

Minutes
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 16, 2008

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

Public:

Thanks to Charles Clark for Creation of a Walking Trail – Dennis Pond Area

Mr. Lawton informs the Board that Charles Clark had offered to the Conservation Commission to create a new walking trail at the Dennis Pond area. Mr. Clark reviews how he created the trail. Mr. Lawton indicates that the trail is 1500 feet long and about an 8-10 minute walk. The Board thanks Mr. Clark for volunteering his time and equipment to create the trail.

Michael Caruso

He represents the fire fighter union. He speaks to the Board about the change in the fire fighter schedule. He asks the Board to reconsider the change.

Phil Morris – School Committee

Mr. Morris reviews the assessment plan for the Yarmouth public schools. He says although there is no funding the school department is looking forward to the future in case there is more federal funding. Ms. McAuliffe comments on the assessment plan and the possibilities of consolidating schools.

Introduction – Longfellow’s Pub Change in Manager

No one is present from Longfellow’s Pub.

Charlotte Striebel – Assembly of Delegates Regional Policy Plan Issues

Ms. McAuliffe reviews the recent issues with the Regional Policy Plan. She states that during the Board’s last discussion with Ms. Striebel the Board indicated that they would like Ms. Striebel to vote “no” on the approval of the RPP and vote to return the document to the Commission for further modifications. Ms. McAuliffe says that although the final Assembly vote isn’t until tomorrow that the subcommittee is recommending approving the RPP.

Ms. Striebel says she feels the RPP as it stands today is a document that the 15 towns on the Cape can use. She believes that more review would only skew the report and cause more problems. She says that the plan is not perfect but that the RPP can be improved when the RPP is approved and becomes a working document. Ms. Striebel reads the resolution from the Standing Committee on Governmental Regulations regarding the RPP. She says that when the resolution is passed it will become a part of the RPP and therefore allowing for future changes to the document. She also informs the Board that currently there are more towns in favor of passing the RPP than there are against it.

Ms. McAuliffe says that although the resolution allows for amendments to the RPP the Cape Cod Commission must approve those amendments thus making it difficult for outside bodies to amend the plan without the approval of the Commission. Ms. McAuliffe does not believe that letting the Commission finish the document will skew the report. Ms. McAuliffe continues to discuss her dissatisfaction with the Assembly approving an unfinished RPP.

Ms. Striebel says that many of the smaller towns on the Cape are waiting for the RPP to be approved to be able to finish their comprehensive plans. She says that she doesn't believe that 45 more days of discussion will benefit anyone she says that currently the RPP fits for all 15 Cape towns. Ms. McAuliffe disagrees.

Mr. Sullivan says that he is disappointed that Ms. Striebel is not interested in representing the best interest for the Town of Yarmouth. He says that Yarmouth has worked extremely hard on the RPP and he feels that 45 days is needed to finish the work on the plan. He hopes that Ms. Striebel will reconsider her position. Mr. Hoben feels that an unfinished RPP will discourage redevelopment in Yarmouth. Dr. Marasco speaks about mitigation and he doesn't see a problem with allowing for more time to finish the RPP.

Appointments:

- 1. TOY Representative to the Cape Cod Commission**
- 2. Historical Commission Reappointment**

Mr. Hoben reviews the appointments, including the representative to the Cape Cod Commission and a reappointment to the Historical Commission. Motioned. Seconded. VOTE 4-0.

Selectmen's Items:

- 1. FY10 Budget Update**

Mr. Lawton says that after last night's meeting with the School Department it looks like the School will be looking for an increase above the level funded amount from the previous year. He says that in order to stay within Proposition 2 ½ the town will have to level fund the budget based on the approved budget at the September town meeting. He also states that the school will have to level fund their budget based upon the number approved at the regional district meeting. Mr. Lawton does inform the Board that the Cape Tech assessment will increase due to 17 new students attending next year. He reviews the initial budget numbers and says that the town has anticipated a reduction in state aid and a decrease in local receipts. He says that the 2 ½ % increase in taxes will covers most of the losses the town is suffering as a result of local receipts, free cash and state aid.

Dr. Marasco asks about the School Department's assessment. Dr. Marasco speaks about the shift of money from the town budget to the school budget due to the regional meeting. Mr. Lawton says that last April the town voted a budget that allowed for the town to be fully staffed, but the last town meeting in September resulted in drastic reductions to make up for the \$1.5 million lost to the school. Mr. Lawton says that to stay within the 2 ½ tax limit budgets cannot increase above the approved budget in September. Dr. Marasco says that there is a lot of new money going to the schools, Mr. Lawton indicates that the school budget increased by 11% last year. Mr. Lawton says that the 2 ½ % increase does not reflect the budget numbers because the 2 ½ % increase has been absorbed to make the budget balance offset by the losses in income from other areas.

Mr. Hoben says that he wants to make clear that the amount of money the town is asking for is level funded because the money requested is roughly the amount of money expended last year. Mr. Lawton indicated the only items increasing are the offsets and enterprise funds due to the increased fees. Mr. Lawton says that if the town has another year as we did last year with a district meeting it is probable that whole department's will be eliminated. Mr. Hoben says that the town should expect that state aid will be reduced and the school department will ask for more money from the town. Mr. Lawton indicates that he received a positive feeling from the School Committee and that they understand there can not be substantial increases in their assessment.

Mr. Lawton discusses regionalization options with other Cape communities and also with Barnstable County. Ms. McAuliffe recaps that the preliminary budget will result in the same services in FY10' as in FY09.

2. Approval of BOS Meeting Minutes 11-4-08

Motioned. Seconded. VOTE 4-0

Town Administrator's Items

Mr. Lawton informs the Board about the new process for plowing this year. He says that the DPW Director and Assistant DPW Director have created a list of primary/main roads that will be plowed first, and then once those roads are plowed the secondary roads will be plowed. The Board continues to discuss the plowing policy.

Selectmen Items

Dr. Marasco reads a letter from Ruth Priddy thanking the Board for their recognition of Ship Shops 50 years in business in Yarmouth.

Ms. McAuliffe says that the Board will not meet again until January 6th, 2009.

Town Administrator's Items

Mr. Lawton says that there will be a hearing on December 18th, 2008 at 7:00pm at the D-Y High School regarding Nstar building a new sub-station off of White Rock Road. Ms. McAuliffe asked if we know exactly where the station will be located. Mr. Lawton informs the Board of the location and says that the Planning Board and Building Commissioner have indicated that the MA General Laws allow for utility companies to be exempt from most zoning bylaws. Mr. Lawton says that the Conservation Commission will be holding hearings in the future because the property abuts conservation land.

Mr. Lawton speaks about a resolution from Go21 who support rail transport of freight. He asks the Board if they would like to proceed with the resolution. The Board agrees to support the resolution. Motioned. Seconded VOTE 4-0 to support the resolution.

Mr. Lawton reviews an estimate of revenue from the Town Assessor for taxes on rental property. He says the initial estimate would be only \$165,000 in new revenue.

Mr. Lawton also says that the town is moving forward in the housing buy-down program to purchase houses and then sell them off as affordable units. He also says that the Housing Trust has received a grant from the Barnstable County Home Consortium to aid in the housing buy-down program.

Mr. Lawton informs the Board that the DPW department has received another grant to install solar panels on a town building. Also, Mr. Lawton informs the Board that Acting Chief Kelleher has received several grants for the Fire Department. In addition he says that the DPW has received a grant for improvements at Old Town House Road and Forest Road and finally the state has approved the drainage project for Packet Landing.

Adjourn

Motioned. Seconded. VOTE 4-0 Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10pm.