

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN - BOARD OF SELECTMEN

WORKSHOP MEETING – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2008 - 5:30 PM

JUDGE WELSH HEARING ROOM

Chairman Mary-Jo Avellar convened the meeting at 5:30 PM noting the following Board of Selectmen attending: Mary-Jo Avellar, Michele Couture, Austin Knight, Pam Parmakian, Lynne Davies

Other attendees: Town Manager Sharon Lynn, Asst. Town Manager David Gardner, Municipal Finance Director Alix Heilala

Recorder: David Gardner

The following are meeting minutes, in brief:

MOTION: Move that the Board of Selectmen vote to take agenda items out of order

Motion by: Pam Parmakian Seconded by: Michele Couture Yea 5 Nay 0

Pam Parmakian read the following statement into the record:

When I made the decision to run for selectman a year ago, I believed that I could make a valuable contribution to the stabilization of our community.

I have years of successful fiscal management experience in various business settings in Provincetown, a solid knowledge of the property assessing principals, along with municipal financial practices.

In addition, I am one of the few individuals in town who have expertise in affordable housing management and compliance administration, due to my employment as the property management coordinator at Community Housing Resource.

This last point has indeed posed potential conflicts of interest for me serving on this board.

This is why even before I was elected, I contacted the state ethics board to obtain an opinion regarding what I can and can't speak to when housing policy discussions come before the selectmen.

I received a detailed letter from them, which provided me with clear instructions on when I needed to recuse from policy discussions.

To the best of my understanding, I have followed these instructions thoroughly for the past year, and I am fully confident that I have acted appropriately and respectfully of State Ethics Guidelines.

Housing issues continue to dominate public discussion, and with good reason. The list of households seeking affordable housing continues to grow, and when faced with no options, many individuals are leaving town.

The outflow of year round residents from Provincetown is of grave concern to me, and I believe this trend is a destabilizing force in our community.

It affects our workforce, our schools, our senior population, and the very fabric of community is being threatened.

Unfortunately, the public discussion regarding housing has been filled with rumor, misunderstanding, and in some cases outright lies.

I have found this enormously frustrating because I care deeply about this town, and the families that live here.

As I've observed this conversation, I've realized that I cannot continue to remain silent regarding affordable housing in Provincetown, because I believe it is the core issue that effects the stabilization of our community.

This is why I ran for office and this is why I can no longer sit on this board. Therefore, I am submitting my resignation effective immediately.

Before I conclude, I want to say that this board has worked diligently to prepare a level funded budget for town meeting.

This was no small feat. We started with a deficit of over \$900,000. Countless hours were put in by Sharon Lynn, David Gardner, Alix Heilala, and the Finance Committee among others.

There were fixed costs over which we had no control, and we had to make hard decisions to preserve valuable services, and the employees that deliver those services. Valuable services are being presented as overrides so that the voters can decide whether they want to pay for these services. I urge the voters to support these overrides, as I believe these services are critical to the function of our town.

In conclusion, I want to thank my supporters who believed that I could make a contribution to stabilizing our community.

I now believe that I can be most effective in our efforts to stabilize our community from the other side of this table, and I look forward to continuing my efforts to strengthen the community in this manner.

Well wishes were extended to Pam. Pam Parmakian left the room.

Other business: Keith Amato

MOTION: The Board of Selectmen vote to concluded that Keith Amato does have a conflict, and should recuse himself from the discussion regarding 258 Commercial Street.

Motion by: Austin Knight Seconded by: Lynne Davies

Yea 3 Nay 0 Abstain 1(Michele Couture

Discussion of TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES for Monday.

Post meeting for Wednesday, March 26, 2008 at 6:00 PM.

Motion to adjourn by Michele Couture at 6:05 pm.

Minutes submitted for approval: Vernon G. Porter, May 5, 2008