

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN - BOARD OF SELECTMEN

SPECIAL MEETING - MAY 26, 2000

JUDGE WELSH HEARING ROOM

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Chairman, Betty Steele-Jeffers opened the meeting at 8:15 AM, noting the following attendees: Board of Selectmen members: Elizabeth Steele-Jeffers, Cheryl Andrews, Mary-Jo Avellar, David Atkinson and Secretary to the Board of Selectmen – Vernon Porter. Excused Absence: Richard Prowell . Other attendees: Keith Bergman – Town Manager, Mark Latour – Assistant Town Manager, David Guertin – Director of Public Works, David Ditacchio – Marine Superintendent.

The following are minutes, in brief.

1. **CALL SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**
Supplemental Funding for MacMillan Pier Rehabilitation

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Regina Binder – (Building Committee) spoke in favor of the Board’s decision and will continue to work for the betterment of the project.

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David Ditacchio – thinks maybe we should be asking for \$1.5 million in case of unexpected additional expenses.

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Carla Anderson – Harbor Committee has not formally taken a vote and the Chairman is away but they will be meeting next week. Minutes of past meetings will reflect that this project has the total support of the Harbor Committee. On a personal side – in favor of this project

Gino Verzone – (Building Committee) – East Side walkway not needed and would be a substantial savings to the project.

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Paul Redlund (Co-Chair Building Committee) - Re: Chapter 91 Funds – Town cannot do anything until the litigation is finished.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN COMMENTS

Mary-Jo Avellar - My rationale for rebuilding MacMillan Pier has nothing to do with making it financially feasible. The reason we need to build is because the Pier is no longer serviceable and it’s a major source of revenue to the Town and it is a focal point as to why people come here. I have not supported this project because I feel that by focusing on making it financially feasible that we lose sight as to what it is we are in business for here in Provincetown. I totally support the east sidewalks of the pier even though I don’t like the project. People want to see fishermen, live fish, party boats, boats being unloaded. If the only way we are going to look at this project is in terms of getting it off the backs of the property tax payer – I’ll just continue not to support the project. I will support sending it to Town Meeting because I don’t think we’ve ever given the Town Meeting a realistic picture about this project – in the first place. Everything the Marine Superintendent said is true and I don’t think \$1.0M is going to be enough. I will support whoever makes the motion. I still think this is a bad project and it’s been designed and devised for all the wrong reasons.

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Cheryl Andrews - I mentioned it at last Tuesday night’s meeting and I’ll mention it again. Communication –

sometimes little discussions happen between one selectmen and another selectmen or selectmen and a staff person – until they come to the Board as an agenda item or at a public meeting, they don't exist because I don't know about it – or he doesn't or she doesn't know about it. There was never any agenda item from when we put this project out to bid until Tuesday night where staff suggested to go back and ask for additional funding. The issue of considering additional funding never jelled in my mind until the issue of a rebid came forward and I started to see the implications of a rebid along with further implications of more cuts. This is not looking like what we put out to bid or what we have taken to Town Meeting twice. So, my message to Staff is – that if you have a discussion where you think there is a way we ought to go that is not being discussed then it should be brought before the board. Otherwise that discussion doesn't seem to have very much – well it doesn't go anywhere.

The more important point, which is to the public, and all the folks who have done the work on the design of it – we are not here right now to debate the design that went out to bid. We did that already. What we're here to do is debate whether to re-bid this project and that quite frankly after reviewing the project and seeing the work you did, I think the decision should go back to the voters. As one voter, as one taxpayer this will be an easy decision for me to make on Town Meeting floor. For the five of us to make that big of a decision without the Town having a chance to discuss it and really see how much pier they can buy for their money is how we phrase it. I don't think that would be great for the Town. Whatever pier we build is going to live on for a long, long time. Some of these cuts - we could go back and make the additions later but some of these others are clearly changes that will live on forever and ever, so that's why I support going ahead and having a Town Meeting.

Betty Steele-Jeffers - Echoing some of what Cheryl said. In terms of honing in on the sidewalk, I think that, when we had talked about it before, we were talking about doing something different with the sidewalk, not the actual expensive sidewalk but some kind of walkway that would be more reasonable. What bothered me on Tuesday night was when it started to affect the fishermen. We gave our word to the fishermen – or I gave my word to the fisherman and what the cuts were going to do was to interfere with that particular occupation on the pier and therefore in turn might affect the business plan. If we start to cut into what the fishermen are going to have or what kind of money is going to come in after – and every single meeting we were at – I said that I was supporting the fishermen and when the consultants were here I kept asking what about the fishermen. Even though it may not be the industry it was, there might be another resurgence, and that goes in with what Mary-Jo is saying about that being a part of our heritage and part of what people look at. It is a seaside town after all. It was Tuesday night's discussion that really swayed me over – because I was not one in favor of adding more money to this project – that was enough money for me – that has been going on for years. But I really felt the integrity and the actual project itself - the cuts and changes were way beyond what peoples expectations were by Tuesday night and that's why I would support a Special Town Meeting.

David Atkinson – I was at the bid opening in January and from that moment on I thought that we should ask for more money and I am so pleased to see that we are going to.

MOTION: Move that the Board of Selectmen vote, pursuant to Charter sections 2-3-3 and 2-1-7, to convene a Special Town Meeting for Monday, June 26, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. in Provincetown Town Hall Auditorium; to open the warrant therefore, place the following article thereon, and the close the warrant.

Article 1. MacMillan Pier Reconstruction: Supplemental Local Funding. To see if the Town will vote as follows: WHEREAS, the Town has identified \$16,025,000 in local, state, and federal funds for all costs associated with the demolition and replacement of MacMillan Pier, of which \$14,576,721 is committed for construction costs; and WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen desires to accept AGM Marine, Inc.'s low bid of \$15,576,721 for said contract by increasing the Town's share of project costs by the needed \$1,000,000; and WHEREAS, by its vote under Article 3 of the April 5, 1999 Special Town Meeting, the Town authorized borrowing of \$2.8-million for this project; NOW, THEREFORE, the Town votes to appropriate and borrow the additional sum of \$1,000,000 to supplement the amount previously appropriated under Article 3 of the April 5, 1999 Special Town Meeting for the rehabilitation of MacMillan Pier and costs related thereto; and that the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said sum under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Sections 7 and 8, of the General Laws, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, and that to the extent that any State, Federal or other funds are or become available for the purposes set forth above, the Board of Selectmen is authorized to apply for and accept such funds; or take any other action relative thereto. *[Requested by the Board of Selectmen]*

Motion by: David Atkinson Seconded by: Mary-Jo Avellar Yea 4 Nay 0

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 AM by Mary-Jo Avellar.

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Minutes transcribed by: Vernon Porter, Secretary May 26, 2000