

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WORKSHOP MEETING
AUGUST 12, 2008**

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

Housing Authority – Forest Road Update Elderly and Family Housing

The Housing Authority reviews the Forest Road Project, including site plans for elderly and family housing (mixed use), including the possibility of 2 and 3 bedroom units.

Dr. Marasco – He believes that the site was originally purchased for senior housing exclusively.

The discussion continues with regards to the benefits (available financing) of a mixed use rather than only elderly housing. According to the Housing Authority there are no available funds solely for senior housing, therefore mixed use is the only way to receive funds. The Housing Authority says that their intention is to develop elderly housing on the site first.

The Board would like more specifics from the Housing Authority with regards to the project. The Board agrees that as long as the town is not tied down to a plan they can approve the feasibility study for the land.

Mr. Hoben – Motions to move forward to explore financing options from the state for the Forest Rd. location. **VOTE 4-0-1** (Mr. Sullivan abstains)

Special Town Meeting/Override Discussion for September 16th & 17th

Mr. Lawton – He informs the Board that they must do two things this evening, first to call a Special Town Meeting and secondly to discuss and determine if the Board would like an override election. He also states that the Board must look though the fee increase list.

Mr. Marasco – He agrees that raising the fees is a good idea because the burden will shift from the tax payer to the users. He is disappointed that the energy costs are rising so quickly.

Ms. McAuliffe- She informs the Board that the new fees will be available for review at the Town Administrator's Office and online at the Town of Yarmouth's website.

Mr. Lawton – He says that he would like the Selectmen to vote on the fees before the STM, therefore they know the approximate amount of cuts needed. He reviews the proposed article 5 which includes possibilities for overrides.

Ms. McAuliffe – She reviews the idea of having only a public safety override to keep fire, police and natural resources at their current levels. She states that she attended the most recent School Committee Workshop Meeting where the Superintendent informed the meeting that the school has an \$800,000 deficit on the current budget. She says this information brings up several issues including creditability, management, working relationships, and budgeting questions within the school.

Mr. Sullivan – He states that since this new \$800,000 deficit information has come to light along with public opinion he now supports an effort for an override for the entire amount. He says that he does not

take lightly the idea that the override will only be an additional \$70.00 per year. He states that he has changed his mind because the circumstances are now different.

Mr. Groskopf – He states that he would like the newspaper reporters to publish the administrative increases at the school district.

Mr. Hoben – He is concerned about the long range view, and the town will need another override again next year. He is nervous that a \$1.5 million dollar override will not pass this year.

Mr. Lawton – He says that in some cases there will be additional hearings in other departments to make specific cuts, for example the Library Board. The decisions made tonight will be just a dollar figure.

Ms. McAuliffe – She opens the floor to public comment.

Mr. Snowden – He asks the Board to support a complete full override, as an affirmative statement that proves how well the Town of Yarmouth is run. He says that he is very upset that the School Department has deceived the public and did not release the additional deficit of \$800,000 until after the District Meeting. He informs the Board that there will be a recall petition for three of the four Yarmouth members on the School Committee.

Mr. Kenney – He asks the possible override numbers.

Mr. Lawton – He says the full override will be for \$1.4 million dollars, and for public safety would be \$753,295 (police, fire and natural resources salaries only).

Mr. Kenney – He speaks about Proposition 2 ½, and what levels of service the town wants to preserve. He says that Yarmouth is one of the most well run town in Massachusetts. He supports an override for \$1.4 million dollars. He also talks about the new growth on Rt. 28.

Mr. Morris (School Committee Member) – He states that he disagrees with use of the word “deficit” in speaking about current school budget. He reviews the school’s budget with regards to several accounts including choice and charter accounts. He says that the school projects their revenue to the bone and do not underestimate revenues.

Ms. McAuliffe – She asks Mr. Morris for the list of the 39 people cut again. Mr. Morris says that he will get the list to the Board.

Ms. Greely - She states she is representing the Hyannis Park Association. She says that the neighborhood is extremely upset about hearing there is a lack of options with regards to the budget especially fire protection. She says that currently the response times are unacceptable. She says the neighborhood is extremely upset that Fire Station 3 could close. She states that she would like to see as a bare minimum an override for public safety.

Mr. Foran (Chairman of Yarmouth Finance Committee) – He says that he would like to invite the Board to a joint meeting on September 22nd, 2008 between the Yarmouth Finance Committee, Dennis Finance Committee, Yarmouth Selectmen, Dennis Selectmen and the School Committee.

Chief Michael Almonte – He applauds the Selectmen. He states that citizens should not be angry about the past but to move forward and support municipal services.

Tom Sullivan – He asks about the property reevaluation. Mr. Lawton says that the revaluations will be in effect for next year. Mr. Sullivan would like to have a hearing to discuss the possibility of an override before the election.

