



Board of Selectmen **Public Meeting Minutes** **March 6, 2018**

The regular meeting was called to order at approximately 5 p.m. in the Town Hall Hearing Room by Chairman Tracy Post. Selectmen present: Tracy Post, Mike Stone, Norm Holcomb, and Erik Tolley. Also attending: Yarmouth Town Administrator Dan Knapik; Yarmouth Assistant Town Administrator, Chris Dwelley; Director of Community Development, Karen Greene; Fire Chief, Philip Simonian; Director of Community Services, Pat Armstrong; and Finance Director Ed Senteio.

1. Public Announcements & Comments

Joseph Tierney, from the School Committee, updated the Board on the Committee's recent meeting. The budget was discussed and while there wasn't a formal vote, the budget discussed will be a 3.06% increase from last year. The School Building Committee has also met recently and has narrowed down the choices for a new school building to four options. The Board discussed how there still is not a clear understanding between Yarmouth and Dennis as to how the towns will proceed with the process. Selectmen Tolley stated that he would not support any plan from the School Committee that did not include addressing the problems at Marguerite E. Small Elementary School. The Selectmen stressed the importance of working together with the School Committee and also agreed that it would not be a good idea for the School Committee to put forth a plan without their support.

Joyce Flynn invited the public to an open house the Energy Committee is having on the stretch code in advance of Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday April 3, 2018 at 4 PM in the Library of D-Y High School. She also thanked the state delegation for all their hard work getting funding restored for the science building at Cape Cod Community College.

Susan Starkey, Energy Committee, gave a letter to the Board urging them to negotiate a host agreement with Vineyard Wind before April in order to get the best possible terms for the town. They suggested that the host agreement should include measures to reverse water quality issues caused by algae and wastewater. The Energy Committee stated a strong support of the Vineyard Wind project in Yarmouth.

Tom Nickinello, Cape Cod St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee invited the public to the Cape Cod St. Patrick's Day Parade this weekend in Yarmouth.

Curt Sears stated that some people who should have had input have yet to do so on the vehicle policy. He would also like to see some clarification on what exactly the town's storm water money will be used for. He also stated that the land disposition should be more of a public process. Another suggestion he had is for the town to explore residential tax exemptions.

Selectmen Mark Forest arrived at approximately 5:30 PM

2. Cape Cod Water Protection Trust Discussion with Sen. Cyr, Rep. Whelan, and Rep. Crocker

State Senator Julian Cyr and State Representatives Tim Whelan and Will Crocker gave the Board an update on the Cape Cod Water Protection Trust. The idea behind the Trust is to expand the Room Occupancy tax to include short-term rentals (such as Air B&B) and use the added revenue to help address the cost of wastewater projects on Cape Cod. They also stressed the importance of hearing feedback on their bill from town officials.

Chairman Post stated her support for the expansion of the rooms tax but questioned whether there have been studies done on what the price of the added tax would have to be before tourists start turning away from Cape Cod (due to cost concerns). She also questioned whether the tax money could be used for permitting and design of wastewater systems. Ms. Post also stated her strong desire to have the town retain full control over how to allocate the tax revenue.

Senator Cyr responded by stating that he is currently examining the issue of opening up the tax revenue to be used for permitting and design, as Barnstable has run into issues regarding the matter. Mr. Cyr did state that it's likely not feasible that towns will retain full control over how to allocate tax revenue. He also stated that the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce has studied the issue of additional room tax increases effecting consumers and they have deduced that 18-20% is the percentage at which room taxes start impacting consumer decision making.

Selectmen Forest stated his appreciation for the Legislative delegation's involvement with the public in crafting their bill. He also stated his appreciation that this initiative allows towns to be creative in addressing their individual wastewater issues.

Selectmen Stone stated his concerns over the implementation over this legislation in terms of all towns having an equal voice in the distribution of funds despite Yarmouth being one of the larger tax revenue generating towns. He suggested weighted voting might be a fairer method of receiving input from towns.

