

TOWN OF TRURO  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2006

The Truro Board of Selectmen met for their weekly session on Tuesday, February 14, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at the Truro Town Hall, 24 Town Hall Road, Truro. In attendance were: Chairman Alfred Gaechter, Vice-Chairman Gary Palmer, Clerk Paul J. Asher-Best, Christopher R. Lucy, Town Administrator Pamela Nolan, Assistant Town Administrator John J. Sanguinet, Administrative Secretary Julie DuPree, Martha Nagy, Betty Groom, Paul Morris, Maria Flook, Barbara Trocchi, Bob and Joan Holt, and Pru Sowers of the Banner. Lloyd F. Rose was absent.

Mr. Gaechter convened the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

**Minutes: Mr. Palmer moved to approve the minutes of the regular and Executive Sessions of February 7, 2006, and to hold the Executive Session minutes in abeyance. Mr. Asher-Best seconded it. Vote: 4-0, unanimous.**

**Public Comment:** None

**Pole Hearing: 497A Shore Road:** Mr. Gaechter questioned the need for this new pole when there was a pole directly across the road. Ms. Trocchi explained that service would be underground, but would need to feed down and around the property to feed the property in the back. **Mr. Palmer moved to grant permission for the new pole at 497A Shore Road as requested. Mr. Gaechter seconded it. Vote: 4-0, unanimous.**

**Interview: County Human Rights Commission:** Maria Flook applied to serve on the Town Advisory Council. She has always been interested in human rights and realizes that she will be representing the town's position on issues. **Mr. Gaechter moved to appoint Maria Flook to be Truro's representative on the Town Advisory Council for Barnstable County's Human Rights Commission. Mr. Palmer seconded it. Vote: 4-0, unanimous.** He asked that she report to the BOS every six months.

**Recycling:** Mr. Holt read that there was a good market for used office paper. He discussed recycling paper at all town buildings with Ms. Nolan. He asked the BOS to make it an official town policy. Ms. Nolan told the BOS that she had announced at the last department head meeting that this was coming, and we can begin right away. In fact, some departments at Town Hall have been recycling all along. The TCS does it already. Mr. Morris explained that the paper and cardboard is co-mingled. **Mr. Gaechter moved that as a matter of policy, the BOS are committed to the regular recycling of paper in all town buildings to the degree that it is cost effective. Mr. Asher-Best seconded it. Vote: 4-0, unanimous.**

**Duarte Property:** Mr. Morris reported on what has been done at the property and what remains to be done. They are entering Phase Two, and Mr. Sanguinet is working on the Notice of Intent.

**Bells:** Mr. Morris had made two prototypes of louvers for the bell tower, one with louvers set at 33 degrees and the other at 45 degrees. He can put something on the back to block sound. He feels that moveable louvers would not be worth the added expense. Everyone agreed that since the town hall had louvers at one point, it is historic either way. The Board discussed whether the

louvers should point up or down. Mr. Gaechter felt it would project the sound up and over the neighbors if the louvers pointed up. Mr. Morris was concerned that in the up position, it would let in the weather. The suggestion was made that they put the louvers in the down position, take some readings and then reverse them and take some more readings. Mr. Sanguinet was concerned with the extra cost of hiring a lift. Mr. Morris said he could mitigate the cost by using Long Point Electric's bucket truck. The decision was made to put the louvers in the up position. The BOS left it up to Mr. Morris as to whether he made the louvers 33 degrees or 45 degrees.

**Merit Pay System:** The Board discussed with the Town Administrator the pros and cons of using a merit system. Mr. Asher-Best said he had always worked under this system when he worked for municipalities. He liked it. The Board discussed that it would be hard to implement with unions involved; perhaps a one-year performance stipend system would work better since it would not have to be negotiated and it could be offered to all employees, not just Department Heads. **Mr. Palmer moved that the Board not adopt a merit system and instruct the Town Administrator to review a system of stipends. Mr. Gaechter seconded it. Vote: 4-0, unanimous.**

**NIMS:** Ms. Noland requested that the BOS adopt the National Incident Management System. This is an eligibility requirement for 2007 federal preparedness funds as well as grant funding from the US Dept. of Homeland Security and the US Dept. of Health and Human Services. **Mr. Palmer moved to adopt the NIMS program. Mr. Asher-Best seconded it. Vote: 4-0, unanimous.**

