

TOWN OF TRURO
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING OF TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2007

The Truro Board of Selectmen met for their weekly session on Tuesday, January 16, 2007 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 Christopher R. Lucy, Jan Worthington, Town Administrator Pamela Nolan, Administrative Secretary Julie DuPree, Carol Nickerson, Martha Nagy, Lisa Olson, Claire Perry, Deb Camuso, James Meads, Steve Roderick, John Lundborn, Chief Thomas, Peter Van Stratum, Brian Davis, Dan Silva, Tim Rose, Jeff Perry, Chief Prada, John Garran, Skip Childs, Carter Kane, April Silva, Jeff Coho and Derek Burritt of the Banner. Curtis Hartman and Assistant Town Administrator Charleen Greenhalgh were absent.

Mr. Gaechter convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes: Mr. Palmer moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Session of January 9, 2007 as written. Mr. Lucy seconded it. Vote: 4-0, unanimous.

Public Comment: Ms. Nickerson asked why the first part of last week's meeting was not on cable. Ms. Nolan said that it had all been taped and she will call Comcast tomorrow to see if it can be re-broadcast. Ms. Nickerson noted that it is usually broadcast again on Monday, but was not and she wondered if the schedule has been changed. Ms. Nolan will look into that as well.

Ms. Camuso said she also questioned why the public comment portion was not aired; she felt it was important for the public to hear her concerns. She came this evening to report to the BOS on her meeting with the BOH that afternoon. She found it to be interesting and unusual. The BOH has promised to discuss the questions she raised and get back to her. She asked Mr. Palmer how soon she could expect answers from the BOH. He said that as liaison he would do his best to see that it is timely. Ms. Camuso then told the BOS that there is a provision in State law that because the BOH and the Planning Board have no appeal period, a person can go to Superior Court within 60 days and challenge their decision. She then addressed the way she has been treated by the BOH. She has received e-mails from people about her public comments last week regarding the BOH. She told the Board that she has had very negative experiences in meeting with the BOH. There have been several formal complaints made. She read aloud her e-mails, which contained comments that the BOH is power hungry, hard to work, the Chair is abrasive, and people feel intimidated. Mr. Palmer said that the BOH tend to debate among themselves and that can cause them to be strongly motivated and sometimes that can overrun to the public. Mr. Gaechter said there is no reason for any board member to treat a citizen disrespectfully. He assured Ms. Camuso that it is the Selectmen's policy to review all members' reappointments, and so citizens should comment if they have cause. He called Town Counsel regarding the appeal process, and also had him check to be sure the proper procedures were followed by the BOH regarding their regulation revisions. Town Counsel sat down with the Health Agent and has reported to him that everything was done properly. Ms. Camuso noted that all of their hearings were held at 4:00 p.m. when working people can't attend them. She suggested that all public hearings should be held in the evening.

Request from Town of Kingston: They requested that the BOS join them in requesting to the

Governor that he includes a policy statement concerning statutory obligations of liquor licensees as state policy or regulation. The intent is to insure that all liquor licensees pay all current MA meal taxes and compensate their employees as required by law. Mr. Gaechter said that he has not heard there is a problem with this in Truro and he recommended that the BOS take no action.

Barnstable's request for money for the homeless: Mr. Gaechter reminded the Board that this request was made last year and they were told that they would have to apply for funds through our Human Services Committee. He directed Ms. Nolan to contact them and see what part of our procedure they do not understand, and emphasis that they must get their application in to Human Services on time. The town cannot just cut a check.

Request for determination of conflict of interest: As a volunteer and uncompensated member of the Board of Directors of both the MA Chief of Police Association and the LCAA, Chief Thomas requested that the Board provide him with written determination pursuant to the Conflict of Interest Statute. **Mr. Gaechter moved to approve the two determinations regarding conflict of interest and that the Board provides this in writing. Mr. Palmer seconded it. Vote: 5-0, unanimous.**

Request for a memorial plaque: Maria Redo has requested that she be allowed to place a plaque in her husband's name on a bench in the park in the center of town. Mr. Gaechter said they are getting multiple requests for this, and before making any more decisions they need a policy. Ms. Nolan was directed to search other towns for similar policies and send a letter to Ms. Redo that the BOS is considering her request.

Town Administrator's Report: (action items)

- Reported she has received written permission from MAHighway for the Flex bus stop.

Other business: Mr. Palmer moved to accept the resignation of Steve Roderick from the Recreation Commission and the Expanded Town Building Committee for the Community Center Project with regret and that a letter of appreciation be sent to him. Mr. Lucy seconded it. Vote: 4-0, unanimous.

Selectmen/Liaison Reports: (action items)

Lucy: -Expressed his continuing concern with recent public comment and the issue of public hearing notices. The notices are published by law in the newspapers, but how is the public to know to look in the newspaper for the notice. He suggested an extension of the notice requirements to include website notification as well--the town website and the NRTA website. He suggested a Charter change to require that public hearings are to be held only in certain months of the year so people can anticipate when a public hearing may be held. Mr. Gaechter directed Ms. Nolan to have the IT Director come in to discuss the status of the website. He suggested that the BOS send a memo to all boards that hold public hearings to hold them in the evening. He directed Ms. Nolan to draft the memo. Chief Thomas told the BOS that the Historic Review Board just met on Saturday because not all the members were available during the week. Mr. Gaechter said Saturday meeting time should be included in the memo as well.

