

MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 5, 2008

Present: Selectmen – Suzanne McAuliffe, Jim Hoben, Bud Groskopf, Dr. William Marasco, Jerry Sullivan; Town Administrator – Robert C. Lawton Jr.

Public:

Fire Department Cert Awards and Life Safety Awards

Chief Sherman – He presents two Citizen’s Life Safety Awards to Joe O’Claire, and Barry Sullivan for saving a near drowning victim.

Rick Todd – He also presents the Cert Awards (Community Emergency Response Team). He speaks about the program that started in 2003 and he reviews the events that the Cert Team participated in, including parades, and emergency events such as snow storms. He says thank you to the entire team for all their hard work.

Ms. McAuliffe – She thanks all the countless hours that the Cert Team has put in to the community.

Bob Kruger & Susan Colgan, Concerned Citizen’s Regarding Override

Mr. Kruger – He states that he is here to urge the Selectmen to have an override to support the town budgets. He says that he worked hard to pass the District Meeting, but he would like to restore the municipal budget. He reviews the petition to place an override on the ballot to fund town services; he says that the petition has over 1,100 signatures. He says that he is confident that a municipal override will pass because of the large coalition of supporters.

Ms. McAuliffe – She says that in terms of the Board of Selectmen’s position, the Board is looking at long term planning and how an override this year will effect the budget planning in years to come.

Tom Sullivan

Mr. Sullivan - He speaks about the citizens being unable to attend the District Meeting because of the time and the place. He says that Town Meeting should be held on Saturday mornings.

Peter Kenney

Mr. Kenney – He speaks about the District Meeting. He says that he is making a formal request for the Selectmen to audit the school district’s books over the past three years. He would also like for the school to pay for their building permits and other licenses.

Phil Morris – D-Y School Committee

Mr. Morris – He disagrees that the school’s accounts should been audited. He states that there is no hidden money in the school account.

Ms. McAuliffe – She asks Mr. Morris if the Finance Committee could get a list of personnel at each school.

Mr. Morris – He says that the Finance Committee was given that list. He also says that every question the Finance Committee asked was answered by the Superintendent.

Ms. McAuliffe – She says that as of last night the Finance Committee had not received the list of personnel. She also asks if the School Committee could provide a list of the 39 people who were cut from the School Department.

Mr. Morris – He says that 35 termination letters were handed out and the remaining 4 were retirements.

Ms. McAuliffe – She states that the Finance Committee will be attending the School Committee meetings to evaluate the school budget more effectively.

Mr. Morris – He says that he welcomes anyone to attend the School Committee meetings.

Ms. McAuliffe – She states that the Board would like to participate in joint meetings with School Committee unlike the previous year when the School Committee did not return the requests from the Selectmen.

Mr. Morris – He says that he is all for joint meetings, but he does not speak for the rest of the School Committee.

Ms. McAuliffe – She asks Mr. Morris to inform the School Committee that their refusal to meet jointly last year has not helped the current situation.

Patty Chadwick – W. Yarmouth Resident and Parent

Ms. Chadwick – She informs the Board that she is upset with hearing negative attitudes towards the schools. She is disappointed that the town and the schools have been pitted against each other. She says that there should be an override for the town budget.

John Simpkins School Continued Discussion:

Ms. McAuliffe – She states that the John Simpkins Committees (Re-use and Review) are present.

Mr. Lawton – He informs the Board that he has not signed the contract to use the Preservation Committee Funds for the building because he has some issues with the contract wording, for example the contract has language in it that would restrict the town from specific uses in the future. He is waiting to sign the contract with the CPC before any CPC money can be used for repairs to prevent water infiltration.

Mr. Hoben – He says that the determining the use of the Simpkins School is a very difficult decision since there is a lack of funding on the town side but, he is concerned with making long term decisions to solve a short term problem.

Mr. Sullivan – He says that for over a year now there have been discussions about the use of the building. He says that the town does not have the money or the will to raise the money for the building; he would like to see an RFP sent out to determine if there is outside interest in the building.

Dr. Marasco – He states that he would like to see more ideas for uses of the building. He also speaks about using the building for an artist community. He believes that there is funding available in the form of grants and earmarks. He would like John Simpkins Review Committee to investigate funding.

