

Truro Board of Selectmen Joint meeting with Truro School Committee  
And the Finance Committee  
Meeting Minutes – March 20 2014  
Truro Town Hall, 4:30pm

Members Present: Jay Coburn-Chair, Breon Dunigan-Vice Chair, Jan Worthington-Clerk, Robert Weinstein, Paul Wisotzky

Others Present: Acting Town Administrator Charleen Greenhalgh, Trudi Brazil, Town Accountant; Truro School Committee members: Tim Dickey, Teri Humes, Michelle Jarusiewicz ;Finance Committee members: Lori Meads, Richard Wood and Roberta Lema and Chief Kyle Takakjian.

Chair Jay Coburn called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**Review and Approval of appointment of Andrew Locke to the Truro School Committee**

Teri Humes, Chair of the School Committee, called their meeting to order. Coburn explained that there is an appointment to fill a vacancy on the School Committee. **Ms. Humes made a motion to appoint Andrew Locke to the current vacancy on the School Committee until the Annual Town Election on May 13, 2014. Dunigan seconded the motion.** There was a brief discussion about Andrew Locke. **Roll Call Vote: Jan Worthington, aye; Breon Dunigan, aye; Jay Coburn, aye; Paul Wisotzky, aye; Robert Weinstein, aye; Michelle Jarusiewicz, aye; Tim Dickey, aye; Teri Humes, aye**

Mr. Dickey spoke to the need for air conditioning in the gymnasium at the Truro Central School as a part of the CIP within the budget that has been put off for years. There was a discussion as to the use of the school and how quickly the gymnasium can become very hot during the warmer months. It was agreed to expand on the comment section of the Capital Improvement Plan budget.

**Police Officer Appointment –Chief Takakjian**

Chief Kyle Takakjian spoke of a recent vacancy and asked for authorization to fill the vacancy for a fulltime appointment. **Dunigan moved to authorize Chief Takakjian to fill the vacancy at the Truro Police department. Wisotzky seconded the motion. So voted unanimously 5-0.**

**Review and approval of the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget; Questions/Discussion/Comments & next steps<sup>i</sup>**

Ms. Brazil mentioned that perhaps they can access the Capital Improvement Trust fund to reduce the projected tax spending. Lori Meads called the Finance Committee meeting to order. Ms. Greenhalgh went through the Warrant Articles that have been approved.

**Article 5: FY15 Omnibus Budget Appropriation**

Ms. Brazil spoke to changes due to Collective Bargaining Presentations. The Search Consultant funds (\$20K) will stay in place for FY15. There was a discussion on the salary being increased for the Town Administrator (\$140K). Weinstein objected to the increase due to the size of the community but felt more comfortable if there was a range in salary from 120K to 135K. Ms. Brazil noted the cost of living in Truro and the expense for commuting. There was a discussion

regarding a housing allowance for the new Town Administrator. Ms. Brazil suggested that the funds for the Library generator and the air-conditioning for the school gymnasium could be acquired through the Capital Improvement Trust fund; in which Article 5 would include a transfer of that amount. Ms. Brazil explained how the Trust account has been funded to date. She went over the Police and Fire department budget. The figure for the Fire department has a separate Article for two more positions at just over \$88K which will be a Ballot question. Ms. Brazil confirmed that the Search consultant funds are in the Board of Selectmen account.

Ms. Brazil explained that there were no changes to the Public Works section of the Budget except for the Projected FY15 Tax Levy Recapitulation for snow and ice removal with a figure over \$54K. Weinstein asked why there has been increase under the Transfer Station disposal under purchase of services. Ms. Brazil noted that this includes the increase in the Tipping fees under the anticipated new contract. Ms. Brazil explained that Public Services budget has decreased in cost. Ms. Brazil noted that there is an Article to restructure the staffing at the Library that will not require additional funds. Weinstein commented that Trish Ford, Library Director is going to expand the commentary. Worthington asked about the increase in purchase of services for the Recreation Commission. Ms. Brazil explained what the increases were due to including phone services and the cost of recreational activities. She also explained the increase in purchase of services which doubled to \$14K for the Beach Commission including the bird monitoring through Audubon.