Senator Cyr stated that Yarmouth may want to be cautious with pushing a weighted voting system because it may be interesting to see which towns are indeed the highest tax revenue generators once short terms rentals are factored in.

Selectmen Holcomb suggested allowing towns to sell a portion of their allocation of tax revenue to other towns if they don't need to use all of them for wastewater projects.

Selectmen Tolley stated concerns over the possibility of other towns benefitting from Yarmouth's tax generating abilities. He also stated concerns with allowing towns to opt out from this tax.

Senator Cyr responded to Mr. Tolley's concern by stating that Yarmouth will likely be one of the Cape towns to benefit the most from this Trust due to the fact that the town hasn't invested into wastewater like other Cape towns already have. He also stated that the opt out clause was left in for towns that have already made significant wastewater investments but he also stated that towns have a very high bar (in terms of getting support from town meeting) in order to be able to opt out.

The Board thanked the Legislative Delegation for taking the time to come in and discuss the Cape Cod Water Protection Trust with them.

3. Public Hearing

a. Ambulance Fee Hearing (2nd Hearing). Fire Chief Philip Simonian explained that nothing has changed in their proposal from their previous presentation. There were no public comments or correspondence.

MOTION: To move to close the public hearing.

Motion by: Erik Tolley

Seconded by: Mark Forest

Yea 5

Nay 0

MOTION: To move to accept the proposed 30% ambulance fee increase as presented.

Motion by: Erik Tolley

Seconded by: Norm Holcomb

Yea 5

Nay 0

4. FY19 Golf Budget Update / Future Funding Opportunities

Wayne Kivi and Kristen Seymour, Yarmouth Golf Enterprise Committee; Pat Armstrong, Director of Community Services; and Jim Armentrout, Director of Golf Operations gave a presentation to the Board on a plan for the future of golf in Yarmouth. They reviewed proposed fee increases for the courses and discussed golf department options going forward in efforts to minimize costs and retain ownership and control over town courses.

Selectmen stated concerns over some Yarmouth golf members not feeling welcomed and appreciated and urged the town to improve that aspect of member relations.

Dan Knapik, Town Administrator, stated that a well crafted request for proposals for golf management would yield a lot of good information for the town on whether or not it's viable for the town to continue to retain control over golf enterprises.

Chairman Post stated her concerns over the fact that the town's directive two years ago was for the golf operations be an enterprise fund and self sustaining but now that concept does not seem feasible.

Pat Armstrong responded by saying that the plan before the Board is the best option for the courses to maintain their value while reducing costs, as two years was simply not enough time for the courses to turn around financially and make up the deficit. Ms. Armstrong stated that the product has to be excellent in order to attract the number of members needed to sustain operations.

Selectmen reiterated the need for golf staff to treat all consumers of Yarmouth Golf with respect and appreciation in a way that will make them want to return to the courses. They stressed the need for golf operations to be customer service oriented and to involve members in planning for the future of Yarmouth Golf.

Selectmen Stone questioned the fact that the 2017 operating deficit of \$143,000 but the reserve decreased by \$206,000.

Finance Director Ed Senteio explained that the difference in the balance for the next fiscal year. In other words the town had to commit reserve dollars to the 2018 budget in order to get the budget approved by the Department of Revenue.

Selectmen Forest questioned how often members are surveyed. Mr. Forest encouraged town staff to make member outreach an immediate priority. He also stated his lack of faith in the Town's

independent golf operations viability and recommended that the town explore the option of leasing the courses.

Mr. Armentrout responded by stating that it has been at least 5 years since members were surveyed and agreed members should be engaged more.

Selectmen agreed that the proposed changes were worth pursuing to see if golf operations could turn around their financial operations. Chairman Post also stated that if golf operations were unable to turn around the department in a year or two then it would be up to the community to decide what to do with the department - keep it in house, or privatize it.