Ms. Revita Morris – She says that people don't understand that an override is not a one time assessment it permanently goes on to the tax base.

Roy Mortin – He comments on how well the town's budget has been crafted. He says that the money has been taken from the town therefore this override is only to restore the budget that was voted in April.

Mr. Sprague – He speaks about the possibility of another school override next year.

Ms. Gregorio – She represents Hyannis Park area, she says that Yarmouth needs the public safety department's fully funded.

Ms. McAuliffe – She thanks the residents for all their comments, she then asks the Board for their input.

Dr. Marasco – He speaks about the Yarmouth residents voting down two overrides because he believes that the voters do not want their taxes raised. He says that at this point he does not support an override.

Mr. Hoben – He says that he is in favor of at least doing an override for the public safety.

The discussion continues between the Board with regards to suggesting a public safety override or a full municipal override.

Mr. Sullivan – Motions to support a \$1.4 million dollar override and to hold a special election on September 16th, 2008. Mr. Hoben seconds. Discussion is open.

Mr. Groskopf – He speaks about having a smaller override that would be half of the \$1.4 million.

Mr. Hoben – He believes that the citizens will see a return for their money on a \$1.4 million dollar override.

Ms. McAuliffe – She agrees with Mr. Hoben on recommending the full override.

Mr. Sullivan – He says that this override is not an increase of the budget; it is to restore the budget agreed upon at the April 2007 Town Meeting.

Ms. McAuliffe – She asks for a vote on the motion. Mr. Groskopf amends the motion to change the override to \$853,000. No one seconds. The main motion is still on the floor for \$1.4 million dollars. **VOTE 3-2** (Mr. Groskopf & Dr. Marasco vote no) She states that she hopes the taxpayers understand that this override is to restore municipal budgets. She says that however the residents vote the Selectmen will not disagree and this will be the last vote this year.

Mr. Lawton – He asks that the Board votes to open and close a warrant for a Special Town Meeting on September 17th, 2008.

Mr. Sullivan – Motions to open a warrant for a Special Town Meeting. Mr. Hoben seconds. **VOTE 5-0**

Mr. Lawton – Asks the Board to vote on one article for the warrant for Special Town Meeting.

Mr. Hoben – Motions to close the warrant. Mr. Sullivan seconds. **VOTE 5-0**

Appointments:

Community & Economic Development Comm.

Energy Committee

Planning Board

Community Housing Committee

Mr. Hoben – He recommends an appointment and a re-appointment to the CEDC.

Mr. Sullivan – Motioned. Mr. Groskopf seconds.

Dr. Marasco – He comments on a possible reorganization of the CEDC in the future. **VOTE 4-0** (Mr. Sullivan absent)

Mr. Hoben – He recommends an appointment to the Energy Committee.

Ms. McAuliffe – Motioned. Mr. Groskopf seconds. **VOTE 4-0** (Mr. Sullivan absent)

Mr. Hoben – He recommends an appointment and a re-appointment to the Planning Board.

Ms. McAuliffe – Motioned. Mr. Sullivan seconds.

The Board discusses the Planning Board appointments. **VOTE 4-1** (Dr. Marasco votes no)

Mr. Hoben – He recommends an appointment and a re-appointment to the Community Housing Committee.

Mr. Sullivan – Motioned. Mr. Groskopf seconds. **VOTE 5-0**

Town Administrator's Items:

Consent Agenda

Mr. Lawton – He reviews the consent agenda.

Mr. Sullivan – Motioned. Mr. Hoben seconds. **VOTE 5-0**

Mr. Lawton – He reviews the current housing programs, Old Cedar Lane, Buy-down Program etc. He says that Board must approve the current housing programs and allow for the Chairman of the BOS to sign the local initiative program applications. Mr. Sullivan motions. Mr. Hoben seconds. **VOTE 5-0**

Mr. Lawton – He says hi to his grandson Kai who is in town visiting for the week.

Selectmen's Items:

Ms. McAuliffe – She states that she spoke on the Clean Water Act at the Barnstable Town Hall yesterday in front of Governor Patrick. She states she would like people to call the Governor's Office in support of the Clean Water Act which will help towns receive funds for sewerage. She also informs the Board that she will be going to Boston to speak with the Attorney General with regards to how the proposed wind farm may effect the electric rates on the Cape.

Adjourn

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

**CONSENT AGENDA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WORKSHOP MEETING
AUGUST 12, 2008**

Donations Police Department:

6-26-08	Training Town of Harwich	\$190.00
7-03-08	Training Town of Plymouth	\$875.00
6-26-08	Training Town of Sherborn	\$285.00
7-10-08	Training Town of Walpole	\$1,080.00

Date: August 12th, 2008

Voted: 5-0