

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS --- REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2016

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

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

1. MINUTES: The minutes of January 14, 2016 were accepted as presented. Chairman Cross noted that a question had been raised at the last meeting concerning the absence of minutes on the web site. He wished to note that the minutes of the three meetings in question had been, in fact, on the web site.

Chairman Cross recognized Fire Fighters David Webb, Andrew Hennessy and Kyle Jacob for their efforts in making Operation Warm so successful. David Webb and Andrew Hennessy were present and received letters of commendation at the meeting. Cross requested that the Chief present Kyle Jacob with his letter and that copies be placed in their personnel files.

2. CORRESPONDENCE: None
3. PUBLIC COMMENT: As a follow-up to discussion at the last meeting about the desire to have back-up for the Clerk/Treasurer, Laura Cronin offered to volunteer her services as a member of the District to work with the Clerk/Treasurer. Cross thanked Laura for her offer. He said we would need to look at confidentiality among other issues. He felt that currently we were spinning a lot of plates and that when present issues are resolved we would address the needs of the Clerk/Treasurer's office.
4. STREET LIGHTS: No report.
5. OLD BUSINESS: None
6. NEW BUSINESS: a. Hyannis Port Fire House: There has been an offer made on the property. John Ciluzzi called to say there is at least one other offer pending. And the possibility of a third. Action was postponed until the next meeting. An executive session will be called when all offers are in. The Chief has cleared the snow so that access can be maintained.

b. Payment in Lieu of Taxes: Atsalis is still attempting to get an appointment with Cape Cod Healthcare. There is some resistance to meeting with us. Payment in Lieu of Taxes will not solve problem but will help out in small ways.

c. Budget FY 2017: Cross suggested a meeting with the Chief and Clerk/Treasurer to begin the budget process with the Commission. Sullivan agreed to take part in that meeting. We don't want to be surprised at the last minute. We need to keep budget as level as possible. The group will meet next week.

d. Aerial Ladder: The Chief was asked to give a progress report. Staff has completed their work and have submitted their work product to the manufacture. We are waiting for final draft and estimate of cost. The Chief expects to have more information the first of next week.

e. New Fire House: Bonding Option: Chairman Cross has met with members of Citizens for a Better Fire Station and has attempted to present the individual citizens with the correct information. The cost of the land is an issue. The purchase of the land was approved by the voters. Because the question of bonding the station was voted down, the District had to go out and bond the land purchase. We own the land. Bringing up other public safety buildings is a distraction. We are building a fire station for Hyannis. Cross has made arrangements to set up informational sessions at the Youth and Community Center. Date and times to be published. We need to emphasize this is the Commission's project. The residents of the district deserve the best service we can provide.

After discussion of the impacts of the bond payments, on a motion made by Dennis Sullivan and seconded by Victor Skende the Board voted unanimously to accept the Option of Declining Principal on a 30-year bond. The tax impact on the average home (\$325,000) would be \$116.75 in the first year and would decline yearly after that. Declining principal means that we will save \$1.6 million over the term of the bond. The bond will be for \$18,500,000 less the net proceeds from the sale of Pitchers Way and Scudder Avenue properties.

Public Relations: Skende has held several meetings and discussions concerning an informational campaign to reach the residents of the district. A Facebook page and email will be up shortly. We are waiting materials from Kaestle Boos.

7. CHIEF'S REPORT: The Chief announced that we have received the new ambulance – 831. It is currently being outfitted. He invited all present to take a look at the ambulance on the apparatus floor.
8. PUBLIC COMMENT: Allen Goddard suggested that we talk in terms of quarterly payments for the bond issue. There was agreement that we talk about \$29 a quarter and not talk about weeks or days. There was agreement that it was a more meaningful way to present the cost to the voters.

Mike Dalmau said that, in addition to going to the Youth Center, Senior Center etc., it was important that we engage with talk radio. He stressed the need for urgency. There are people who want this station shut down. We need to respond quickly and accurately.

Larry Decker inquired about budget for publicity. Skende respond that the architect and project manager will provide support for marketing the project. It is part of the service they provide.

David Webb said that he had been asked what was the next plan – was there a plan if this project is not funded. Cross stated this is it. As a Commission we feel this project and the costs are justified. If this bond request doesn't pass, we will have to look at this building to see what needs to be done in order to make it livable, bring it up to present day codes and capable of providing the services we expect. Everyone knows this building is beyond its shelf life. There is no secret plan. The District does not have the funds to undertake the major repairs needed to take this building into the 21st century. In the end we will be back before the voters to bond the repairs and still have an undersized and inadequate facility.

Bill Cronin cautioned that we do not throw out possible costs to repair this building. We should avoid using numbers that might be interpreted as threatening. Laura Cronin agreed that we not use numbers when suggesting future repairs.

9. ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Skende