Ms. Worthington said this is why she would like to explore a monthly newsletter. Everyone agreed that the website was key.

Gaechter: -Directed that Ms. Nolan ensure that the Veteran's Memorial plans are forwarded to the appropriate Boards. The Tercentennial Celebration Committee is interested in having a gazebo in Truro Center. There is an offer to contribute funds to pay for it. The question is if a gazebo can be placed at Pamet Park since it was purchased with open space money. They need to determine the legality of that and let the Tercentennial Celebration Committee know. He informed them that there are also plans for a footbridge from the memorial to the park, and a footpath along the guardrail. This will all need to go before ConsCom. Ms. Nolan will check on this with Mr. Morris.

Next week's agenda: LCAA increase, Report from Chief Thomas

BOFE Engineers: The BOFE discussed the concern with daytime coverage for ambulance and response time. It has suffered for lack of daytime personnel to respond to calls. So far, every call has been covered, but they have considered whether or not to hire a full time firefighter paramedic. An LCAA paramedic in our station would be a positive thing, but Mr. Meads of the LCAA has told him that they would not provide just a rescue person without a unit housed in Truro, and they are a transportation business and not primarily rescue. The BOFE has speculated that the Tradesmen's Park could be a site for the LCAA to put equipment to respond. Mr. Meads also suggested to him that they meet together with an outside mediator to discuss their other issues. Mr. Gaechter commented that there may have to be changes in the contract with LCAA if they do more than transport. Chief Prada said he had pushed for a fulltime paramedic during the day, but the BOFE did not agree with him; now the LCAA has turned down the BOFE's alternate plan to provide a paramedic at the station during the day. Discussion centered on the need for a daytime paramedic; salary was estimated at \$50k. Mr. Garran said the BOFE feels they can do this with their own people. In the past year, every call was covered in some way. Ms. Worthington said she is torn about it; there is great loyalty and pride in the department. If they open the door to a fulltime paid department, there is the fear of losing the local department that we now have. We need to find a middle ground, a way to keep both. As to the town's expense, she noted that the Fire/Rescue and Police Departments are the heart of the town's municipal operation. Mr. Garran has proposed a study committee to see what it would cost the town. He has appointed four members to study this. He would suggest getting other citizens to serve on this as well. Mr. Childs told the Board that he considers this the sharpest little fire department on Cape Cod, but they are suffering growing pains and have issues in-house like any family, that are preventing the performance that they are capable of. He suggested a work session with the BOFE, Fire Department and the BOS to explore resources that are available to them. They have to decide which direction to go in--move towards a fulltime department, or enhance the volunteer department that they have. He noted that there have been other fire/rescue departments that have met these same challenges. Mr. Gaechter asked Mr. Garran if his group could get together with the Town Administrator to get a cost analysis within a month. Mr. Garran said he would try. Mr. Gaechter said he thought regionalization with Wellfleet may be a good option. Mr. Garran said regionalization in the winter, yes- but in summer-no, there are too many calls. Mr. Gaechter said the first call is how to get it to work with all the enthusiasm we

have and get some more people. Public safety must be the first consideration. Tim Rose stepped forward to say that he is willing to leave his job at the Transfer Station to respond to calls as an EMT if he is given permission. He would not ask to be paid as an EMT because he would already be paid as a town employee. Mr. Garran said that Brian Davis will be appointed as the committee member to contact the Town Administrator. Mr. Gaechter asked Mr. Garran if he had any response to the article in the Banner about morale. Mr. Garran said he preferred to continue that discussion under Executive Session because there are personality issues. Chief Prada noted that one of the statements came from Mark Duarte, who has been having problems at home and so hasn't been in a lot. Mr. Garran told the BOS that the statement about the LCAA causing problems was made by Jeff Perry. There will always be personality problems and when these come to him, they are taken to Mr. Meads and there has been resolution immediately. This speaks to the need for a mediator and he would suggest someone from the Cape and Islands. Mr. Gaechter said it all comes down to management of the departments. He asked Mr. Meads if he had any comment to make. Mr. Meads said that he agrees with discussion, but noted a lacking of membership of the LCAA to be in on discussions. The LCAA has offered a free paramedic, a free EMT, and a free rig if accommodation is provided in Truro. He noted that the LCAA has ordered GPS for all their rigs so that response times will be faster; many of their employees live down cape and are not familiar with all the back roads of Truro. He pointed out that it would be cheaper for Truro to build a building than to go fulltime.

At 7:25 p.m. Mr. Gaechter moved to convene in Executive Session under the provisions of MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B to consider negotiations and personnel matters and to not reconvene in Open Session. Roll Call Vote: Palmer, aye; Gaechter, aye; Lucy, aye; Worthington, aye. 4-0, unanimous.

Alfred Gaechter, Chairman

Gary Palmer, Vice-Chairman

Christopher R. Lucy, Clerk

Janet W. Worthington

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