

MINUTES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2010

HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING  
270 QUAKER MEETINGHOUSE ROAD

The regular public meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. immediately following a 6:00 p.m. Executive Session.

Present: John Kennan, Dana Barrette, Randy Hunt, Linell Grundman and Jim Pierce

Also Present: George Dunham, Doug Lapp, Taylor White, Jim Lehane, Dave Deconto, Drew Lahteine, Aleta Barton, Mary Stanley of the Sandwich Enterprise and SCTV.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

No minutes presented.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

-Next Tuesday night, February 2 at 7 p.m. at the Sandwich Hollows Golf Club there will be an opportunity for the public to discuss North Shore Boulevard issues. Assistant Town Manager Doug Lapp and relevant department heads will be there. All abutters have been advised.

-Next Thursday night, February 4 the Selectmen will meet.

-Citizens' Police Academy applications are available. The application submission deadline is February 28. The academy begins on March 10 and will meet every Wednesday evening for twelve (12) weeks from 6:30p.m. - 9:30 p.m. in the conference room at Mirant.

-The Governor released initial budget numbers. Chapter 70 (State aid to schools) is at least level funded if not higher than what the Governor promised at the Mass. Municipal Association meeting which Mr. Dunham, Mr. Lapp, Mr. Barrette and Finance Committee member Ms. Yaffe attended this month. It appears that the biggest account, in terms of local aid, was going to be level funded but there was a little uncertainty in terms of the rest of the accounts. It appears we are at least level funded. One part that usually never changes is our assessment side. We usually budget a 10% increase and in the school charter choice sending tuition alone went up by over \$200,000 or almost 37% so those numbers will have to be looked at and changed but it is still too early to depend on any numbers.

-Changes have been made to the Town's web site to make it more functional. Information Technology Director Mike Twomey and Assistant Town Manager Doug Lapp were thanked for working on that with our consultant.

Continuing work on updating the public documents tabs.

-Mr. Hunt noted that the House 1 Budget, which is the Governor's Budget, is the budget that the Upper Cape Technical School uses to establish their budget for the year.

-Mr. Barrette mentioned that when he and Mr. Pierce went to a meeting at Upper Cape Vocational Technical School last week. Superintendent Kevin Farr indicated that he thought our enrollment would be up a little this year and that, although their administrators were taking a zero increase, our costs would be increasing because of enrollment...something to keep in mind.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE AND FOLLOW UP

Mr. Hunt-The Commander at the Bourne VFW wanted Mr. Hunt to thank, in advance, the work of the Sandwich Camp Fire Girls who are going to be helping them put on a lunch that they do every other month or so for disabled veterans over at the VFW in Bourne.

Mr. Barrette – Regarding a couple of Base updates, on the Army side the Environmental Protection Agency has a thirty day health public comment period, the National Guard has requested to begin to use a modified hand grenade simulator. They have not been able to use them since the late '90's under the administrative orders of the EPA as issued. This is a reformulated device that doesn't have the chlorate in it which is one of the main contaminates of issue. There is a public comment period open on that – a thirty day period that runs through February 20, 2010. Anyone wishing to comment can get the information from the EPA Region 1 in Boston at 5 Post Office Square or they can e-mail or fax the information as well. On the Air Force side, the Air Force Center for Engineering and Environment is doing their annual community involvement action plan addendum. The public comment period runs from February 1 through March 2. The addendum is available for review at the Town Library and at mmr.org and you can make comments by mail, fax or by e-mail and there are links on mmr.org. Comments will be reviewed and incorporated as they see fit.

-Ms. Grundman attended the Conference Committee meeting on Monday. Tuesday night attended the Parent Advisory Committee meeting (PAC). They are searching for a new director of Special Education. Please send letters of interest to Dr. Johnson. To clarify, originally the name of the new job was Administrator of Special Education now the official name is Coordinator of Special Education. This job is going to be an essential piece of providing accountability for the very complicated funding, contracting, finding vendors, kind of situations. If anyone has questions, please call the interim Director or Dr. Johnson.

The School Committee voted their budget.

Good conversation between the two directors at the Community School and School Committee about the on going issue of reorganization. The Community School is looking for members of the public who are willing to serve on their advisory counsel. Contact the Directors of the Community School for details.

The task force for the re-dedication of Town Hall is looking for 2 or 3 people to volunteer to serve. Please send letter of interest to Town Hall by next Friday, February 5.

Mr. Barrette congratulated the band boosters and the kids who participated in the jazz concert Tuesday night at a fund raiser. It was a great event. There was a 5th grade band, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade bands as well as junior varsity and varsity jazz bands at the high school.

Attended the MMA Annual meeting in Boston. One thing that was interesting was the Governor's response to Mayor Menino's request to a long standing opinion by the MMA and most member cities and towns that the State give the local governments the same opportunity to control health care costs that they give themselves. It appears that towns are not going to get a whole lot of help from the Governor on health care.

### PUBLIC FORUM

Aleta Barton, 24 Faunce Mountain Road offered her thoughts on the Pay-As-You-Throw program. Mr. Kennan noted that the Board has not done anything definitive about the Pay-As-You-Throw program. Jane Logan offered her thoughts on the Pay-As-You-Throw program.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### (THIS SEGMENT OF ITEM #8 DISCUSSED PRIOR TO ITEM #7)

-Taylor White spoke about the Town Bylaw on Board/Committee Chairmanship Rotation and asked for the Board's support in enforcing the bylaw specific, at this time, to the Conservation Commission. Mr. DeConto of the Conservation Department noted that this has been a topic of discussion at Conservation Commission meetings and the Commission plans to re-organize at their meeting next Tuesday.

