

Minutes
Board of Selectmen
Workshop Meeting
March 10, 2009

Present: Selectmen – Suzanne McAuliffe, Jim Hoben, Dr. Marasco, Bud Groskopf; Town Administrator – Robert C. Lawton Jr.; Jerry Sullivan absent.

Executive Session

County Commissioners – Update

Shelia Lyons Chair of the Barnstable County Commissions, Mary-Pat Flynn Vice-Chair and Paul Niedzwiecki Cape Cod Commission Director are present.

Ms. Lyons reports on the services the county provides to Yarmouth and throughout the region. Ms. Lyons indicates the Commissioners are looking toward the future needs of all the communities. She describes the new Office of Regional Coordination. Ms. Lyons speaks about all regionalizing services county-wide.

Ms. Flynn says the Commissioner have primarily been working on their budget which is now before the Assembly of Delegates. She also says the Commissioners have been working on their strategic plan. The Commissioners speak about the Cape Light Compact and the Commission working together. Mr. Niedzwiecki, Executive Director of the Cape Cod Commission, reviews what the Office of Regional Coordination is current working on. He also speaks about green communities designations for cape towns. The Board discusses regional assessing.

Mr. Niedzwiecki says that the Cape Cod Commission is working with the Town of Yarmouth and Barnstable on upgrades to the airport and Willow Street. Dr. Marasco speaks about regionalization to ensure overlapping doesn't occur. The Board of Selectmen suggests that all Cape communities should share building specs for example plans for police and fire stations. Mr. Niedzwiecki says the Cape Cod Commission does not support tolls on the Sagamore Bridge or increasing the state gas tax because the Commission believes the money will not stay local.

Recycling and Solid Waste Advisory Committee – Update

Joseph Sarnosky Chairman RSWAC, Mike Britz, Andrea Adams, and Rob Angel Transfer Station Manger are available to speak with the Board.

Ms. McAuliffe says there are several new projects that the RSWAC Committee might want to look at, including helping Stan Kaczynski with the Yarmouth Clean-up Day (April 25th, 2009). She also speaks about the Green Communities Act and how to get communities more involved in recycling. She asks if RSWAC would be interested in holding an information session or campaigns to get more Yarmouth residents to recycle.

Mr. Hoben asks what happens to the seaweed that is raked off the beach. Mr. Sarnosky says it's very hard to compost seaweed. Mr. Lawton says there has to be special permits to compost seaweed. Mr. Angel says the volume of seaweed is huge, he says when it's gathered the seaweed picks up sand and other debris when it's taken off the beach.

Ms. McAuliffe says the Board is not asking for a response tonight but they wanted to inform RSWAC of these new projects for discussion at their next meeting. The Selectmen continue to discuss new projects for RSWAC. Mr. Sarnosky says that there are several openings on RSWAC. Ms. McAuliffe indicates that residents who are interested in joining RSWAC should fill out a talent bank form.

Budget Presentations FY10 – Police/Fire

Fire Chief Walker and Rick Todd EMS and Training Officer are present to speak about the Fire Dept. budget. Mr. Todd reviews several projects that the Fire Department is currently working on including teaching 56 classes of the American Heart Assoc. CPR and Automatic Deliberation seminar. Mr. Todd also reviews Community Emergency Response Team activities. Mr. Todd also speaks about more public education programs.

Chief Walker reviews the situation with the Fire Department. He is very cautious to reduce services because of the drastic impacts to the community. He would like to maintain minimum levels of service through these times. He cannot imagine reducing services beyond the point the department is currently operating. Chief Walker reviews yearly statistics. Chief Walker says within each 24 hour shift fire fighter/EMTs are engaged in calls for 12 hours out of the shift. He says that he cannot completely cut out education and training because liability will increase drastically. Chief Walker says if goals aren't accomplished with union negotiations and more budget cuts occur fire station #2 will have to be closed in FY2010. The Chief indicates the overtime budget will be over budget by approximately \$112k. He reviews the several ways to save in overtime. He says that he has been researching the lowest possible number to ask the citizens for a public safety override to keep services at the same level as today.

Police Chief Almonte says both the fire and police departments have been meeting regularly to discuss budget issues. Chief Almonte reviews budget impacts such as a level funded expense account, cutbacks in most areas, increases in cost of supplies and equipment. He reviews the budget cutbacks that occurred in September of 2008. He says that the loss of police officers means more overtime expenses. He also reviews statistics which show an increase in crime from 2002 to 2008 in the Town of Yarmouth. Chief Almonte says the total loss in Police funds from FY09 has been \$722,713 dollars. He says he doesn't know how this department can continue to run at this level and still keep people safe. Deputy Frederickson reviews the shortfalls due to budget cuts. Chief Almonte says that the Police Department needs to replace the officers lost by either a public safety override, remove the department from the 4% budget decrease plan or approve the cops hiring grant program. Deputy Frederickson reviews the federal stimulus program to hire new cops. The Board discusses the federal stimulus program. Mr. Groskopf asks if there is a similar program for the Fire Department. Deputy Kelleher says that last year the Fire Department received a SAFER Grant but was unable to utilize it because of the stipulations on retention. Deputy Kelleher says the grant can still be utilized if the Department is able to meet the stipulations to retain the fire fighters after the grant has expired. Mr. Hoben asks about the payback period for the SAFER Grant. Deputy Kelleher indicates that the SAFER Grant was not 100% funded, but he believes that the stimulus package may increase the SAFER Grant funding.

