

MINUTES BOARD OF SELECTMEN MARCH 27, 2008

Present: Thomas Keyes, Adam Chaprales, Frank Pannorfi, Randal Hunt, Linell Grundman

George Dunham, Douglas Lapp, SACAT, Sandwich Enterprise, Sandwich Broadsider, Representative Jeffrey Perry, Robert Jensen, Ted Brovitz, consultants of Stantec Architecture, residents present for Local Comprehensive Plan Workshop, Bill Karig, Shawn Murray, Carl Johansen, Dana Barrett, Cindy Russell, Kate Bavelock, Doreen Guild, John Johnson, Jan Timmons



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Chaprales moved the minutes of March 13 as presented. Mr. Pannorfi seconded. Mr. Chaprales amended the minutes to say that he “recused himself from the Treasurer’s discussion due to his association with NASD. Mr. Pannorfi moved the change as noted. Mr. Chaprales seconded. Unanimous.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

- The tri-board meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, and School Committee is Tuesday, April 1; and the regularly scheduled Selectmen’s meeting is Thursday, April 3.
- The 2007 Town Reports are available in town buildings and online.

CORREPONDENCE/STATEMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ms. Grundman attended the Senior Management board meeting and the Textron settlement was discussed. The money, put in NRD trust, can be used to mitigate damage to affected water sources. Mr. Pannorfi mentioned the WQAC has been dealing with the Pompanasset Bay issue. The group was approached by Hap Ganzar of the IRP who reminded the group of the settlement and the possibility of using the funds for consultant work. The settlement case involved Textron testing of munitions on the J Range on the MMR. Ms. Grundman said they would have to go before the Trustee Board for funding requests and it has to be directly related to water damage.
- Ms. Grundman also reported on an Unexploded Ordinance Program, which has been developed as a warning for residents and children. The Base will be

bringing in specialized equipment that residents might see around the Forestdale area.

- The MMR is welcoming a student from West Point specializing in engineering this summer and they invite any Sandwich High School or college student to tour with the engineering student.
- Ms. Grundman said the combining of the citizens groups on the MMR is still being considered. However, they have elected to keep the Senior Management Board as a separate entity. They have decided to combine the PCT and IART and see how it goes. The Town is still in need of a representative on the IART.
- Ms. Grundman congratulated the Sandwich High School Hockey Team for winning the State Championship for the first time in Sandwich history.
- Mr. Hunt explained the new Tax Incentive Program and said seniors, who do not normally have to file a return, must file this year in order to be eligible for the incentive.
- Mr. Keyes announced the Town has been awarded a 2008 E-Government Award from Common Cause Massachusetts for posting all the Town's key records on its website.
- A discussion was held between the Board members regarding concerns over interpretation of the Open Meeting Law and a recent issue where three Selectmen were present at a Finance Committee meeting. Several Board members contacted the Assistant District Attorney and had different interpretations of the ruling.

PUBLIC FORUM

- Carl Johansen congratulated and wished to recognize the girls' high school basketball team. Mr. Johansen also discussed the budget figures presented by the School Committee at the Finance Committee meeting. He questioned if the additional Chapter 70 money has been included in the School's budget.
- Mr. Bill Karig asked if by using the Stabilization Fund, the Finance Committee's vote would result in a "back door" to a Proposition 2 ½ override.
- Mr. Dunham explained the difference between using the Stabilization Fund, which is a one-time expenditure vs. a 2-½ override, which is a permanent increase on the tax rate.
- Ms. Maureen Wicklund spoke in favor of the Finance Committee's motion to use the Stabilization Fund to be used for operational expenses. She also mentioned that the Forestdale and Oakridge School debt expires next year, which will mean tax bills will go down.

STAFF MEETING – REPRESENTATIVE PERRY

Representative Jeff Perry announced the House and Senate have settled on the Local Aide Resolution. Sandwich is receiving \$6,873,318 in Chapter 70, \$1,314,390 in Lottery, and \$88,406 in Additional Assistance. Mr. Pannorfi mentioned the inequity in the Chapter 70 distribution. Mr. Perry agreed and said he has filed legislation to change it but the political reality is it probably won't. Once the 5-year plan is up, there may be

another opportunity. Mr. Keyes asked Mr. Perry about the bill that was going to provide cities and towns with additional Aide. Mr. Keyes asked if Mass. Municipal has sent a letter supporting the additional aid. Mr. Perry has requested but has not receiving the letter from Mr. Beckworth and added that the letter would certainly be helpful. Mr. Perry said the above mention figures do not include any additional funds such as the sports complex, glass museum etc. just the four major accounts. Mr. Hunt asked about the possibility of the 5% income tax being raised. Mr. Perry stated no tax or fee is safe in this political environment. Mr. Perry is against raising taxes or fees unless and until reforms are done. Mr. Perry also added he was 1 of 2 who did not support the mandatory health care bill feeling that there were a lot of issues that were not addressed causing the high increase is unanticipated costs.

