

Minutes
Board of Selectmen
Workshop Meeting
September 23, 2008

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

Mr. Daniel Santos, Chairman Barnstable Municipal Airport Commission– Update

Ms. McAuliffe welcomes Mr. Santos. Mr. Santos introduces himself as the new Airport Commission Chairman. He says that he would like to reestablish a dialogue with the Town of Yarmouth and towns that surround the airport. He reviews his background in environmental engineering and the military. He speaks about setting a new agenda including building a new terminal. He says that he will come before the Board again once the Terminal Master Plan is finished to allow the Board to make comments and suggestions on the plan.

The Board asks several questions to Mr. Santos regarding capacity of passengers. Mr. Santos says that the airport handles 200,000 passengers a year. The Board continues to discuss the benefits and possible negatives on the new terminal. Dr. Marasco speaks about cleaning up the two ponds that are on the property, and also reducing the traffic from exit 7 by creating an access road to the airport. In addition Dr. Marasco reviews the noise issues. Mr. Groskopf asks if the airport can accommodate larger jets. Mr. Santos says that larger jets can use the airport, but it depends on the airlines seeing enough business. Bob Howard the Rep. to the Airport Commission speaks about the meetings getting on Channel 18. Ms. McAuliffe also speaks about the benefits of a Willow Street extension to the airport.

Classification Hearing – Tax Rate FY09

Ms. McAuliffe introduces Joe Sullivan and Bill Lionetta from the Yarmouth Board of Assessors and Matt Zurowick the Town Assessor. Matt Zurowick speaks about the reclassification, he says that all the commercial business in Yarmouth is on Rt. 28, but the town does not get a lot of money from commercial businesses because the commercial areas are concentrated on Rt. 28. Mr. Zurowick reviews examples and impacts if a residential exemption was put into place.

Dr. Marasco speaks about commercial businesses being affected more by a residential exemption because commercial businesses make up only 9% of the tax base, but he says that commercial properties use more fire and police services. Therefore Dr. Marasco says to make the situation fair there should be a residential exemption to shift the burden to commercial businesses or there should be additional fees charged to the commercial businesses for fire and police usage. Mr. Sullivan explains that traffic accidents where a second home owner is involved the call is listed as a commercial use, but he says that the expense percentage has not changed over the years. Mr. Hoben also agrees with the 1:1 factor on commercial and residential tax rates to bring in more businesses to Yarmouth. The discussion continues with regards to growing the commercial base so that in the future an adjustment could be considered.

Ms. McAuliffe asks for public comment on the tax hearing. No one comes forward. Dr. Marasco motions to set the tax rate as a factor of 1 with no residential factor and no small business factor. Mr. Groskopf seconds. **VOTE 5-0**

Planning Board – Zoning By-Law update and Discussion of Proposed Cape Cod Commission Regional Policy Plan

Colleen Kramer from the Planning Board speaks about future zoning by-law updates including the hotel/motel overlay district II, the sign code and residential energy by-laws. The Board speaks about the future zoning by-laws. Mr. Hoben asks about what types of amendments the Board is considering for the hotel/motel overlay district II. Mr. Sylvia the Town Planner speaks about changing how the town measures building height on South Shore Drive the hotel/motel overlay district II. The discussion continues about potential zoning changes in the South Shore Drive by-law. The Board continues the discussion with regards to zoning changes around exist 8 including more infrastructure. The Planning Board also talks about zoning on Route 28.

The Planning Board discusses recommendations on the RPP. Karen Greene reviews the recommendations and speaks about the thresholds that are in place today. Ms. Greene talks about resource protection areas, slosh zones and thresholds for those zones being only 7,500 feet. The Board continues to discuss the Cape Cod Commissions zoning map for Yarmouth. Ms. McAuliffe says that there are more problems with the RPP than just the mitigation and thresholds. Bob Dubois the Director of the Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce speaks about the public hearings the Commission has held on the RPP, he says after 25 hours of hearings he realizes that the RPP needs a lot of work. Mr. Dubois informs the Board of some of the areas the need further review, he says that the current RPP as of today tells developers what to build, where to build it, how to build it, what type of power to use, what it should look like, who should design it, and who to hire to work in it and what rents to charge your tenants. He says that the RPP will not help Yarmouth expand its commercial tax base. Paul Rommel from Davenport Reality speaks about his issues with the RPP.

Peter Smith the Chairman of the Community and Economic Development Committee also speaks about the issues with the RPP including the possibility of a reduction in tourism. Peter Kenney comments on his problems with the RPP DRI thresholds, and slosh zones. Mr. Hoben says that if the RPP is not revised by the deadline the Board should ask the Assembly of Delegates not to accept the RPP until it's ready. Charlotte Striebel from the County Assembly of Delegates reviews the dates for the public comment period, she also says that the Delegates are required to hold several public hearings on the RPP and the plan is not written in stone until the Delegates have voted upon it. In addition the RPP once passed will be reviewed on an annual basis. Renie Hamman says that the end of the comment period for both the town and the public is October 8th, also if the town wants their land use vision map included in the RPP it must be before the Commission on October 16th.

Discussion – Override Vote/STM

Mr. Lawton reviews the reductions that have been put into place as a result of the failed override. He says that the FY10 budget needs to be started immediately. He says that the Technical School already has 19 new students again for the upcoming year which will be an additional financial burden. Mr. Lawton informs the Board that Yarmouth is not alone in the financial crisis but that there are several other communities on the Cape that will face problems in FY10. Ms. McAuliffe says that going forward her plan is to have the school district financial figures to the Board as early as possible and do a community planning meeting to let the school know where the Town of Yarmouth is financially. Mr. Sullivan says that the Board needs to realize that there is no support from the School Committee. He agrees with Ms. McAuliffe that the Board should try and keep the communication open but the town has tried for many years with no avail. The Board continues to discuss the School Committee, their budgeting process and how money was distributed after John Simpkins was closed.

The Board agrees to send letters to the outgoing County Commissioners thanking them for their service to the Town of Yarmouth. Dr. Marasco informs the Board that Ship Shop's had celebrated their 50th anniversary in business, he would like the Board to send a proclamation for their success in business, the Board agrees. Dr. Marasco also says that the new president of Cape Cod Hospital would like to sit down with the Selectmen at the hospital instead of the Yarmouth Senior Center. Finally Dr. Marasco speaks about possible grants for businesses using the Simpkins School as an economic incubator.

Adjourn

Ms. McAuliffe asks for a motion to adjourn. Motioned. Seconded. VOTE 5-0 Meeting Adjourned at approximately 9:55pm.