Dr. Marasco acknowledges the financial burdens of the police and fire department's, but does not believe in overrides during this economic climate. He does agree with the Police pursuing the grant for increased police officers. Mr. Groskopf says the Board of Selectmen needs to educate residents that public safety is fundamentally necessary. Mr. Hoben has spoken with many residents who are not willing to support an override this year because of the financial situations everyone is facing. He does not believe that looking to the federal stimulus package will buy the departments some time. Chief Walker says it will cost more if an override is not approved; it cost less to prevent problems than to just respond to problems. Ms. McAuliffe says she would agree with a very minimal public safety override. She also believes that the public safety departments should budget with the mindset that an override will not approved. The Board continues to talk about the possibility of a public safety override. Mr. Lawton speaks about the process to include an override at the election. Mr. Groskopf says he would like to work with the fire fighters to conduct public outreach if the Board decides to go for an override. Mr. Lawton

says he would like to let the Board of Selectmen know that the bargaining units have been very cooperative with changing contracts to save money.

ATM Special Article Recommendations

Mr. Lawton reviews the reasons a 4% reduction is needed. He says that when you take out offsets, enterprise funds and debt there is just under \$21 million dollars that can be reduced, and out of the \$21 million dollars just over 50% is budgeted for public safety. He uses the example of the Recreation Dept., stating that even if the Recreation Department was eliminated there would still be a budget shortfall and public safety would have to be reduced. He speaks about the new money the town must come up with to fund schools. Mr. Lawton explains where the cuts are coming from including reducing the majority of the capital budget. He goes into detail about the cuts for each department. Mr. Lawton says the Finance Committee is very unhappy about the reductions but has agreed that the reductions are necessary. He says that tomorrow night is the school hearing. Mr. Lawton says that all the department heads have been very cooperative and done a lot of work to cut their budgets. He states that the budget is complete and will be published in the next few weeks.

The Board discusses committees coming in at the next meeting to discuss warrant articles. Ms. McAuliffe says that she would like to have a full board to recommend the final articles. Mr. Groskopf asks about how much money in total the CPA has given to the new church. Mr. Lawton says he will get that information.

The Selectmen discusses purchasing the property that Nstar was to put a substation on. They indicate that this property would be held for open space.

Reappointment:

Board of Health (1) regular position

Mr. Hoben recommends one regular reappointment to the Board of Health. Motioned. Seconded. VOTE 4-0

Town Administrator's Items:

Consent Agenda

Mr. Lawton reviews the consent agenda. Motioned. Seconded. VOTE 4-0

School Issues

Mr. Lawton indicates the school budget hearing is March 11th at the Station Ave. Elementary School at 7:00pm.

Meals on Wheels

Mr. Lawton asks if anyone is available to serve meals on wheels. Mr. Hoben tentatively agrees to participate.

Motel Enforcement

Mr. Lawton reviews the latest developments on hotel issues. He says Mr. Brandolini and Deputy Chief Kelleher along with the Impact Team have had two meetings thus far and they are working towards a date for inspections of motels to ensure the properties are in full compliance. He also states that the Harwich Ecumenical Counsel is involved in housing assistance. The Board continues to discuss solving problems at the motels and finding new housing for the tenants.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Ms. McAuliffe says the St. Patrick's Day Parade was terrific this weekend. She was really proud of the amount of Yarmouth residents who turned out. Mr. Hoben says the Town of Yarmouth has won for best decorating of the Bass River Bridge.

Cape Cod Commission

Dr. Marasco comments on issues with the Cape Cod Commission. The Board discusses the lack of the comprehensive plan from Yarmouth.

Residential Exemption

Dr. Marasco comments on the residential exemption for residents who own a home worth more than \$600,000.

Adjourn

Motioned. Seconded. Meeting adjourned approximately 9:45pm.

**CONSENT AGENDA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WORKSHOP MEETING
MARCH 10, 2009**

Donations to Police Department:

Training – Daniel Dunn	\$ 60.00
Town of Wellfleet	\$140.00
Town of North Kingstown	\$270.00
Town of Norton	\$130.00
University of Mass Amherst	\$140.00

Donations to Library Division:

Yarmouth Library Association	<u>\$8,118.50</u>
(semi-annual donation)	
TOTAL	\$8,858.50

Date: March 10, 2009

Voted: 4-0