

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN - BOARD OF SELECTMEN

SPECIAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2005

JUDGE WELSH HEARING ROOM

Chairman Cheryl Andrews opened the meeting at 6:00 PM noting the following attendees:

Board of Selectmen members: Cheryl Andrews, Michele Couture, Sarah Peake, Richard Olson, David Nicolau

Other attendees: Town Manager Keith Bergman

Recorder: Vernon G. Porter

The following are meeting minutes, in brief.

1A BOARD INTERVIEWS

The Board of Selectmen interviewed Rita “Hersh” Schwartz for a position on the Visitor Services Board. The applicant is unable to attend the regular scheduled meeting on Monday, June 27, 2005.

2. FISCAL UPDATE

Opportunities

Wastewater Enterprise Fund

- Establish surcharges for delayed hook-ups. **OK. Water & Sewer Board Public Hearing scheduled for July 13th.**
- Reassess Phase I sewer betterments to capture deferred \$2.7 million. **Board said NO. Assessing Town Properties- get data.**
- Establish minimum sewer user bills for off-season. – **Mixed response from Board. Cheryl Andrews asked that staff bring forth the math showing proposed minimum and how many dollars you will get.**
- Raise user fee rate structure for existing properties - **Board says NO.**
- Pursue Phase II hook-ups ASAP, advancing preconstruction betterments - **Cheryl Andrews – The Board has stated that it wants to maximize the use of the existing collection system. If the concept of a Phase II is to ignore that sentiment and to construct something new then it doesn’t seem like it will be listened to – and that is what is confusing here.**

Septage – Board consensus was to request additional information from DPW on this.

Policy - all cost to Wasterwater Fund; Revisit this policy to see what charges should be made to the General Fund.

Water Enterprise Fund

- Payments in lieu of Taxes to General Fund – ruling requested from Director of Accounts. **(Truro)**
- As future funding source for borrowing for road repaving. **(Board – good idea)**

Sale or Lease of Town properties which may become surplus.

(David Nicolau recused himself and left the room, as Center for Coastal Studies is a client of his.)

- Sale of PHS Annex property to Center for Coastal Studies for \$800,000 sooner rather than later; address access, parking issues. **(ACO – with acreage – go forward with an agreement with BOH – as long as the acreage is there.)**

Sarah Peake & Michele Couture feel that the following are part of the Board of Selectmen Goals set forth for the Town Manger to handle. Richard Olson feels Freeman Street Library should be kept for Community use. No comments by David Nicolau at this time. Cheryl Andrews feels Station 2 & 3 should be put on the market for sale and agrees with Mr. Olson on Freeman St. Library. Community Center – maybe we can

lease a portion of it. Should reconsider the use of all these properties and looks forward to seeing that as an agenda item.

- Former Fire Station 2 – across from Spiritus Pizza –
- Former Fire Station 3 – next to Adams Pharmacy -
- Freeman Street Library – 330 Commercial Street
- Community Center – 44 Bradford Street

MacMillan Pier Construction Betterment

- Assess \$658,985 betterment on Whydah Pier for its share of \$16-million improvements.

Board – should pursue it.

Property tax levy. -

- “Maximum allowable levy” adds \$70K per year for CCC charges.
- Maximizing new growth increases the levy limit.
- New Growth continues from conversions of single-lot commercial to multi-lot residential.

Sarah Peake – Request analysis of loss of room tax revenues vs. what the gain would be into the general fund.

Increasing non-property tax revenues.

- User Fees.
 - o Building, licensing, health inspection fee increases
 - o Transfer Station fee increases to capture commercial share
 - o Other departments
- Cape-wide review of all user fees underway (Town of Provincetown Harwich)
- Assigning departments responsibility for achieving explicit revenue targets
- Home Rule Petition to expanding local room occupancy tax to include short-term rentals could raise \$500,000 per year for Provincetown (45% to tourism fund) then return to use of tourism funds for summer shuttle, fireworks?

Sarah Peake – I would not want to blindly look at increasing fees without looking also at the saving side of the formula. Cheryl Andrews – Yes, if consistent – meaning in line with other towns on Cape Cod.

Controlling Group Health Costs

- further educational efforts for voluntary switches to lower cost plans
- reduce employees’ share from 80% (through coalition bargaining)
- eliminate most expensive plan Master Health option by withdrawing from Cape Cod Municipal Health Group.

Sarah Peake – what do we have to do to eliminate the most expensive plan? Answer: It requires reaching agreement with employee groups.

Cape End Manor

- aggressive collections of outstanding accounts
- pursue outside grants to reduce \$1.9 million contributions from CPA

Wrap Up

Sarah Peake - What savings might be achieved through offering – even on a voluntary basis – going from a 40 hour, 8 am to 5 pm, to a 35-hour workweek from 9 to 5. Switch to that in lieu of a pay increase or with the appropriated reduction in pay or something like that.

Michele Couture – Summer Police Officers – outreach to retired officers.

David Nicolau – Appreciate hard work that workers do downstairs. Are workers getting enough pay? Have we missed anything?

Cheryl Andrews - Changing health benefits is no way of making friends. On the other hand we have to protect peoples jobs and we want to avoid layoffs.

Next to do is figure out what items you would like to see as agenda items on Monday nights – and you can email them to me. Also, where we go from here as far as a summit. Time to meet with the Finance Committee before we meet with the School Committee.

Motion to adjourn by Michele Couture at 8:30 pm.

Minutes transcribed by: Vernon Porter, Secretary
July 14, 2005