Wisotzky asked about the budget implications if Truro does not receive the bid for the Highland Links Golf Course. Ms. Brazil explained that they will remove the golf course items currently in FY15 budget. Ms. Brazil commented that the debt service and the buy down of the reconstruction of the South Jetty. Employee benefits have not changed but she will be asking the Board of Selectmen every year to contribute an amount into OPEB (other posted employment benefits) and the importance of funding this account through the County.

Ms. Brazil spoke of the Recapitulation and the maximum allowable Levy Capacity with an increase due to the request of two new officers for the Police department and Fire department. She listed the Capital Exclusion items including the Transfer Station Trailer, Fuel Tank replacement project, Highland Links fairway mower, Truro Library generator and school gymnasium air-conditioning with the last two items being funded through alternate means. She stated the total budget amount for Town Meeting and went through the items listed in the Recapitulation. The final amount of \$497K, the Town is over in taxing capacity or available funding.

Dunigan asked about using Free Cash with the school's expenses. Ms. Brazil stated that is not recommended as those costs will most likely not go down next year. The Finance Committee members and the Board of Selectmen discussed their options for not having a General Override for \$497K. Ms. Brazil explained that the entire overage comes primarily from education. Richard Wood, of the Finance Committee suggested going through each line item to trim away at the expenses. Ms. Meads noted that fees have not been raised to offset the cost expenditure. Wisotzky noted that they did raise fees at the golf course and created a fee waiver policy but there needs to be a larger conversation regarding all of the fees. Worthington expressed concern

that more items need to be level funded and not increased such as Purchase of Services. Mr. Wood asked when the Room Occupancy Tax would take affect if passed at Town Meeting. Coburn responded that it also has to go through Legislation. Weinstein explained that the increase is 3x the national rate of inflation with contracts, wages and personnel costs as drivers of the increase in the operating budget. He cited the Transfer Station being open 7 days a week as an example of an expense that could be cut back. He cited regionalizing some services as an example of assisting with cost and looking at grants. Dunigan suggested that Department heads have work sessions where they discuss items that they will need on a future budget. Ms. Brazil spoke to closing the Transfer Station 2 days a week as an option. Wisotzky stated that there needs to be a bigger conversation as to what is the level of services that Truro wants to provide to its citizens. Ms. Meads asked is the Town charging enough to cover the expense of the employees to provide the services.

Worthington agreed that there should be forums to get feedback from the citizens. Ms. Brazil spoke briefly to Worthington about the Truro's unfunded liability. Ms. Lema asked if there is any revenue generated at Pamet Harbor. Ms. Brazil responded the expense to run it equals any revenue generated. Ms. Brazil commented that the only reduction in savings is through a reduction in service and personnel.

**Article 6 Section 2:**

Ms. Brazil noted that there is a request to transfer \$600K from Free Cash to the OPEB Trust Fund. Wisotzky moved to recommend. Weinstein seconded the motion. So voted unanimously 5-0.

**Article A:To Fund Two New Police Officers**

Wisotzky moved to recommend. Dunigan seconded the motion. So voted unanimously 5-0.

**Article A1:T Fund Two New Fire/Rescue Staff Members**

Weinstein moved to recommend. Worthington seconded the motion. So voted unanimously 5-0.

**Article B Section 1:Friends of Truro Recreation/Recreation Commission**

Weinstein spoke to Legal Counsel's opinion on the Article and questioned the need for tennis courts and a walking trail. Dunigan responded that the trail would be level and appropriate for all ages and the tennis courts are in a planning stage. Wisotzky moved to recommend. Dunigan seconded the motion. So voted 3-2-0. Wisotzky asked that the CPC speak to this request. Ms. Greenhalgh stated that the Chair of the Community Preservation Committee will be in attendance on Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Weinstein made a motion to reconsider. Worthington seconded the motion. So voted unanimously 5-0.

