

**TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN - BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015 5:00 PM
TOWN HALL – JUDGE WELSH ROOM**

Chairman Donegan convened the open meeting at 5:00PM noting the following:

Board of Selectmen attending: Tom Donegan, Erik Yingling, Robert Anthony, Cheryl Andrews, and Raphael Richter.

Other attendees: Acting Town Manager David Gardner, Acting Assistant Town Manager Michelle Jarusiewicz, Assembly Delegate Dr. Brian O'Malley, and Commissioner Sheila Lyons.

Recorder: Loretta Dougherty

Tom introduced our speakers.

1. Presentations by County Officials – Votes may be taken on the following items:

A. Annual Report from Commissioner Sheila Lyons.

Tom asked Commissioner Lyons to give an overview of the organization; how it is funded and its purpose.

Commissioner Lyons gave a brief overview of the workings within county government. County government helps the Town in keeping up with issues that are too large for the Town to handle, such as reporting requirements, wastewater issues, and regional area networking to reduce their IT costs. The County helps with environmental issues, and building consensus and town collaboration on a regular basis which allows them to harness grants. Funding comes from approximately 10% of town assessments. We have a cost of living going up 3% and we are restricted to 2.5%. As populations change and diminish, towns are strapped. People are looking at the County more and more for assistance. The County has just come out of their budget period with a shortfall; the exact amount is not known as yet.

The Board thanked Commissioner Lyons for the update.

No action was taken.

B. Annual Report from Assembly Delegate Dr. Brian O'Malley.

Dr. O'Malley stated that this is the first opportunity he has had to report to the Board since he has only served as our delegate for four months. He gave a brief overall view of the role of County government. He noted that a huge part is dedicated to public health issues along with wastewater, extension services, the Human Arts Commission, regulatory planning (IT), the Children's Cove and many more.

Tom asked about the 911 answering center; he is disappointed that it is in Bourne so far away from Provincetown. Putting it in Bourne is not a practical option for us.

Commissioner Lyons stated that it was voted against this round, and that she was not involved in these discussions. Commissioner Flynn was more involved. She agrees the need for local control and jobs to stay here.

Dr. O'Malley stated that there is a tendency for the County to be mid-Cape centered. An observation on his part is that everything is in Barnstable.

Tom would like to see them working on homeless services. To get a Provincetown person in need to Hyannis is long and tortuous. Human Services is important and the state will be cutting much of their support for these services.

Commissioner Lyons wants to support a consolidated effort of services. They are working on the homeless situation very hard. There is a HUD grant (community action) that has been given over to them. They signed up to take on that grant; making sure the money would stay on the Cape. It includes housing, placement, and rapid rehousing. They need 1 ½ grant writers, which did not pass

the Assembly, but they will keep trying to do this. She recently met with the Board of Selectmen in Mashpee and was told there is a huge drug problem there. The County has issued a report on what it is costing the Cape in terms of police, hospitals, employment, families, emotional, and mental health. It is a much bigger problem than just the addiction itself; it is affecting an entire society on the Cape, and will be addressed.

Dr. O'Malley stated that the significance of alcohol abuse is an equal burden in the community. It is responsible for a lot of the costs even though alcohol use is relatively flat and the drug use is sky rocketing. This is an epidemic.

Tom's final question was geared to how we track, keep involved, and understand the management of our water. There was a conference held a couple of months ago regarding this; the 208 Plan. Commissioner Lyons suggested that we ask Paul Niedzwiecki from the Cape Cod Commission to come and speak with the Board about the 208 Plan. The conference was just a day where they let the County know what has been done so far, where they are going, and show what progress has been made by holding different sessions throughout the Cape where people have come together over a year's process and are coming to some consensus on how to plan forward. We have to have that plan forward for the state and federal dollars. We have to show that we are speaking as one voice. It has been a tremendous effort. We are advocating for a natural "Cape" way; one where we will not have to put costly sewers everywhere, especially in the outer areas where we can use Title 5 septic systems.

Cheryl asked if the Board could get a report showing a number for all the stabilization accounts and any other accounts unencumbered right now.

Commissioner Lyons will make sure that the Board gets a report.

Tom stated that right now the County is funded, in part, by a real estate transfer fee and that our Town Meetings have been asking for this special legislation for many years; like Nantucket, to have a real estate transfer fee. As the County begins to look at ways to modify their legislation think about having an opt-in option for the towns to be able to add on an adder. The County would have a base level like we do for the meals tax and the towns would opt-in by adding 1% on top of it. It would be very helpful to the towns and at each Town Meeting they could decide if they wanted to do it or not. Commissioner Lyons stated that these will be ongoing discussions through the year. She will be meeting with a group of elected officials and this is exactly what they will be talking about because they are looking at way for new revenues and how to restructure. She will bring this forward as part of the discussions.

Cheryl stated that this would have to go back before the Legislature.

Commissioner Lyons stated that it would have to be a part of the discussion as there would need to be a Charter change. She stated that their revenue stream is set but they could advocate for the towns to have something similar that would help them. She stated she would not mind increasing our percentage; we have not even taxed as much as we can.

Tom stated that they already have the collection function which is part of the advantage. He commented that if they had a 1% and we added a ½% to it, the collection mechanism would be in place and we could pay a fee for that.

Commissioner Lyons will pass on discussions had with different Commissioners and Departments. She did speak with Billy Travers the IT Director, and he is putting together a packet for the Town to review with some pricing in it. Wellfleet and Truro are using some the County's services. Sheila will pass on this discussion.

No action was taken.

2. Other: None.

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 6:01pm.

Minutes transcribed by: Loretta Dougherty