology. Real-time public access was provided by Orleans Channel 18 on the Town website and cable television.

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Finance Committee Chairman Nick Athanassiou. Also attending, and thus constituting a quorum were Vice Chair Chris Kanaga, Committee Clerk Elaine Baird, and Committee members Lynn Bruneau, Constance Kremer, Tim Counihan, and Ed Mahoney. Alisa Magnotta and Peter O'Meara were absent. Peter O'Meara joined the meeting remotely at 7:00 PM.

Guests: Peggy O'Sullivan from Media Operations provided technical support for this meeting.

(0:15) Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

(00:30) Announcements:

Mr. Athanassiou announced that Ms. Bruneau and Ms. Kremer have been reappointed to the FinComm for a 3-year term. Unfortunately, Mr. Counihan will not be renewing his appointment, thus creating a vacancy. Currently, there are 2 associate positions that are vacant, and Mr. Athanassiou expressed interest in filling those positions with people who wish to learn and eventually become full-time members.

Ms. Bruneau noted that Sticker Sales are available in-person and online.

Ms. Bruneau shared that the July 4th Parade is back, with a theme of "Red, White, and Blue, and You!". She also shared that the Fireworks will take place 7/1 at Rock Harbor, with a rain date of July 5.

Mr. Athanassiou shared that the new Town Manager, Kim Newman, will start the week of July 1. She will join the FinComm's July 20th meeting.

(12:30) Review / Approval of Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – 6/1/23

- 6/1/23 – Ms. Baird moved to approve the minutes as drafted; Mr. Counihan seconded. The vote was 7-0-1 with Mmes. Baird, Bruneau, and Kremer, and Messrs. Athanassiou, Counihan, and Kanaga all voting "aye", and Messrs. Mahoney abstained, by roll-call.

(13:00) Review/Approval of Any Reserve Fund Transfer Requests If/As Needed

Mr. Athanassiou provided the FinComm with a request for \$1,503.99 to be transferred into the Town Clerk's budget, to cover the printing and mailing costs for the Annual Town Election.

Ms. Baird moved to approve the transfer request of \$1,503.99 to cover the printing and mailing costs for the Annual Town Election; Mr. Counihan seconded. The vote was 7-0-0 with Mmes. Baird, Bruneau, and Kremer, and Messrs. Athanassiou, Counihan, Mahoney, and Kanaga all voting "aye" by roll-call.

(15:00) Update/discussion on FinComm FY23 actual expense forecast vs budget

Ms. Bruneau discussed the budget for the recording secretary and noted a budget discrepancy that she will correct with the Finance Director. She also discussed that a \$17,000 transfer was due to come into the FinComm's budget after Town Meeting, to cover a prior transfer for DPW.

(18:00) Agree on FY24 FinComm representation with ex-officio members to Wastewater Advisory Committee and Long-Term Planning Committee

Ms. Bruneau noted that the original commitment to the Wastewater Advisory Committee was a 3-year term. There was discussion as to Ms. Bruneau continuing her role, as she has served for the last few years.

Mr. Counihan moved to reappoint Ms. Bruneau as the ex-officio member to the Wastewater Advisory Committee; Ms. Baird seconded. The vote was 7-0-0 with Mmes. Baird, Bruneau, and Kremer, and Messrs. Athanassiou, Counihan, Mahoney, and Kanaga all voting "aye" by roll-call.

Mr. Athanassiou noted that the next ex-officio position is for the Long-Term Planning Committee which has not yet started to meet. Mr. Athanassiou expressed interest in being the ex-officio member to the Committee.

Mr. Counihan moved to appoint Mr. Athanassiou as the ex-officio member to the Long-Term Planning Committee; Ms. Baird seconded. The vote was 7-0-0 with Mmes. Baird, Bruneau, and Kremer, and Messrs. Athanassiou, Counihan, Mahoney, and Kanaga all voting "aye" by roll-call.

(24:00) Follow-up to 6/1/23 meeting discussion re Proposed "Grouping" of FinComm Liaison Assignments for FY24 and Review FinComm Liaison role

Mr. Athanassiou discussed the Liaison "grouping" and how the FinComm can better share the duties and have a better understanding of the work being done. He asked members to review this grouping, and Ms. Bruneau has prepared notes that Mr. Athanassiou will share with the FinComm.