**Article D:Capital Exclusion to Purchase Transfer Station Trailer**

Ms. Brazil explained that this item was for \$75K for a Transfer Trailer for the Transfer Station. Wisotzky moved to recommend. Weinstein seconded the motion. So voted unanimously 5-0.

**Article D1:Capital Exclusion to Purchase Tank Truck Replacement**

Weinstein made a motion to recommend. Wisotzky seconded the motion. So voted unanimously 5-0.

**Article E:Capital Exclusion to Air Condition Gymnasium at the Truro Central School**

Ms. Brazil suggested that the Capital Improvement Program be utilized for this item. It was decided to postpone this Article due to this revision.

**Article F:Capitla Exclusion to Purchase a Fairway Mower for the Highland Golf Course**

Dunigan moved to recommend. Wisotzky seconded the motion. So voted unanimously 5-0.

**Article F1:Capital Exclusion to Purchase a generator for the Truro Public Library**

POSTPONE VOTE

**Article I:Transfer Funds for Granite Post and Pipe Fence Work at Old North Cemetery**

Dunigan moved to recommend. Wisotzky seconded the motion. So voted unanimously 5-0.

**Article J:Land Acquisition**

Fred Gaechter, of the Truro Conservation Trust, explained the purchase of land (4 lots at Edgewood Farm) that the TCT would like to purchase in conjunction with Castle Hill Arts Center. The land is going to cost the Trust \$536K (2 of the 4 lots) through grant monies. He explained that the grant applicant has to be the Town not TCT. If approved the Town would pay off the loan from the Trust with no cost to the Town. Dunigan asked if this was the only option that would enable the Trust to purchase the land and what the chance was in receiving the grant and Castle Hill's intention with purchasing the land. It was explained that the grant was one option for purchasing the land and Castle Hill intends through fundraisers to acquire the other lots as the owner of the land had intended. Wisotzky moved to recommend. Weinstein seconded the motion. So voted unanimously 5-0.

**Article M:Article :Amendments to the Personnel By-Law**

Wisotzky moved to recommend. Weinstein seconded the motion. So voted unanimously 5-0.

**Article M1:To Amend the Personnel By-Law to Combine Harbormaster and Shellfish Warden Positions**

Ms. Greenhalgh explained the merging of the Shellfish Warden and Harbor Master position and the salary. Worthington asked for specifics as to how the position was going to work throughout the year. There was a brief discussion on combining the positions. Weinstein moved to recommend. Wisotzky seconded the motion. So voted unanimously 5-0.

Ms. Greenhalgh explained that number 5 & number 7 of the Warrant have been removed from the back of the Warrant. It was determined to postpone the vote of Zoning Articles.

**Article X:Amend Section 6-4-2 of the Charter to include a standing Charter Review Committee and Delete Obsolete Multi-Member Bodies**

Ms. Greenhalgh asked for a brief comment from the Board of Selectmen as to which Committees/Boards needed to be added to the list. Wisotzky moved to recommend. Weinstein seconded the motion. So voted unanimously 5-0.

**At 7:00pm, Coburn moved that the Board of Selectmen enter into Executive Session in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30A, section 21(a) number 3, to discuss strategies relative to collective bargaining, whereas discussion of these matters in open session would have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Town, and not to reconvene in open session. Roll Call Vote: Robert Weinstein, aye; Paul Wisotzky, aye; Jay Coburn, aye; Breon Dunigan, aye; Jan Worthington, aye. So voted unanimously 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted , Nicole Tudor, Board of Selectmen Secretary

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Jay Coburn, Chairman

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Breon Dunigan, Vice-Chairman

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Janet W. Worthington, Clerk

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Robert Weinstein

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Paul Wisotzky  
Board of Selectmen

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<sup>i</sup> Town of Truro Municipal Operating Budget FY 15, Projected Available Spending Capacity, Projected FY15 Tx Levy Recapitulation, Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant 2014