

Minutes from Finance Committee Meeting  
10/7/2013

Chairman Wally Hess called the meeting to order at 7pm in the Brenner Library Room. Also present were Frank Hassler, June Michaels, Laurene Wessel, Carl Engel, Mike Lamoureux, Mike Hughes, and Bill Wagner.

First order of business was the approval of the minutes from the morning portion of the 9/16/2013 meeting. After brief discussion of the minutes, they were approved by unanimous vote. The evening portion of the 9/16/2013 minutes were then submitted for approval. After brief discussion, the vote was unanimous for approval. The minutes from the 9/30/2013 meeting were submitted for approval, after brief discussion over the content of the language, they were approved by unanimous vote.

Long Beach Discussion:

Wally Hess asked if there was any interest in discussing the Long Beach leases any further. Frank had some concern over Mass General Law and how it would apply to our submitted budget. A member from the audience, Sandy Jacques, voiced concern over why we would consider spending upwards of \$75,000 on an appraisal of the lots. He feels we have town appraisers are fully capable of doing this. June suggested a member of the Fincom be available to help create the RFP. No other action was taken.

Waterways Funding:

Wally introduced his memo on the current situation of the waterways revenue and expense outline. Wally explained that he has had discussion with the harbor masters of neighboring communities about how their budgets function. And they all function as an enterprise fund. Mooring, slip and storage fees would all be applied to fund the balance. No taxpayer money would be spent.

Harbor masters Scott Story and Rosemary Lesch were present for discussion. Scott feels the seawalls are the responsibility of taxpayers to some degree and Rosemary said there are grants available to assist with funding. As it functions currently, all revenue from moorings goes to the general fund. On a preliminary basis it appears expenses may exceed income. Next step is for Wally to meet with the harbor masters to get more information. Wally would like to know if there is a way to increase revenue from the moorings by bringing in more services, such as water and electricity to the slips, and if there is a way to shorten the 25 year waiting list for a mooring. The fee for the moorings is \$7/foot and has been for 10 years. Scott says we have some of the highest rates in the area but would be open for an increase to close the budget gap. He says we can get more moorings in Old Harbor, which needs to be dredged out. There is an available grant to assist with funding. Mike Lamoureux suggested we begin discussion on mooring fees and the costs. The Harbor Advisory Committee, harbor masters, Fincom, and BOS should all be involved in the discussion. The next step is for Wally to meet with the harbor masters to get more information.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15.