**Annual Town Report:** The Board discussed possible photos for the cover of the ATR. Ms. DuPree had suggested to the Board in a memo previously distributed that they consider using the winner of the Truro Treasures Photo contest. Mr. Gaechter wanted to use a picture of the lighthouse because it would tie in with the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the moving of the lighthouse. Mr. Palmer liked the idea of using the contest winner, and it could become a tradition to do so, thus eliminating this yearly discussion. Mr. Asher-Best liked that idea too; it would include the Truro Treasures weekend in the ATR. Mr. Gaechter said that was fine, but he would like to be able to vary the cover if there was something more significant in any given year. Mr. Palmer moved that as policy the BOS would use the winning photograph in the Truro Treasures photo contest, but retain the ability to vary the cover photo of the ATR. Mr. Asher-Best seconded it. **Vote: 4-0, unanimous. Mr. Gaechter moved to dedicate this year's report to Ducky Noons. Mr. Palmer seconded it. Vote: 4-0, unanimous.** Mr. Palmer said that Kyle Takakjian's eulogy was very moving and he thought perhaps he should have input on the dedication. Mr. Gaechter asked Ms. DuPree to work together with Mr. Takakjian.

**Bike Tour:** The Board received a request from Helping Our Women to pass through town during their annual By the Sea Bike Trek to be held this year on June 10, 2006. They would also like to use the park across from Jams as a rest stop. Chief Thomas had submitted a memo informing the BOS that he does not foresee any major traffic problems with the bike route. **Mr. Palmer moved to approve the request. Mr. Gaechter seconded it. Vote: 4-0, unanimous.**

**Town Administrator's Report: (action items)**

- Reported that she would be attending a Human Resource Conference in Newport, RI on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Members of the Board questioned the usefulness of this conference, but ultimately she was directed to use her own judgment; there is money in her budget to pay for it.
- Reported on the last draft schedule of the Flex Bus. The Board expressed its disappointment that it is not really flexible. Mr. Gaechter was concerned that it was not going beyond Dutra's, and Mr. Palmer wondered if that would be another reason to withdraw. Ms. Nolan said that in summer it would go to the lot next to Top Mast. After further discussion, she was directed to express the dissatisfaction of the BOS to the Flex Bus Committee--strongly.

**Selectmen/Liaison Reports: (action items)**

**Lucy:** -Reported that most of the microphones cut out in the middle of the meeting last week, so most of what was said was inaudible. Mr. Sanguinet will check on the batteries; they must be changed routinely. The system was not working today, so this meeting is not being taped. He will contact Great Northern.

- Reported that Mr. Roderick was given his demolition permit for 1 Highland Road and one hour later, the building was rubble. Mr. Roderick would like to go forward with negotiations with the USPS. Mr. Lucy spoke to Ms. Walker and was told that construction money for new P.O.'s is on hold, and has been since August. But Truro has shown a great need for a new Post Office, and letters to legislators has proven to be helpful in getting these projects moving. Mr. Roderick would like the Board to contact the legislators on his behalf. Mr. Palmer said the BOS could advocate for a Post Office, but not to a specific site. Mr. Lucy agreed, but noted that this is a desirable site and the BOS should go forward and get the project reinstated. Mr. Gaechter noted that the last time he spoke to Ms. Walker she told him when a site was found the project would be on again. Mr. Gaechter said that since he had taken the ball on this, would he draft a letter. Mr. Lucy he would work with the Town Administrator on a letter. Mr. Gaechter said Mr. Lucy should also call Ms. Walker.

**Next week's agenda: Mr. Lipman from the County, Appoint new police officer, Discuss fee with FinCom.**

**At 7:422 p.m. Mr. Gaechter moved to convene in Executive Session under the provisions of MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B to consider negotiations and to not reconvene in Open Session. Roll Call Vote: Asher-Best, aye; Palmer, aye; Gaechter, aye; Lucy, aye; 4-0, unanimous.**

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Alfred Gaechter, Chairman

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Gary Palmer, Vice-Chairman

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Paul Asher-Best, Clerk

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Christopher R. Lucy

Board of Selectmen  
Town of Truro

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