



Meeting Minutes

Judge Welsh Meeting Room -- 3:00 p.m.
August 26, 2013

Members Present: Raphael Richter, Duane Steele, Stan Sikorsky, Mike Canizales, Catherine Russo, Doug Cliggott, Clarence Walker, and alternate Sean Patrick Harrington

Others Present: Sharon Lynn, Town Manager, Dan Hoort, Finance Director, Austin Knight, Board of Selectmen, Mary Jo Avellar, Town Moderator

Public: Jim King, Ann Wood from the Press

Public Comments:

Mr. King read a letter from 2012 that was addressed to Tom Donegan and the Finance Committee. The letter was requesting information on actual dollars spent, and actual costs to town tax payers on the Marine Patrol Pilot Program. He stated a cost comparison needed to be done before an informed decision could be made on the project. He stated that expenses would exceed the operating budget and would require additional staff when in reality current staff could man the pier. He read a second letter that repeatedly asked for the costs of this program, and stated that he feels the program was an unnecessary additional tax burden to the town. Mr. King asked that the Finance Committee prepare a warrant article for submission to the Town Meeting to defund the Police Marine Patrol Program. This letter stated that the Board of Selectmen approved the program without knowing the full costs.

Mike read a letter from Vincent Currier expressing concerns regarding the Police Marine Patrol Program. The letter inquires about grant or police budget funding of the detective's salary. The letter writer also stated that he feels that the Town Manager needs to discontinue loading the committees with her people.

Budget/Planning:

Clarence stated the agenda should be reduced. Mike stated the number one priority should be the 5 year plan, advocating to policy makers the approach to

budgeting, looking at the Capital Improvement Plan, figures for the pier, looking at current laws, and reviewing pensions and unfunded health liabilities to determine the cost curve. Dan and Doug are working on this. Regarding the 5 year plan, Doug stated there was nothing new to report, but that Dan will provide baseline figures to each department head. Mike asked that Dan route a template from one department to see what changes will be like from last year, and that the Finance Committee will want to meet with the Board of Selectmen (prior to Town Meeting). Discussed the cost curve so departments will know what the budget plan is gearing towards – the type of tax curve and dollar deficit curve and possible dollar amounts people may want to increase or decrease. Voters can make decisions based on adjustments. The Financial Committee would like to know the Board of Selectmen's ideas on budget planning. Property taxes are the biggest source of revenue and can only go up 2 ½ % - there is no flexibility. Parking revenues are at capacity in the summer, and discussion ensued on possible rate increases or adding more spaces. The Department of Revenue mandates looking 5 years into the future. Mike Canizales and Austin Knight discussed the type of information that should be presented to voters, and the need for a joint meeting between the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen. Doug mentioned a memo on the Town's website discussing Board of Selectmen's #1 priority is fiscal management. The 5 year fiscal policy plan and the 5 year Capital Improvement Plan are essential for forecasting and planning. The Selectmen will review the 5 year fiscal policy plan in September 2013 and will forward to the Finance Committee to review. The 5 year Capital Improvement Plan will be reviewed in December 2013 and forwarded to the Finance Committee by January 31, 2014. Mike stated that interviewing for the Town Planner will be next week.

Warrant Articles for Special Town Meeting:

Catherine was advised that the warrant closes on September 20th. The housing summit has no certain date but will be sometime in the fall.

Funding for mediation event:

Austin stated that the Board of Selectmen may ask the Finance Committee to help with funding by looking to bids and information from other groups. Mike stated that we may be able to share information with other towns. Other towns have reported one police person per 1,000 citizens as part of the scope of the study. Austin stated that Orleans, Wellfleet, and Eastham are uniformly against using the one police personnel per 1,000 residents as there are too many other factors. Provincetown is a unique community of less than 2000 residents in winter which swells to 30,000 – 40,000 residents every day in summer. The needs of the community during the whole 12 month period must be considered. A report from

Cape May, New Jersey regarding police staffing was discussed by Mike. He stated that the numbers play a role, but not the role in benchmarking.

Catherine Russo stated that we are in a crisis for work and housing, and that a date is needed for the housing summit which should happen somewhere in fall. She advised that the warrant closes on September 20th. Austin addressed the need to get through Labor Day, and now including Columbus Day weekend, with possibly meeting on housing after Town Meeting on October 21st.

Warrant Article:

Mike stated that the Finance Committee might propose a warrant article recommending that the Marine Patrol money be transferred from the police to the harbormaster. A discussion ensued regarding the transfer of money, overstaffing, and the pier corporation which runs at a deficit. Mike shared addressing whether the detective position money was well spent and should it be continued. The discussion continued regarding detective skills being used on the pier instead of the police department. Dan cautioned that discussing this could cause an open meeting problem because it was not mentioned specifically on the agenda. Mike stated that it would go on a future agenda as a discussion of a general warrant article. Doug recommended that Dan supply the Finance Committee with the cost of the Marine Patrol Program. Mr. King reiterated the need to simply look at salaries and differentials paid by using a non-local person. Mike asked for a formal vote on a Public Forum to discuss potential warrant articles and in particular the Marine Patrol Program. Duane moved and Clarence seconded, and the vote passed 7-0-0.

Boats Destroyed:

Mike suggested replacing the boats that were destroyed, and a potential resolution of using the reserve fund, but it is not on the agenda yet. Austin stated they are waiting for the harbormaster report, and it will be on the Selectmen's next meeting agenda. They do not as yet have all the information or a remedy which will hopefully be on the next agenda

Funding for Mediation Event:

Austin stated that will be discussed in tonight's BOS meeting.

Wage and Hour for Part-time Seasonal Workers:

Mike discussed a possible payroll issue, and asked Dan to request from payroll and department heads some pay stubs to review recordkeeping for any problems.

Dan stated

He would check with the Town Council to see if the review would be approved.

This brought about much discussion from Committee members.

Outer Cape Committee:

Mike stated that the meetings were encouraging. There was enthusiasm about shared staff and shared jail cells. It was suggested possibly sending the women to Truro, and the men to Provincetown or vice versa.

OPED:

Mike expressed the need to get reports.

Total Costs of Departments:

Mike stated that total costs now and future would be on future agendas.

The meeting was adjourned by Mike at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Maghi Geary