

Dennis Finance Committee  
Tuesday, July 2, 2019 @ 5pm  
Stone Hearing Room, Town Hall  
685 Route 134, S. Dennis, MA 02660  
Page 1 of 2

RECEIVED  
2019 SEP 18 PM 12:01

DENNIS TOWN CLERK

PRESENT: Chairman Plath, Members Prall, Crowell, Stone, Baroni, Murphy & McDowell

STAFF: Finance Director Gibbs

ABSENT:

Chairman Plath called the meeting to order at 5:04pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS ON SCHOOL BUDGET**

Chairman Plath shared that there will be a Special Town Meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm at the Wixon School. He read the article. He reminded the Committee that at the Spring Town meeting Dennis appropriated \$16,491,782. The Yarmouth lawsuit has been dismissed but they have 30 days to appeal that decision. The School Committee has used money from the Senate budget to reduce the assessments to each Town. They have voted assessments to each Town which would add \$311,166 to the assessment Dennis has already approved. He was looking to see if the Finance Committee wanted to recommend this article or not.

Yarmouth has made no public statement regarding the settlement of the lawsuit. Chairman Plath reiterated that there is only one standing regional agreement. There has been no discussion with either Town to see if they would agree to a new budget. His support is for the current regional agreement. If Yarmouth was to stop the lawsuit he would have some favor for a new budget. Chairman Plath reminded the Committee that there were changes to regional school agreement that were brought forward at the Town Meeting but were rejected by the voters. It was his understanding that the School Committee was trying to get the budget fixed first and then the subcommittee will begin working on the agreement again.

Brian Carey, Dennis representative to the School Committee, was present. He acknowledged that the foundation is not part of the legally binding agreement but foundation enrollment budget covers the students that the Town is responsible for including school choice students. Chairman Plath asked if the School Committee had considered going with the lawfully agreed budget. Mr. Carey shared that it had been brought up and was summarily rejected. Chairman Plath reiterated that he was supportive of a foundation budget in theory. Dennis had made a generous offer that Yarmouth had rejected. Mr. Carey clarified that they sent back a proposal that asked for more. Chairman Plath clarified that it was a 2<sup>nd</sup> offer and Yarmouth had been told it was the last and final offer. Ultimately if the Towns can't agree on a new budget then they have to go with the legally binding budget. It will be up to the people to decide at the Special Town Meeting.

Ms. Stone felt the people had decided at the last Town Meeting. She pointed out that almost the same proposal was rejected. She felt it was not her place to recommend this article because it has already been recommended by the people of the Town. Chairman Plath believed if it was rejected again a district meeting where they could change, alter, or increase the budget but at a

Dennis Finance Committee  
Tuesday, July 2, 2019 @ 5pm  
Stone Hearing Room, Town Hall  
685 Route 134, S. Dennis, MA 02660  
Page 2 of 2

regional meeting the only assessment allowed would be the agreement budget or the school committee could fit the budget into the assessment. Mr. McDowell did not recommend the article. Mr. Prall felt if the lawsuit was dropped he would possibly consider foundation enrollment. Mr. Crowell felt they should go forward with the budget voted at the last Town Meeting. Mr. Murphy was torn. He felt if the budget was cut then the students suffer but there is an agreement in place that has always been abided by. He felt he had to support the budget approved at Town Meeting. Ms. Baroni felt supporting the budget approved at Town Meeting was the right thing to do.

**Motion:**

**Mr. McDowell made a motion to not recommend the article. Ms. Baroni seconded the motion. The Committee voted 7-0-0.**

Chairman Plath asked the Committee if between now and July 23<sup>rd</sup> Yarmouth dismissed the lawsuit would there be support for foundation enrollment. All members indicated that as long as Yarmouth dismissed the lawsuit and this was for one year only. Chairman Plath shared that he would convey this message but no vote was necessary.

**ADJOURN**

**Motion:**

**Peter McDowell made a motion to adjourn a 5:31pm. The Committee voted 7-0-0.**