(27:30) Update re Planning Board Request for FinComm Input re Updating 2006 Comprehensive Plan; revised document sent to George Meservey

Mr. Athanassiou provided an update on the FinComm's input to the Comprehensive Plan. He was curious to see how the consultant works to combine all feedback into an actionable plan. Mr. Counihan and Mr. Athanassiou discussed the importance of using the Plan to guide future decisions in Town.

Mr. Kremer and Mr. Counihan were concerned that another round of feedback and review is coming from the Consultant. There was discussion about the process going forward.

(36:00) Review Schedule and Items for Future Agendas

- Thursday, July 6 – budget priorities meeting with the Select Board
- Thursday, July 13 (7pm) – FinComm Meeting: FY23 Year-End Budget Adjustments
- Saturday, July 15 – FinComm term ends
- Thursday, July 20 (6:15pm) – FinComm Meeting
- Thursday, July 27 – new leadership election
- Friday, September 1 – Warrant closes for Special Town Meeting

There was discussion on meeting times, and frequency, through the Fall. There will be several joint meetings with the Select Board as each prepares for Special Town Meeting.

(46:00) Updates

Update of Select Board Meeting discussions / decisions (6/7, 6/14, others)

Mr. Athanassiou noted that on 6/7, there was a discussion about the Economic Development Committee which showed that there was an unclear understanding of what the Committee will be doing. Members have been appointed, but there is not a quorum to hold a meeting yet.

Mr. Athanassiou noted that the Safer Community Task Force will include both Chief Deering and Chief McDonald, as defined in the charge. The Planning Board has elevated Maxine Minkoff from Associate to Full Member and 2 people were appointed as associates.

Interim Town Administrator Charlie Sumner has recommended October 16, 2023 be the Special Town Meeting. Mr. Athanassiou also noted that the Select Board voted to enter into a contract consultant agreement with Sumner, for after Ms. Newman starts. Ms. Bruneau discussed the Playground and Recreation Director roles.

Ms. Bruneau provided an update on the 6/14/23 meeting, which included several license updates. Additionally, the 44 Main Street committee is underway. Hog Island is moving forward with having a music festival in the Fall, and there was discussion around that event. The Climate Action Committee wants to move forward with a solar project on the Town watershed, to be used to provide electricity to the Water Department.

Ms. Baird asked about the impact that the non-renewal of the contract with the Orleans Community Partnership will have on the 44 Main St. project. Ms. Bruneau has not heard if the large \$2billion project is coming back or not; Ms. Kremer said that the renovations will be under the supervision of Ron Collins. There was further discussion on this project and parcel.

NRSD HS Groundbreaking 6/14/23

Mr. Athanassiou and Ms. Bruneau attended the Groundbreaking, which was well-attended and included student poem readings and band performances. Cape Delegation representatives were there including Rep. Sarah Peake, Rep. Chris Flanagan, and Sen. Julian Cyr.

Postponement of OES Asset/Accessibility Report Meeting from 6/15 to TBD

Ms. Bruneau discussed the OES meeting that she and Mr. Athanassiou attended. The presentation will be rescheduled to provide a more comprehensive overview. Mr. Counihan asked if the numbers were being vetted; Ms. Bruneau said that yes, estimates were being looked at. There was further discussion.

FY23 actual vs budget Enterprise Fund updates

Ms. Bruneau discussed the Enterprise Funds, touching on the Beach and Transfer Station Sticker Sales. She reviewed the comparison reports, which are both increased from one year ago. Ms. Bruneau discussed potential turn-backs and budgeted surpluses. There was further discussion on the funds and revenue streams.

Liaison reports as appropriate

Ms. Bruneau discussed the Board of Water and Sewers meeting and the group will invite the consultant in to a future meeting to describe the project.

Ms. Bruneau discussed the Wastewater Planning Advisory Committee meeting as well, and provided updated numbers on that plan.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Counihan; Ms. Baird seconded. The vote was 8-0-0 with Mmes. Baird, Bruneau, and Kremer, and Messrs. Athanassiou, Counihan, Mahoney, O’Meara, and Kanaga all voting “aye” by roll-call.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Courtney Butler, Secretary

The documents listed below are all in the Finance Committee Drop Box except as noted:

1. June 22, 2023 Finance Committee meeting agenda
2. Draft June 1, 2023 FinComm Meeting Minutes
3. Select Board meeting packet for the 6/7/23 and 6/14/23 Select Board meeting (Select Board website)
4. Liaison Assignments FY24
5. Special Year-End Transfer Request from the Town Clerk