Mr. Dunham reviewed the FY09 budget and discussed the votes taken at the recent Finance Committee. On Tuesday evening, the Finance Committee voted 5-4 to take \$100,000 from the golf course line item and put it towards the golf course debt. They also voted 8-1 to take \$400,000 from stabilization to allow for a 4% general government and 4% school department local contribution. Present to discuss the Golf Department were Town Accountant Doreen Guild, Golf Director John Johnson and Assistant Town Administrator Doug Lapp. The Board did not feel taking \$100,000 was a wise choice and Mr. Keyes commented it is working in the wrong direction. Mr. Pannorfi said the 2005 Town Meeting was approached about selling the course and the voters voted to keep it and were willing to pay the debt to fix it up. Ms. Grundman mentioned the Golf Committee report which recommended the Golf Course contribute \$210,000 to the debt and she feels the Finance Committee based their vote on that report. Mr. Dunham explained the report, which was done by one member, includes figures as if the Town was operating the food and beverage. Mr. Dunham added that the Department has made \$255,000 more than its costs to run the course. The additional revenue is being put aside to make major capital repairs to the clubhouse. Mr. Pannorfi stated it is not good for the staff or its membership to keep talking about selling it and efforts needs to be made to decide to keep the course and make the improvements. Mr. Chaprales asked if the Golf Advisory Committee ever took a formal vote to take \$210,000 from the Golf budget. Mr. Johnson replied no, not ever in his presence. Mr. Pannorfi asked the rationale for the Finance Committee to vote for a 4% budget when the Selectmen submitted a 3 ½%. Mr. Dunham stated he feels the Finance Committee gave the School Department 4% based on their needs and to be fair gave the Town 4% as well. Mr. Pannorfi asked why they voted to take the money from the Golf Course and not the Community School? Mr. Hunt also does not support taking the money from the Golf Department. He also mentioned that the budget figures approved for the School Department by the Finance Committee do not include the \$179,000 in additional Chapter 70 funds. Mr. Hunt thinks the Selectmen should hold at the 3 ½ % which they already voted. Mr. Pannorfi said the only way to avoid an override is to keep it at 3 ½%. Ms. Grundman agrees with the 4% and does not think it will cause the need for an override next year. She does not believe the \$179,000 should be included until it has been appropriated. She also believes it is healthy to discuss a needs budget, both for the school and the general government to let the community know what the needs are. Mr. Hunt reiterated the need for a financial plan from the School Department. Ms. Grundman said

the School Department needs a chance to develop its programs. The Board agreed it would be beneficial to meet with the Finance Committee and School Committee next week. Mr. Dunham said the final vote on the budget needs to be made the first week in April. Mr. Dunham added that the local receipts have already been submitted and approved. The DOR sent a notice to all towns notifying them not to go over estimated local receipts. Mr. Keyes said the Board needs to send a message to the Finance Committee that they do not support taking \$100,000 from the Golf Course and that the Board is firm in supporting 3 ½% for both the school and general government budget. Mr. Chaprales stated he could not attend the meeting where the budget was voted; however, he does support the 3 ½% and 3 ½% as voted by the Board.

LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN VISIONING WORKSHOP

Zoning Board Chair Bob Jensen requested that the Board reschedule the workshop due to the late hour. The workshop is a 2-hour presentation and they do not feel at this late hour they could do it justice. Mr. Ted Brovitz, Project Manager, Stantec Planning & Landscape Architecture, the consultant for the LCP, said they would reschedule the workshop to April 17 at Oak Crest Cove. There will also be a 3-day design workshop May 8, 9, and 10 at Oak Crest Cove. Mr. Brovitz will be at the Planning Office every Tuesday for residents to come by and express their views. Ms. Grundman thanked Mr. Brovitz and Mr. Jensen for doing a show on SACAT. The consultants are hoping to have a full draft of the plan done by the end of June. Residents are encouraged to give their input on what they would like the Town to look like. The first area the consulting group is concentrating on is the “Golden Triangle”, Route 130, Quaker Meetinghouse and Cotuit Road area. It is hoped through this plan to make new regulations that match the town’s vision. Mr. Keyes asked that the Board be kept informed of any proposed zoning articles for future Town Meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Ms. Grundman asked if fines were ever issued to the person caught dumping trash behind the Oak Ridge School. Mr. Chaprales would like to have the person’s name be made public.
2. Mr. Dunham reported that once the new sidewalk construction on Quaker Meetinghouse Road has been up for a while, the Town can re-examine if the Forestdale School light meets the State thresholds for installation of a pedestrian light.
3. Ms. Grundman asked that the Town continue pursuing putting public restrooms in the Jarves/Route 6A downtown area.
4. Mr. Pannorfi said the restrooms at Town Hall Square need updating and painting.
5. Ms. Grundman asked about the multitude of signs off the Exit 2 ramp. Mr. Dunham mentioned they are within the State layout. He also mentioned that the VSB has been working on a “wayfinder system” which would improve signage.
6. Ms. Grundman asked about filling the Cape Cod Commission appointment. The Board agreed to have Mr. Dunham nominated a staff person to fill the position temporarily and to begin taking letters of interest from residents. The term is for

3 years. Mr. Dunham mentioned Sandwich does currently have a representative, Mr. John Harris.

PUBLIC FORUM

1. Shawn Murray discussed the FY09 budget. Mr. Dunham stated that the figures handed out by Paul Kilty at the Finance Committee were different than his.
2. Mr. Karig spoke about the employee wage and increases and other budget issues.
3. Mr. Johansen said more discussion on the budget process is needed.

CLOSING REMARKS

1. Mr. Hunt responded to Ms. Wicklunds comments on the tax reduction when the school is paid off. His response was yes there will be a reduction in taxes; however, it does not affect the levy capacity. It is expected the retiring debt in '09 will be a \$200 savings per household.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Chaprales moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Disposition of Real Property and coming out for adjournment only. Mr. Pannorfi seconded. Mr. Chaprales, Mr. Pannorfi, Mr. Hunt, Ms. Grundman, Mr. Keyes so moved. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Coggeshall