**MINUTES**

**SELECTMEN’S MEETING**

**GRIFFIN ROOM, TOWN HALL**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2019**

**6:30 P.M.**

**SELECTMEN PRESENT:** Ballantine, Howell, MacAskill, McManus

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Town Administrator Christopher Clark, Carol Coppola, Carolyn Carey, Erica Strezpek, John Stewart, Sandra Woodbridge, Randall Pond, Judith Underwood, and others.

Vice-Chairman Ballantine reported that the Executive Session would be moved to next week.

**JOINT MEETING OF HOUSING AUTHORITY AND SELECTMEN FOR INTERVIEWS TO APPOINT AN INTERIM MEMBER OF THE HARWICH HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Mr. McManus read the meeting notice into record. Mr. Howell divulged that he is on the Board of HECH and one of the applicants works for HECH but she doesn’t have any direct relationship to him nor does she report to him so he doesn’t plan on recusing himself. There were no objections.

The Housing Authority called their meeting to order. Present were John Stewart, Sandra Woodbridge, Randall Pond and Judith Underwood. The Board and Housing Authority interviewed the following applicants for two vacancies.

Applicants:

1. Kimberly Bourgea

2. Mark Kelleher

There were no questions or comments from the public. Mr. MacAskill moved to close the public hearing. Mr. McManus seconded the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Mr. McManus moved to nominate Kimberly Bourgea to the tenant designated position for an expiration no later than this year’s Town election. Mr. Howell seconded the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Mr. McManus moved to nominate Mark Kelleher to fulfill a term until the May 2019 elections. Mr. Howell seconded the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**WEEKLY BRIEFING**

Mr. Clark reported we received a request from Monomoy Schools for a fee waiver for use of the Multi-Purpose Room at the Community Center for February 5 for an open forum with the School Superintendent. He noted that the fee is $60. Mr. MacAskill objected as this is not on the agenda and is not an emergency. The Board agreed to bring this item back.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Sutphin read the following letter to the Board:

Some of you may recall my objection to the Snack Bar. I took the position at the time that there was too much of a revenue requirement for a limited upside, benefiting a financially established few, not to mention the competition created with taxpaying eateries. I have now come to understand that there is a $1,333 a month rent being floated for the Snack Bar. Clearly any tenant’s benefit from a $600,000 to $700,000 construction cost has become something akin to corporate welfare provided by the taxpayers. I see the proposed crematorium in the same light.

I come before you tonight primarily interested in making the public aware of your individual voting records when articles come to Town Meeting. I am particularly interested in just how individual Board members and individual Finance Committee members will vote on a crematorium that now appears to be rising from the town voter ashes. I know that others supporting my point of view will expound on the benefits of a four lot land sale that would put the lots back on the tax rolls, thereby generating income. And others will be more specific about the overly optimistic gross receipts, especially receipts that need to be seen in the full light of realistic development expenditures and running costs. And others might ask why we are not using less readily marketable town lands for a cemetery in the first place. It is surely any voter’s reasonable expectation to know a board member’s position on a forthcoming article at election time. The same goes for the Finance Committee. How else does one really know about the members of a board or committee? Assigning bunched article packets to various board members for rubber stamping prior to a vote is not enlightening the electorate. Individual responsibility remains in the dark. Additionally, I would add that voters do not generally make it their business to understand potential conflicts among various town boards, and so I ask that the Board consider when recusals may be in order involving any business in front of them.

In conclusion, I ask is the town looking for cash flow at any cost. Or perhaps it’s just another little something? History shows that service requirements will outpace revenue growth, making all these extras much more appropriately supported by private enterprise in the first place. We need to slow down what are clearly elective expenditures. We need to save funds for the schools and other core infrastructure needs. In closing, I would say that a vote for the crematorium is akin to voting a Range Rover for a department head. It just does not make financial sense.

The Board took comments from Ms. Carol Anderson regarding an Orleans judge. Vice-Chairman Ballantine stressed to her that she should bring her concerns to the Town Administrator.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Minutes:
2. December 3, 2018 Regular Session
3. December 10, 2018 Regular Session
4. Accept the resignation of Rosanne Donahue as a member of the Harwich Cultural Council

Mr. McManus moved approval of the Consent Agenda Items A2 and B. Mr. Howell seconded the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous vote. Mr. McManus moved approval of Item A1. Vice-Chairman Ballantine seconded the motion. The motion carried by a 4-0-1 vote with Mr. Howell abstaining from the vote as he was not present at the December 3rd meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS** *(Not earlier than 6:30 P.M.)*

1. Change the Mass Flag – Rosanne Shapiro

Ms. Shapiro discussed racist symbols in our State seal and flag and said she will be filing an article for Town Meeting to provide residents an opportunity to support proposed legislation to make changes to our official symbols.

1. Free Cash Analysis – Carol Coppola

Ms. Coppola provided an overview of Certified Free Cash at June 30, 2018 in the amount $3,492,074 including details on revenues, expenditures, surplus revenue and turnbacks.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Saquatucket Marina Landside project – Naming of the vendor marketplace and individual vendor shacks - includes policies and procedures

Ms. Carey outlined her memo to the Board dated January 16, 2019 as follows:

We are excited to be moving forward with the Saquatucket Landside Project. We have consulted with the towns of Hyannis and Orleans as other local communities that have successfully developed comparable projects in their communities. Based on their advice, we have identified the four sheds that would be most appropriate for our needs here in Harwich. For this project, we propose the name, "Seaside Marketplace at Saquatucket Marina". This name encapsulates the vibrant, diverse, and inclusive space we are seeking to create. In celebration of our local geography and resources, we are proposing the following names for the four individual shacks, "Allen Harbor", "Round Cove", "Herring River", and "Wychmere Harbor". We feel these names are particularly fitting with the location we have chosen for this program. This year, we are participating in a ten day, statewide Art Week produced by The Boch Center which begins on April 26, 2019. The Boch Center coordinates statewide advertising for all partner projects in this exciting event. The deadline to submit information to The Boch Center for inclusion in these advertisements is February 22, 2019. It would be enormously beneficial to confirm these names for the program and the individual shacks in time to meet this advertising deadline. This would allow us to invite attendees of our broader Art Week activities to see the shacks, learn more about the mission and policies surrounding them, and will undoubtedly spark interest amongst potential renters. We are still diligently working to establish policies and procedures for the shack rentals. I look forward to coming back before you to present these policies as we move towards finalizing them. Though we still have more work to do in this area, we are excited to present you with these recommendations and sincerely hope you will vote to approve them.

Mr. Rendon spoke in support of the proposed names. Mr. McManus moved that we approve of the proposal on naming of the Seaside Marketplace at Saquatucket Marina and the four shacks, Allen Harbor, Round Cove, Herring River and Wychmere Harbor. Mr. MacAskill seconded the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

It was agreed to bring forward the fee structure at an upcoming meeting.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

1. Dennis/Harwich/Yarmouth Legislation update

Mr. Clark reported that in terms of the DHY initiative there was some hope that we would get that accomplished in the informal session of the State House but we were not successful in doing that. He noted that it will potentially change some timelines.

1. Budget Warrant Timeline – upcoming dates

Mr. Clark discussed upcoming items on the Budget Warrant Timeline.

1. Departmental Reports

There was no action or discussion on this item.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. MacAskill moved to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Mr. Howell seconded the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Steidel

Recording Secretary