

**Truro Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Truro Public Library  
Tuesday, November 21, 2017**

**Members Present:** Chair Paul Wisotzky; Maureen Burgess, Robert Weinstein, Janet Worthington

**Regrets:** Jay Coburn

**Present:** Town Manager Rae Ann Palmer; Assistant Town Manager Kelly Sullivan-Clark

Chair Paul Wisotzky called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**2018 Property Tax Discussion**

Town Assessor Kathy Fryxell had created a sample tax bill containing a residential exemption. Using this, she and Town Manager Rae Ann Palmer explained how the residential tax exemption worked. Rae Ann Palmer said she, the Town Assessor or Town Accountant will be happy to further explain tax bill information and increases with tax payers who ask. For people who missed the application deadline for the residential tax exemption, there are also abatements offered for those who are eligible. An Overlay Account is in place for any adjustments that are requested.

Rae Ann Palmer and Kathy Fryxell reviewed the statistics on the Fiscal Year 2018 Residential Exemption Status Report, noting the outreach that resulted in the 330 residential tax exemptions that were allowed.

**Preliminary FY2019 Budget Discussion**

Rae Ann Palmer wanted the members of the Board of Selectmen to give her direction for some items of the Budget. She indicated several areas of concern including: sale of net metering credits; a need for more reorganization; union negotiations; road paving; evaluation of Fire Department Overtime; and a new Fire Department recruitment. Members of the Board and Ms. Palmer agreed that the Budget Task Force needs to scrutinize the Elementary School Budget in light of an enrollment of 112 or 113 students and no sixth graders. The Town Manager suggested a joint meeting with the School Committee. Selectmen recommended also meeting with the School Superintendent and Town Administrators from neighboring towns. Robert Weinstein also suggested that the Local Comprehensive Plan deal in depth with school issues.

Janet Worthington asked if one of the big Capital projects could be postponed for a year or two. Rae Ann Palmer cautioned that this could lead to worse situations and cited the East Harbor project which has bigger problems because it had been postponed.

The first Budget Task force meeting is Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. Town Accountant Trudi Brazil is working on balancing Free Cash and looking at revenues. Department Budgets are coming in, Rae Ann Palmer said.

**Communication**

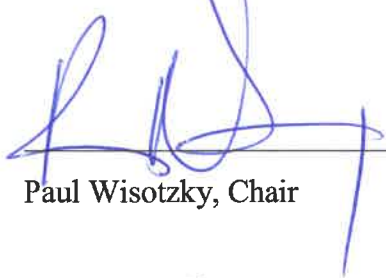
There were several suggestions for improved communications. Chair Paul Wisotzky said communication needs to be examined periodically. He said the Selectmen should read the Town Manager's weekly reports, which are on the Town Website. Rae Ann Palmer said she appreciates responses to her e-mails to Selectmen so that she knows they have received them. Rae Ann Palmer said there will be direct communications with some concerned citizens regarding the Swap Shop and invited Selectmen to her meeting with them. Suggestions for improved Selectmen's Hours included posting the schedule for the Transfer Station and outreach to part-time residents, inviting them to Selectmen's Hours.

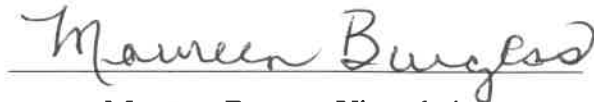
**ADJOURNMENT**

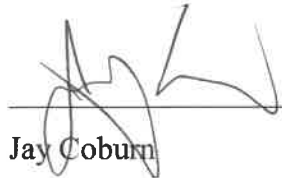
The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 6:32 p.m.


Respectfully submitted,


  
Mary Rogers, Secretary

  
Paul Wisotzky, Chair

  
Maureen Burgess Vice-chair

  
Jay Coburn

  
Janet Worthington

  
Robert Weinstein, Clerk

**Public Records Material of 11/21/17**

1. Sample tax bill
2. Fiscal Year 2018 Residential Tax Status Report