Mr. Groskopf – He speaks about the village green idea for the field in front of the Simpkins School.

Ms. McAuliffe – She says that she supports the RFP process. She does not think at this point the building can be used for municipal purposes, she states that it is a very difficult building. She indicates that a RFP would at least allow the Board to see the opportunities available for the building.

Art deBonville – He says that the John Simpkins Re-use Committee did look into 19 outside funding sources and he states that there was no money available.

The discussion continues with regards to repairing the roof. The Board continues to discuss financing for the school and putting out an RFP.

Mr. Sullivan motions to put out an open ended RFP for the Simpkins School and to retain the exterior.
Mr. Hoben seconds. **VOTE 5-0**

Mr. Groskopf motions to form a committee to research the village green option on the John Simpkins field. Mr. Sullivan seconds. **VOTE 5-0**

Continued Discussion - District Meeting Response with Finance Committee:

Fire Chief

Police Chief

Discussion - Special Town Meeting

Mr. Lawton – He reviews the cuts list which amounts to just over \$1.5 million dollars. He says that he has asked the Fire Chief and Police Chief update the Board on what the cuts would entail for their departments.

Chief Sherman – He states that 98% of the Fire Department’s budget consists of wages and overtime. He says that a 7% cut will include the closure of Station 3. He says that there will be no layoffs of personnel but there will be increased initial response time for all services. He reviews why station 3 will need to be closed. He also states that this year there has been an 8.3% call increase.

The Board discusses Fire Department staffing for the three stations as well as overtime.

Chief Almonte – He reviews the reductions that will includes eliminating 5 police officers, eliminating 2 clerks, reducing part-time hours and also reducing overtime. He reviews what the cuts will mean including the reduction in proactive patrol and crime prevention time. He continues to speak about the reductions in response times.

The Board discusses police staffing in the summer. Chief Almonte informs the Board that the majority of the arrests are year-round residents not summer visitors or residents.

Dr. Marasco – He asks several questions with regards to response times.

The discussion continues with regards to a possible override to reduce the pain in cuts.

Mr. Sullivan – He states that whatever way you put it, and override for municipal purposes is an override for the schools because it’s been forced upon the town. He does not think the sentiment is out there to pass an override this year.

Mr. Lawton – He discusses the fees and the cuts in the town budgets. He informs the Selectmen that they had to decide on whether or not to ask for any override or not by the August 12th, 2008 meeting. He

states that one of the major problems is that there are currently no reserve funds therefore a portion of the money from fee increases needs to go to reserve accounts. He reviews the possible election and Special Town Meeting dates.

Selectmen’s Items:

Mr. Groskopf – He states that the Board has received letters wanting to donate money to the town.

Ms. McAuliffe – She discusses the Clean Water Bill that Senator O’Leary is supporting.

Town Administrator’s Items:

Consent Agenda

Mr. Lawton – He reviews the consent agenda.

Motioned. Seconded. **VOTE 5-0**

Mr. Lawton – He says that he can’t emphasize enough the amount of support the employees have shown to get through this bad situation. He also says that the town has received from the MA Technology Collaborative a possibility of getting a free solar power light for a flag pole. He states that the DPW Director has applied for the solar power light.

Ms. McAuliffe – She states that the two Town Administrators will begin to discuss de-regionalization of Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District.

Mr. Sullivan – He says that the level of cooperation that the employees have shown is unusual. He also says that Mr. Lawton has improved the town in drastic ways, including streamlining with budgets. He thanks Mr. Lawton for staying in Yarmouth, and for all of the things that he has done for the town.

Adjourn

Motioned. Seconded. **VOTE 5-0**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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AUGUST 5TH, 2008
CONSENT AGENDA**

Donation to DPW:

**Memorial Bench Thacher Shore Park
For Robert and Mary Fox \$650.00**

Donation to Administration:

**“Adopt a Town Employee Program”
Michael T. Walsh & Laurie A. Walsh \$250.00**

**cc: George Allaire, DPW Director
Robert C. Lawton, Jr., Administrator**

VOTE: 5-0