



Town of Orleans

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Finance Committee

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Memorandum

To: Jon Fuller, Chairman, Board of Selectmen

CC: Board of Selectmen
John Kelly, Town Administrator

Date: June 12, 2017

It is our understanding that the Board of Selectmen ("BOS") has a work session meeting next Wednesday, June 14, 2017 - the second Wednesday of the month - and that, as usual for these "second Wednesday" workshop meetings, the meeting will be devoted to beach and wastewater-related issues. We further understand that at the June 14 meeting, the BOS will be meeting with AECOM and Mike Domenica of Water Resources Associates, the Town's wastewater consultants. We understand that the BOS is scheduled to consider the AECOM contract for FY'18 as funded by Town Meeting in May and will be reviewing the proposed work program, timelines and decisions that need to be made on a disposal site, the Financial Model, and landfill plume remediation in preparation for a Fall Special Town Meeting.

As I'm sure you know, Finance Committee representatives have continued to participate in the almost-monthly Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel ("OWQAP") meetings, in a "liaison" role, and we have had periodic updates directly with AECOM representatives and/or Mike Domenica at Finance Committee meetings, with a particular focus on the economics of the water quality/wastewater initiatives. Most recently these meetings have been focused on the "Financial Model" - with our most recent meeting with AECOM a "workshop" on April 20, 2017.

When "exercising" the Model at the April 20 meeting, it was discovered that eliminating septage revenue from consideration automatically eliminated septage construction costs. We were told that a subsequent version of the Model would "de-couple" septage revenue and septage construction costs.

Anticipating the importance of the Financial Model in the decision-making process prior to the Fall Town Meeting, and the presumed role of the Finance Committee in understanding how the Model works (e.g., What are the underlying assumptions? What are the key "calculations"? What are the primary outputs - and what do they mean?), we contacted AECOM to schedule a series of "workshops" over the summer, well ahead of Fall Town Meeting - suggesting that the workshops be held every 6 weeks or so.

The response from Mike Domenica noted that they would schedule and budget the workshops - but seemed to question the benefit of the workshops and the availability of AECOM resources over the summer. We have heard nothing further from them. One of the 4 proposed dates has passed (June 8); the other dates originally suggested are July 13, August 10 and September 14 (scheduled Finance Committee meeting dates).

If the Board of Selectmen anticipates relying on the Financial Model as a decision support tool for the allocation of individual taxpayer costs for achieving water quality objectives, then the Finance Committee would like BOS assurance that we will have timely access to the Model and the cooperation of the consultants in understanding the Model as outlined above.

Please call with any questions.

On behalf of the Finance Committee,

Lynn Bruneau / Finance Committee Chair

Cc: Finance Committee