### STAFF MEETING

-Dave DeConto, President of the Sandwich Sports Complex Committee and Jim Lehane, head of fundraising for the committee, updated the Board on the Captain Gerald F. DeConto Veterans Memorial

Stadium project. Since 2002 the track at the high school has not been useable. In 2006 a \$250,000 donation was made by the DeConto family, in memory of Captain Gerald DeConto who was killed on September 11 while serving at the Pentagon. Along with other fundraisers the Committee is ready to go forward with Phase I – “It’s Happening”. The Committee will not know until the bids go out how much it is going to cost. It will cost approximately \$3 to \$4 million to install the field. Hope to be done by July 1 but definitely by the time the kids are back in school in September.

Jim Lehane noted that there will be a fundraising kick off event on February 11 at 3:00 p.m. at the Sandwich High School Library – “It’s Happening...It’s Real”. It is a public and private project. The new web site is [www.sandwichsportscomplex.org](http://www.sandwichsportscomplex.org) Mr. Dunham noted that the Community Preservation Committee approved \$500,000 for this project.

The Board of Selectmen and the CPC were thanked for their support of this project.

-Greg Smith, Director of Planning & Development gave a recap from 2009 and an update on Local Comprehensive Plan Implementation including the Merchants Square area; zoning bylaws; affordable housing plan; amend LCP; economic development initiatives; Economic Development Committee; SEIC Task Force; South Sandwich Village Center Market Study; Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan; Quaker Meetinghouse Road Land Swap; land use vision map amendment; future plans. There has been a change of personnel in the department. Marilyn Bassett is the new Senior Administrative Assistant.  
General discussion.

### OLD BUSINESS

-Mr. Dunham gave an update on the FY’11 budget. Six general government union contracts expire on June 30, 2010. Trying to get all the contracts resolved before giving out the detailed FY’11 budget. State level reductions have had a drastic effect on the local budget. Discretionary aid for the fiscal year we are in today has been literally cut by \$1 million in one year which is about one third of our amount. In the next few weeks the numbers will be a little more solid.

The Library budget is one that we are usually a little more uncertain about. Working with Library Director Richard Connor on this budget. Mr. Connor will be retiring in the Spring.

No major changes anticipated in most of the other municipal budgets. Mr. Dunham’s instructions from the Selectmen was to come back with a -1% budget which would be just under \$14 million. The budget information presented tonight is roughly \$250,000 over that number. Before contracts are resolved that’s what the numbers look like.

There are some minor changes being requested to various budgets such as the Audit budget; recommending that the elected pay salaries for the Board of Assessors be dropped to \$1.00 for the two members that are regular members and \$2.00 for the on member who is chairman - that is consistent with what the Selectmen voluntarily did and the Town Moderator voluntarily did; postage account/Tax Collector’s office; elections and registrations account/Town Clerk’s office; utilities account increased; vehicles’ gasoline expenses (except the Golf Course and the Marina)/DPW budget (gas budgets go out to bid); Veterans’ budget will require a Reserve Fund transfer this year, so increasing the amount for the FY’11 budget. These six or eight items add up to about \$77,000. These numbers are included in the \$250,000 on the two summary page mentioned earlier. If any staff was entitled to receive a step increase, it is included in the \$250,000. In round numbers, less than half of our staff receives step increases.

Regarding the Capital Budget, the Capital Improvement Planning Committee will be coming to the Selectmen’s meeting the last week in February.

Brief discussion on the Board of Assessor’s salaries.

### -Pay-As-You-Throw Solid Waste Program Exploration –

Mr. Hunt suggested the Board have a discussion about what the policy would be about the 1% of the transfer station operating expenses we will cover by taxation and sticker price. Right now it is 50/50. What has been presented previously, the Pay-As- You-Throw program, is only an example of another option. A model should be run at 50/50, 60% coverage so we can see what the 10% change is going to look like. Or, maybe 100% is this much...50% is this much. One thing Mr. Hunt would like to strive for is that someone who does the things they asked to do (i.e. recycling etc.) would be able to move into the program without costing them anything extra or at least a nominal cost.

A number of questions were raised and there was a general discussion about the Pay-As-You-Throw program.

Mr. Dunham noted that Town Counsel will speak on this matter at the next Selectmen's meeting.

-Other - None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**-Appoint Architectural Representative to the Historic District Committee - John Dymecki**

Mr. Dunham gave an overview of the position and noted that HDC has recommended Mr. Dymecki be re-appointment to serve in this capacity. The appointment would be effective to the end of the current term which, although the Historic District Committee election is in November, the term actually runs a calendar year.

**\*MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. BARRETTE THAT THE BOARD RE-APPOINT JOHN DYMECKI AS THE ARCHITECTURAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SANDWICH HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE FOR THE DURATION OF HIS CURRENT TERM. SECONDED BY MR. HUNT. VOTE – UNANIMOUS**

Other - None

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Jane Logan had questions about possible taxation of insurance policies by the State and if they are being taxed, where is the money going.

**CLOSING REMARKS**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (Continues...If Needed)**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

9:30 P.M.

**\*MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MR. BARRETTE. SECONDED BY MR. HUNT  
VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Diane M. Hanelt  
Administrative Assistant