

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ---- REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2016

PRESENT: Commissioners Peter Cross, Ben Perry, Demetrius Atsalis, Dennis Sullivan, Victor Skende and Chief Brunelle.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cross at 7 pm.

1. MINUTES: The minutes of Regular Meetings of November 12th, December 10th and Workshop of November 17th were accepted as presented.

2. CORRESPONDENCE: None

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: Larry Decker noted that twelve Cape fire departments had received grants for public fire education grants. He asked why the Hyannis Fire Department was not included. The Chief responded that the department had not applied and that the department currently provides public education through the Fire Prevention Office. He will have the Deputy Chief and Fire Prevention Officers look into future grants.

Bill Cronin stated that the minutes of October 20 and 22 were not on the website. Skende thought they had been posted but will look into it, and would take corrective action.

4. STREET LIGHTS: Atsalis stated that Blueberry Lane does have street lights. He is polling the neighborhood to determine if there is need for an additional lighting. It had been determined at an earlier meeting that Erin Lane did not need additional street lighting.

5. OLD BUSINESS: None

6. NEW BUSINESS: a. Comstar: Newsletter suggested that fire department look at their current ambulance billing rates. The last adjustment was in 2013. Comstar will provide us with additional information. Sullivan will follow-up with Rick Martin of Comstar. The question was raised if additional action could increase collection. That suggestion was rejected.

b. Hyannis Port Fire House: There was some confusion relative to our current status with Premier Commercial and John Ciluzzi. There was agreement that we need to sever our relationship with Ciluzzi and restart the process for the sale of the Hyannis Port firehouse with a Request for Proposal. Cross will clarify our status with Paul Griffin and John Ciluzzi.

c. Payment in Lieu of Taxes: Atsalis has secured a commitment from the Cape Cod Hospital to meet in February. Cross will set a date with Atsalis.

d. Financial: Cross began the discussion by citing the Auditors Report dated June 2, 2015

that found a significant deficiency. He questioned how that might be addressed and whether we should have a back-up person for the Clerk/Treasurer. The Chief said there had been a back-up in the past. We should have more detail in line items such as Commissioners Expense and Service Vehicles. The Chief recounted the history of the Commissioners Expense account and the legal fees caused by the numerous law suits that the Commission has had to defend. There was an extraordinary expense created by the Promotional Exams which were charged to the Commissioners Expense account. Sullivan stated that in the past we have had to use Reserve Funds to cover unforeseen legal expenses and that is not a good practice. The general public needs to know how their tax dollars are being spent. During budget process we need to increase the Commissioner Expense to cover anticipated expenses. The Service Vehicles (lease payments) is substantially over budget because the aerial ladder will not be delivered this fiscal year.

e. Budget FY 2017: The budget will need to be finalized by April so that the Warrant may be published in time for the Annual Meeting. Much of the budget is determined by fixed costs and contractual obligations. We should develop a time line to get this task accomplished on time. The Chief, with his staff, has begun the process of getting figures together for next year's budget. The Chief agreed that would present a preliminary budget for February 11th meeting. We will need to meet with the Clerk /Treasurer to develop that portion of the budget.

f. New Fire House: The Commission voted to call a Special Meeting of the District to be convened on April 9th, 2016 at 9:30 am with voting to be held after the motion is made and voting to continue until 2 pm. The meeting to be held at the Performing Arts Center at the High School. Sullivan stated that legal counsel and stenographer have been engaged. There was a request for voting booths be obtained. The Chief stated that there might be a legal problem with the use of booths and he will look into this.

The bonding options and impact analysis were prepared by Lynne Foster of Unibank. If we need to talk with Lynne Foster she is available. We are looking to bond \$17,640,058 less the net proceeds from the sale of Pitchers Way property. When the Hyannis Port property is sold, those proceeds will be used to reduce the bond. We will need to choose between the two options presented by Lynne Foster. The options are Declining Principal or Level Debt. This should be voted on at the next meeting.

Strategy and public relations were discussed. The Commission will need to find funds to for this campaign. The Design fund may be a source to explore. The Chief felt that the Commission could use those funds and that it was appropriate for the Commission to promote the project. Skende will talk with Paul Griffin to review past public relation efforts.

7. CHIEF'S REPORT: The Town of Barnstable Citizens Academy will visit the Fire House on Tuesday, February 23d. The Chief will give us the time and Commissioners re invited to drop by. The American Red Cross annual breakfast will be held on April 13th at 7:30.

The Chief presented a request from the By Law Committee that the proposed amendments to the By Law be submitted to legal counsel for review. The request was unanimously approved by the Commission.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT: Allen Goddard stated that costs are escalating every year. People need to understand that delay just increases costs. The Commission needs to quantify what that means in real numbers. We are currently paying more for less space.

Laura Cronin asked if there was going to be further response to letters submitted concerning the financial statements. Cross stated that discussions were on going. Laura Cronin said that the Hyannis Port property and Payment in Lieu of Taxes continue to be on the agenda and there is no progress. The public perception is that promises made are going unfulfilled. She also warned that a shrinking tax base would eventually mean that the village would be unable to sustain the fire district financially.

Bill Cronin asked how it was that the Steamship Authority was running parking lots.

Larry Decker observed that the Hyannis Port property will be an issue at the time of the vote. He will continue to work with Skende on public relations effort for the vote.

Nate Munafo suggested that the Commission leave off discussion of the sale of the Hyannis Port property to avoid confusion at the vote at district meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Skende