5. Public Hearings

a. Capital Budget. Chairman Post read the legal ad into the record. Sandra Fife, Ken Mudie, Joanne Crowley, Judy Taver, and Curt Sears, Capital Budget Committee, presented their final recommendations to the Board. Their total recommended capital budget for FY19 is \$5,500,210.

b. Operating Budget. Ken Mudie, Robert Ciavarra, and Jessica Norwood, Finance Committee, made a presentation on the Finance Committee's recent business. Mr. Mudie reviewed some of the challenges the Committee has faced such as deciding not to fund budget requests that have merit. He reviewed the zero based budgeting exercise and noted that it was a very worthwhile exercise. The topic of substantial upcoming town expenses was also discussed, such as possible new town buildings and the golf department's issues.

Sandi Fruean, Yarmouth resident, spoke in favor of pursuing pickle ball courts and of its potential economic impact.

MOTION: To move to continue the public hearing.

Motion by: Erik Tolley

Seconded by: Michael Stone

Yea 5 Nay 0

6. Board of Selectmen

1. Board and Committee Appointments: Selectmen Forest stated there was nothing to report.

2. Upcoming Agenda Review: The Selectmen will be meeting next week on March 13th at the Yarmouth Police Department training room. Mr. Knapik clarified that the Drive-In Site Committee will be meeting in the Town Hall Hearing Room the same night at 5:30. He suggested that the Selectmen meeting be delayed so Selectmen can attend the Drive-In Site Committee's final meeting. Karen Greene, Director of Community Development, stated that the Drive-In Site Committee will hold a public hearing sometime in early April to present their final recommendations. Selectmen decided to push their next meeting back to 7 pm.

3. Individual Items:

Selectmen Tolley expressed concerns with the School Committee's presentation tonight. He was concerned with the School Committee's lack of responsiveness to the town's concerns. The possibility of slowing down the timeline of the school project was discussed.

Selectmen Stone discussed the possibility of opening up a place for residents to dump their debris that resulted from the recent storm. Mr. Knapik responded that the plan at the moment is for residents to be able to drop off debris at the Yarmouth Transfer Station.

7. Town Administrator Items

a. Consent Agenda. Mr. Knapik reviewed requests from The Old King's Highway Committee and Red Faced Jacks to be placed on the consent agenda.

MOTION: To move that the Board of Selectmen approve the consent agenda.

Motion by: Erik Tolley

Seconded by: Michael Stone

Yea 5 Nay 0

b. Town Administrator Updates: The buses to transport people to the St. Patrick's Day Parade will gather at Town and Country Motel at 10:15 am. The last bus will depart at 10:30 and Route 28 will be closed thereafter for the parade. Mr. Knapik also thanked town staff for the response to the recent storm.

8. Adjourn

MOTION: To move that the Board of Selectmen adjourn the meeting.

Motion by: Norm Holcomb

Seconded by: Erik Tolley

Yea 5

Nay 0

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Dennehy

DISTRIBUTED MATERIAL AGENDA PACKET

- Ambulance Fee Hearing Proposal
- Golf Going Forward PowerPoint Presentation
- Memo to BOS from Town Administrator dated March 6, 2018 re: Capital Improvement Plan Presentation
- 2018 BOS Upcoming Agenda Items Schedule
- Memo to Town Administrator from Chairman, Yarmouth Old King's Highway Committee dated March 1, 2018 re: OKH Annual Reminders: 2018 Spring Water Bill Insert and Post Card Mailing
- Letter of Intent from Red Face Jacks dated February 28, 2018 re: Extension of Premises Special Liquor License
- ABCC Notice of Suspension ICO Red Face Jack's Inc., D/B/A/ Red Face Jack's
- Letter to Town Hall Administration from Intern Brian Mingolelli, undated, re: Letter of Thanks
- Yarmouth Substance Abuse Committee Compassion Fatigue Awareness Session Flyer
- Board of Health Agenda for March 5, 2018