

TOWN OF TRURO
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING OF TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2006

The Truro Board of Selectmen met for a special pre-town meeting session on Tuesday, April 25, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at the Truro Central School, 317 Route Six, Truro. In attendance were: Chairman Alfred Gaechter, Vice-Chairman Gary Palmer, Clerk Paul J. Asher-Best, Christopher R. Lucy, Town Administrator Pamela Nolan, Administrative Secretary Julie DuPree, Town Counsel Sarah Turano Flores, Trudi Brazil, FinCom members Bob Panessiti, Joel Searcy and Linnet Hultin, Susan Kadar. Lloyd F. Rose was absent.

Mr. Gaechter convened the special joint meeting with the FinCom at 6:02 p.m.

Ms. DuPree informed the Board that the request for a one-day liquor license from the Pamet Harbor Club had been withdrawn.

Budget numbers for the ATM Warrant articles: Mr. Gaechter explained the purpose of this session was to discuss the budget numbers now that free cash has come in at \$935,216.00. Ms. Brazil outlined the options open to them.

Article 5, Section 1: Ms. Brazil said that the BOS could change the sum of money to \$650k. The amount of free cash is sufficient to do away with the need for an override altogether, or they could appropriate any sum of money not less than \$650k, leaving a gap between the cost of government in FY07 and funding to pay for it. If they do this they should use a sufficient amount of free cash so the gap is small enough to make up at tax raising time without needing to go back to the town. They discussed the risk in doing that. Mr. Gaechter suggested reducing the override by adding \$200k to Section 1. Mr. Asher-Best suggested explaining to the voters that they were asking for \$383k more (the override amount) because it is costing that much more to do the town's business this year, but they are returning \$650k because it was not spent.

Article 4: Ms. Brazil told the BOS that they could take the use of the stabilization fund out and use free cash instead. If they did that, they would not need a 2/3 vote. It may be confusing if they then ask the town to put it back in Article 5, Section 2. The Board considered changing Section 1 to \$650k instead of "a sum of money", and in Section 2, putting \$100k into stabilization. Ms. Brazil gave the Board the amounts that are currently in the Stabilization Fund and in the CIP. Mr. Gaechter said he thought there was enough in Stabilization and recommended that they put the extra in the CIP. The Board discussed amending Section 3 to put \$100k from free cash in the CIP, and to indefinitely postpone Section 2. Mr. Panessiti remarked that they should still be mindful of increasing the levy limit.

Mr. Gaechter moved to modify Article 4 by changing Stabilization Fund to free cash, and to modify Article 5, Section 1 to say \$650k instead of "sum of money", and to modify Section 3 to say \$100k, and to indefinitely postpone Section 2. Mr. Asher-Best seconded it. Under discussion, Mr. Asher-Best noted that this doesn't balance the budget; they are still \$183k short, but must hope that new growth is better than anticipated if the override should fail at the ballot box. Mr. Panessiti remarked that the FinCom always asks what the danger to people would be; if the question doesn't pass, and we have a bad year, and must go into the Stabilization fund, or maybe we have a few bad years in a row and must go into Stabilization

repeatedly. He stressed the need to expand the levy base. Ms. Brazil also stressed that if the override fails, the BOS should not wait too long to decide what to do next. **Vote: 4-0, unanimous.**

Mr. Gaechter told the others that they must leave so that the BOS could enter into Executive Session; they will not reconvene in Open Session.

At 6:25 p.m. Mr. Gaechter moved to convene in Executive Session under the provisions of MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B to discuss potential litigation and to not reconvene in Open Session. Roll Call Vote: Asher-Best, aye; Palmer, aye; Gaechter, aye; Lucy, aye. 4-0, unanimous.

Alfred Gaechter, Chairman

Gary Palmer, Vice-Chairman

Paul Asher-Best, Clerk

Christopher R. Lucy

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Town of Truro