

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN - BOARD OF SELECTMEN

PUBLIC FORUM – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2007

JUDGE WELSH HEARING ROOM

Chairman Mary-Jo Avellar opened the meeting at 6:00 PM noting the following attendees: Board of Selectmen members: Mary-Jo Avellar, Michele Couture, Austin Knight, Pam Parmakian, Lynne Davies

Other Attendees: Town Manager Sharon Lynn, Assistant Town Manager David Gardner

Recorder: Vernon G. Porter

The following are meeting minutes, in brief.

1. PUBLIC FORUM – COMMERCIAL STREET PAVING

Chairman Avellar asked DPW Director David Guertin to give a briefing on what the new criteria is on the Paving Article that will be brought before the Town Meeting as opposed as to what is currently printed in the warrant.

Public Comments

Stephen Melamed – As a citizen and as Chairman of the Economic Development Council read statement into the record requesting an indefinite postponement on this article. (See attachment #1).

Neil Toelle – Representing the owners of 110,119,117,108 and 104 Commercial Street. 1) We've talked about repaving Commercial Street at great lengths and layer upon layer upon layer has produced foundations that exposed in such a way that if repaving is not done properly, it will flood our yards and several others. I want to go on record as stating that it could produce a liability for the town. We will send you a formal letter stating these concerns within the next month. 2) Sidewalks issue – 2001 Town Mtg. Article 23 Pg. 80 was amended to state all Sidewalk along Commercial St., was to be done in brick and not concrete. The problem is not the brick – it's that it is never maintained. We should look into considering a bond when doing sidewalks. 3) State Aid Issue – Campaign needs to be made with our State Representatives. We were basically forced to proceed with this sewer project on us. In other towns the general tax base pays for the sewer system. It's time the State comes up with some money to help us pay for these things.

Greg Howe - How much did the preliminary design package cost the taxpayers from the Town of Provincetown? Answer \$1400. Was this preliminary design presentation the result of an RFP? Answer – It did not have to be as it was under \$25K. And the correct amount for that was \$14K. Biggest hazard are poles – can we bury overhead wires?

At the request of Selectman Couture, Town Manager Sharon Lynn gave the background and explained the reasoning in selecting Stearns & Wheler for this project.

Barbara Rushmore - Spoke with friend who said they could pave Commercial Street from beginning of Commercial Street at Bradford Street to Coast Guard Station for approximately \$500K. Sidewalks should be improved every year one block at a time, and approved at each town meeting on a yearly basis. Brought this information to the attention of DPW. Contractor's name is Victor Jaminsky. I think the paving should be voted on in April.

Thanassi Kuliopulos - My concern is if paving is going to take a long period time, and it is going to interfere with prime time business season, it would be harmful to many businesses. Question: How wide does a sidewalk have to be, and how wide does the street have to be? Answer: Commercial Street - 28 & 30 feet - Sidewalk – 3 ft is adequate and they are as yet unresolved.

Michael Fernandez - I am in favor of paving the street, but opposed to the process. I feel we don't have the proper information in order to vote on this article at this time.

Greg Howe – Heard about an audit earlier, and would suggest that it be done as soon as possible.

Closed public portion at 6:42 pm.

Board of Selectmen Comments

To Mr. Fernandes – We were not talking about a pave over.

Michelle Couture - I think everybody was saying the same thing this evening – in that we need more information. What we need to decide is, do we want to raise and appropriate \$566,380 to fund the cost associate with Engineering and design for repairs to Commercial Street paving? Then, after public hearings decide what we want to do – then go from there. We have to be mindful of what the public needs. We want more input. There are several factors involved. i.e., Grants, etc. There are a lot of issues that need to be decided.

Pam Parmakian - I would like to see this indefinitely postponed. I think it is premature. I don't think we have gotten enough input from the business community and residents of Commercial Street.

Lynne Davies - It's good to hear input from those that attended this evening. We need to know what we have in front of us from an Engineering Study. I would be in favor of lowering the cap to around \$400K. I'm looking for all the options, and hoping that the engineering study will provide us with this information.

Austin Knight - Utilities underground – any estimated cost? - Answer - Approximately \$1M per mile. Austin - Would like to have this number for Monday night. It is very important that the town go forward to secure these funds to develop plans. We need to start the process now.

Mary-Jo Avellar - Sidewalks – We acted on what we heard at town meeting in the Spring, hence, I don't think we can exclude the sidewalks when we start paving the streets.

Explanation of Debt Exclusion – Municipal Finance Director Alix Heilala gave an explanation to the audience as to what a Debt Exclusion is, and how it affects the tax rate.

Clarify ATM-7 – “*as defined by*” Stearns & Wheler.

Chairman Avellar read an email comment into record from Cheryl Andrews received on November 1, 2007.

Town Manage Sharon Lynn Comments

Ms. Rushmore mentioned the underground cabling, the wires, and the article. I have read the article that she brought up. There have been memos written before to address this, and the memo in the file from Mr. Guertin back in 2005 explains what the underground cabling would cost. I asked Mr. Guertin recently what that cost would be, and we discussed this with people in the electrical line business, and verbal statements indicate that it is very difficult and expensive. Certainly we can clarify this.

Mr. Fernandes mentioned some issues. I will tell you that the vote taken by Selectmen several months ago was, and a charge to me, to have a feasibility study on everything. The entire project on Commercial Street including everything. In many conversations with Mr. Kleekamp as to what products should be used, and products, many varying products were mentioned in his detailed reports. Suffice to say that one level of that project needed to take, and an estimate needed to come forward. That estimate being approximately \$5 to \$7 million dollars. We then heard from the public, and of course the Selectmen, and then a revised project was put forth to come up with some kind of solution to bring to you and maybe give you some alternative to discuss and to bring to town meeting.

The questions are being answered as you ask them, and the documentation has been forth here. It's just a matter of perhaps if you need those answers, I'm here to answer them, and you can call me anytime rather than coming to a Selectmen's meeting. The important thing is that the information has been offered, and there has been detailed reports. As a matter of fact two years ago in 2005 I have a memo written by Ms. Turner regarding the street paving for Commercial Street, and the price for that was \$530 to \$800K to resurface Commercial Street, including the Engineering for that. Looking into that, that would have been a surface paving with maybe 1 to 2 inches of clean up as your personal advise to you as well, but again, as explained to me, that will not fix the streets that are badly in need of repair and are in pretty bad shape. What that would do, as explained to me, is just cover the surface, make it look nice, but there would still be holes, ruts, and crumbling of the sidewalks.

So, we're left with information that we don't have, and more information that we need. In defense of the staff here, this is what we were charged to do. We did it, and it is now up for discussion, and we will provide any information that you would like.

Thank you.

MOTION: *Move that the board of selectmen vote to go into executive session, pursuant to MGL C.39, §23b, clause 3 for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to non-union personnel issues and not to convene in open session thereafter. [Roll Call Vote]*

Motion by: Michele Couture **Seconded by:** Austin Knight

Austin Knight - Yea Michele Couture – Yea Lynne Davies - Yea
Pam Parmakian - Yea Mary-Jo Avellar - Yea
Yea - 5 Nay 0 - Motion Passes -

The Board went into executive session at 7:25 PM.

-

Minutes transcribed by: Vernon Porter, Secretary - November 2, 2007