

TOWN OF TRURO  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING OF TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2007

The Truro Board of Selectmen met for their weekly session on Tuesday, January 23, 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, Curtis Hartman, Jan Worthington, Town Administrator Pamela Nolan, Administrative Secretary Julie DuPree, , Martha Nagy, Jim Meads, Steve Roderick, Chief Thomas, John Lundborn, Paul Silva, Lisa Olson, Tom Roda, Skip Childs, Peter Van Stratum, Eric Williams of the Cape Cod Times, and Derek Burritt of the Banner. Clerk Christopher R. Lucy 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 and Executive Sessions of January 16, 2007, as presented, and to hold the Executive Session minutes in abeyance. Ms. Worthington seconded it. Vote: 3-0-1, with Mr. Hartman abstaining due to his absence.**

**Public Comment:** none.

**LCAA:** Mr. Roderick gave the Board an overview of the budget for next year. They are changing from a calendar year to a fiscal year. Medical billing is down and expenses are up. Forty percent of their billings are to Medicare and they only reimburse at 40%. They are waiting to see if MA Health is a better alternative. An outside audit is done each year; copies are sent to Truro. The more they can collect, the less the towns pay. They are a non-profit and all the money they collect goes back into serving the two towns. They project that they will have an 8% increase in FY09. Discussion followed on billing methods, and the offer made by the LCAA to bring a crew and rig to Truro.

Mr. Meads provided the Board with a list of questions that he had about the allegations that have been made regarding problems between the crews. He said that when problems are brought to him, they have been addressed immediately. He thought it made sense for Truro to allow them to put a paramedic, an EMT, and an ambulance in their station for a limited time to see if any problems that may arise would outweigh the public safety of the citizens of Truro. Mr. Gaechter told him that a task force has been assigned to look into our options and the issues between the staffs. He will turn over his questions to that committee. They are fair questions and should be answered. Mr. Gaechter suggested perhaps they should take an anonymous survey of our volunteers to find out what the problems are. Ms. Worthington stated that there is no squad system in Provincetown any longer, except in the summer months, as a result of the strong presence of the LCAA and the fear is that a LCAA presence will diminish the volunteer department they are all so proud of. She feels there is a lack of mutual respect and there should be more of a give and take, with those who have more knowledge sharing it with others. Mr. Meads said there was a problem in the past but he feels that it has been addressed. If someone screwed up, it was brought to his attention and they were suspended. Ms. Worthington said Truro has options that need to be looked at. For example, they could go out to bid and get any ambulance company, or have their own day time paramedic. Mr. Meads said that another company would also require Truro to provide housing for them. They discussed why they feel

that more than just a paramedic should be provided. Mr. Lundborn remarked that the offer was made in response to the concern of the BOFE that response time was too long. Mr. Childs told the BOS that they need to gather data and work with the task force before any decision is made. Mr. Palmer suggested working up a protocol so that the two groups work together formally, bringing together the two crews. Mr. Meads said that there is no ulterior motive in what they are trying to do. It would not be without problems, but you shouldn't deprive the citizens of Truro of fast response time because of them. Ms. Worthington said she wanted to be clear that she appreciates the LCAA coming in this way, and her concern is only for the dedicated people serving Truro. This must be done carefully. Mr. Lundborn requested that the LCAA be kept in the loop regarding the findings of the task force. Mr. Gaechter said that they want input from everyone concerned.

**Report of the Chief of Police:** Chief Thomas reported that salaries and wages are in line with the budget projection. The operating portion is above the anticipated amount, due in large part to the price of gasoline. He has expended over 70% of the year's allotment. He has spoken to the DPW Director about the possibility of getting their own fuel tank such as the golf course uses. Ms. Nolan was directed to follow this up with Mr. Morris. Chief Thomas said that the squad is at full strength and there have been no personnel problems. He has requested two new cruisers to replace two that have high mileage. Mr. Gaechter asked if he would consider another SUV. Chief Thomas said that the cost is higher, and gas mileage is lower. It would be a luxury and not a necessity. The incidence statistics are about the same as this time last year. All officers have completed in-service training, and in addition, five officers have completed leadership training. Officer DeAngelo has been certified in child seats and is taking DARE instruction. They continue to work with the school on safety and security. Lt. Lundborn is involved with the Triad. Officer Takakjian has been assigned as liaison to the Housing Authority. The Board urged Chief Thomas to consider more outreach programs. The Board also asked him to provide them with a written report prior to the meeting.

**Resignation: Mr. Gaechter moved to accept the resignation of Jennifer Morris from the Housing Authority and that a letter of thanks is sent to her. Mr. Hartman seconded it.**

**Vote: 4-0, unanimous.**

**Policy on memorial requests:** Ms. Nolan suggested that the Board amend their Policy #38 to include requests for memorial plaques. She hasn't gotten many policies from other towns yet, but Provincetown allows all such requests through the Beautification Committee. She noted that the Community Center project will have bricks that can be used for memorials, and there will be naming opportunities with the Community Center project, which the BOS already have a policy for. Mr. Hartman said the playground will need to offer these kinds of opportunities in order to raise funds. Mr. Gaechter said they will revisit this item in a couple of weeks.

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

- Reported what Comcast told her regarding the meeting of January 9<sup>th</sup> not being broadcast in its entirety. She was told that when a meeting goes longer than two hours it is begun earlier than 8:00 a.m. in order that the schedule of the following town's meetings will not be affected.

She told the BOS that she had just been told by Ms. Olson that last week's meeting was not aired in its entirety. Mr. Palmer asked her to get the tape back so that we can verify that the entire meeting was on the tape. Ms. Nolan will call and request that last week's meeting is re-broadcast on Friday.

**Next week's agenda: Report of Community Preservation Committee, ATM Warrant articles, 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the FY08 budget.**

**At 7:30 p.m. Mr. Gaechter moved to adjourn.**

---

Alfred Gaechter, Chairman

---

Gary Palmer, Vice-Chairman

---

Curtis Hartman

---

Janet W. Worthington

Board of Selectmen  
Town of Truro

/jld