

MINUTES BOARD OF SELECTMEN JULY 23, 2009
7:00 P.M.
Human Services Building, Quaker Meetinghouse Road

Present: John Kennan, Randal Hunt, Linell Grundman, James Pierce

George Dunham, Douglas Lapp, SACAT, Sandwich Enterprise, Tom Keyes, Kate Bavelock, Brian Clifford, Jeff Speilman, Joe Giampietro, Jessie Parkins

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hunt moved to accept the minutes of July 9, 2009. Ms. Grundman seconded. Unanimous.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. The Finance Committee met Tuesday evening to act on an request from the School Committee for a Reserve Fund transfer to repair a piece of equipment that failed at the Oak Ridge School wastewater treatment facility. The request was turned down by the Finance Committee. Mr. Dunham will discuss options under Old Business.
2. Town Clerk Taylor White will begin opening the Town Clerk's Office on Tuesday evenings until 8:00 p.m. beginning August 4 and continuing the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.
3. An unexploded ordinance was found at the Base and will be detonated tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m.
4. The Federal Government is proposing to dredge the canal by the Sandwich Marina. The Town has been working with the Corps to accept the spoils for the beach; however, they are planning to use these spoils in Boston. The Town will be submitting comments to request an EIR before the work is done.
5. Due to recent publicity, the Town will be meeting with the Conservation Law Foundation the 3rd week in August to show them everything the Town has done regarding our wastewater planning.
6. A public hearing will be scheduled in late Fall to adopt shell fishing regulations.

CORRESPONDENCE/STATEMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Cape & Islands Selectmen's Executive Board met last Thursday and their next meetings are: September 11, October 9, and November 13 and then the Christmas dinner. Board members are welcome to bring forth topics for discussion. Town Managers are invited to the Board meetings.

PUBLIC FORUM

Wendy Kiedeisch asked for a status report on her complaint regarding a path and dock next to her property. She also would like a letter from the Board stating that she was removed from the Conservation Commission.

STAFF MEETING – Tom Keyes

Mr. Keyes stated there is a committee to raise funds to restore the piano found upstairs in Town Hall which they believe dates back to 1915. The committee is looking for anyone who has history and pictures of the piano. The estimate is \$1,600 to repair it and they have a “pre-commitment” from the Voke to refurbish the outside. Town Hall has set up a donation account. Carl Johanson is hoping to have the Civics Class do some research on it.

Mr. Keyes gave an update on County issues. He discussed “Chapter H” which would change the DRI Threshold from 10,000 to 30,000 as a way to expedite economic development. If a Town decides, they would also have a chance to lower the threshold as well. The change would have to be approved at Town Meeting. Chapter H was born from the 21st Century Task Force to make the County more efficient. He also discussed the State taking over the Sherriff’s department which means a \$970,000 saving to the County. He did note that the current budget was done on the presumption that this would happen. Mr. Keyes also voted against the increase in the Deed Tax. In addition, Mr. Keyes discussed the Cape Cod Health Care proposal which would allow anyone who “proves they are here”, to be given healthcare. The problem is the costs will be borne by Cape taxpayers – which could double the tax rate. This Bill is already being sponsored at the State House.

CAPE COD COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE VACANCY

The Board interviewed: David Darling, Paul Houlihan, Joanne O’Keefe and Susan Pommrehn for the vacant seat on the Cape Cod Commission. The Board thanked the candidates and will make a decision soon.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Dunham discussed the local tax options and the options for approving it and receiving the funds. The increase must be approved at Town Meeting. The meals tax is .75 of 1%. Best guess for additional receipts is \$128,000. As far as the rooms’ tax, the maximum increase is 2%. Any rooms’ tax proceeds above \$160,000 are split 50/50 with the Visitor Services Board. The state estimates for a 1% increase is less than \$37,000. Mr. Kennan read a letter against the increase from the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce. Kate Bavelock, of the Sandwich Chamber, spoke against it; as well as business owners Brian Clifford, Jeff Speilman, Joe Giampietro, Jessie Parkins all stating it would really hurt the

business community. Mr. Dunham added that the proposed increase was not on the Cherry Sheet. Mr. Dunham outlined the timeframe if Town Meeting does approve it. Mr. Hunt stated he will not vote for it if it goes to Town Meeting.

- Mr. Dunham shared the new Mission Statement with the Superintendent. The Board would also like the School Committee to receive it. Mr. Hunt and Mr. Pierce are going through the Core Services and the fiscal projections which are based around these services and according to the line items in the budgets.
- Mr. Dunham discussed the treatment plant issues at the Oak Ridge treatment plant which became an issue where there was a freeze up at the plant. The DEP has ordered that the part be fixed which could cost up to \$180,000. The School Department has \$50,000 in a treatment plant account, so their request to the Finance Committee for a Reserve Fund Transfer was \$130,000 - \$140,000. The Finance Committee felt the money should be taken from the School Department budget. They were concerned about taking over half of the Reserve Fund account the first month into the new fiscal year. If it is not fixed, it could cost up to \$3,000 weekly to pump out and could face a \$1,000 day penalty from DEP. Mr. Dunham noted that Ted Hamilton and Skip Tetreault are working on a comprehensive maintenance report for the Capital Improvement Planning Committee. The other options for funding are using their own money and being reimbursed by Free Cash or go to a Special Town Meeting for a Stabilization fund transfer which requires a 2/3 vote. Mr. Dunham added the problem was identified in 2008. The School Department made changes they thought would last but they didn't – they are also pursuing an insurance claim. Mr. Hunt asked if the School Committee has determined how they are going to reduce the budget by the \$130,000 Chapter 70 fund cuts. Mr. Dunham thought it would have to go to a Special Town Meeting to decrease it before the tax rate is set.

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC FORUM

- Bill Trautman, a retired Architect in Sandwich, voiced his concerns over the Town Hall Renovation Plans.
- Wendy Keideisch spoke regarding her concerns over the dock and path next to her home on Pierre Vernier Road and would like a written explanation of her removal from the Conservation Commission. She would like a date when the illegal dock hearing will be before the Commission.

CLOSING REMARKS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hunt moved to return to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Litigation Strategy and Disposition of Real Property and reconvening for the purpose of adjournment only. Ms. Grundman seconded. Mr. Hunt, Ms. Grundman, Mr. Pierce, Mr. Kennan so moved. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Coggeshall