

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN - BOARD OF SELECTMEN

- QUARTERLY PUBLIC FORUM -

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2003

JUDGE WELSH HEARING ROOM

Chairman Mary-Jo Avellar opened the meeting at 7:00 PM noting the following attendees:

Board of Selectmen members: Mary-Jo Avellar, Cheryl Andrews, Michele Couture, Sarah Peake, Richard Olson

Other attendees: Town Manager Keith Bergman

Recorder: Secretary to Board of Selectmen Vernon Porter

The following are meeting minutes, in brief.

Chairman Avellar explained that the purpose of this meeting was for the public to be able to speak to the Board of Selectmen and engage in dialogue. Anything that is worthy of decision-making will be scheduled for an agenda item at a future Board of Selectmen meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & RESPONSES

John Burke

When are the tax bills going out? Heard that it was going to be in November and we will be away and want to make sure our taxes are paid first.

Keith Bergman

The Director of Municipal Finance will put out a press release on the fall tax bills this week. And the first half bills are due and payable by November 1, 2003.

Brunetta Wolfman - representing COA

- 1) Perception that the town officials care more about visitors than those that live in town.
- 2) Would like to have their brochures in visible places where new people to town can have access to one when visiting the Town Clerk's office, the Assessor's office and the Parking Department office.
- 3) Would like the Board of Selectmen to take into consideration of Adult Day Care as part of the whole package for the new manor.

Michele Couture

Thank you for your suggestions and I can assure you that the Board of Selectmen does not consider anything that the COA does as 'silly activities.' The Board of Selectmen always supports the COA and we would gladly suggest Adult Day Care.

Sarah Peake

Placing the books at various locations is a good idea.

MOTION: Move that the Board of Selectmen vote that the COA Brochures to make available in the Town Clerk's Office, the Treasurer's Office and the Parking Department Office.

Motion by: Sarah Peake

Seconded by: Michele Couture

Yea 5 Nay 0

Mary-Jo Avellar

I certainly agree with Adult Day Care.

Rachel White

- 1) At the West End playground the gates open out and maybe they should go in. Also there is a piece of metal fence that stick out there and you should take a look at that as well.

- 2) Doughboy - needs to be looked at. Graffiti and kids are hanging around there. Gate or no gate? (Mary-Jo Avellar - it is being closed at night now.)
- 3) Boats launching in the West End - we could be making money on this.

Linda Ersoy

Access to restrooms needs to be looked into especially at the height of the season. Both in Town Hall and the MPL Comfort Station. After the restrooms close, people are heading for the restaurants, etc. There has to be a place for people to go to after the restrooms close.

Cheryl Andrews

Can we look at some type of signage to direct people where to go after Town Hall is closed?

Keith Bergman

This is staffing issue and we will get with the DPW. Also will look at signage.

Mary-Jo Avellar

Why do we have attendants at the Comfort Station? Are they needed? I would like to see something done for next season.

Chief Ted Meyer

This was a major question with the Summer Officers.

Stephen Melamed

Service at the Department of Community Development - altered hours. You can't get any service between 3 pm and 5 pm - and you can hardly reach them by telephone as well.

Cheryl Andrews

A sub-committee was convened to go over the situation downstairs with DCD Director. Once complaint the Selectmen had received was that people went to the window and no one was there. The department head recommend a change in hours and the promise was made in return that the window would be fully covered when it was open. Now there are specific hours where you can be assured there will be someone there to help you.

Stephen Melamed

If the hours are changed then why have you not taken advantage of the local press to tell people? You have two magazines and one local newspaper to run ads inform the public of the new hours of operation.

Steve then wanted to raise an issue regarding the Pier.

Mary-Jo Avellar left the room due to conflict of interest. Her husband is Asst. Harbormaster.

I want to compliment the people operating the Pier this year - especially the Pier Manager and the Harbormaster collectively.

The Pier Corporation directors need to know a lot more about what is going on. They need guidance and need to learn more about the laws that apply to the pier and the harbor.

Mary-Jo Avellar returned.

Re: Fireworks. Would appreciate it if the Board of Selectmen would have better communications with the VSB rather than just saying that you want more money for the fireworks.

Sarah Peake

There is a misunderstanding. The proposal was brought to us and we referred it to the VSB - seeking input from the VSB.

Keith Bergman

There is a process and I hope you were not lead to believe otherwise. First, staff recommends to VSB and the VSB recommends to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Selectmen then bring it to Town Meeting.

Stephen Melamed

That is not the impression I had from our last meeting. Thank you for your clarification.

Wanted to let you know that the Police perception was significantly improved this year over last year. I attribute this to the working groups we had and to Chief Meyer. Thank you Chief.

Michele Couture

Couldn't agree with you more. We are very pleased with the summer details.

Cheryl Andrews

It was like night and day. They were very helpful and friendly and we appreciate it very much.

Elizabeth Patrick

I think you ought to reinstate where the Selectmen respond to public statements at you regular meetings. Also thinks that the Selectmen should uphold the vote of the town voters.

Town should look into their spending. We all face high tax bills and this will have serious consequences for the elderly.

Respect the will of the voters.

Jim McGowan

Police car chase going the wrong way down Commercial Street - almost hit him.

Pier Corporation - their record, files and documents are still not available. Hear that they said to destroy all their old records. The 400K given to them - want to make sure it is be used wisely. Where is their budget?

Parking spaces at Heritage Museum/Library - Handicapped space was removed last year and never replaced. Contractors and workers should be parking their personal vehicle elsewhere. Is there a budget in place for the Library?

Sarah Peake

At a public meeting on July 28, 2003, the Pier Corporation gave a power point presentation, which included their revenue forecast. These slides are available if you haven't seen them yet.

Museum Parking - Clerk of the Works put the horses in a space at-a-time. The space are for dumpsters and Construction Contract Vehicles. Arrangements have been made for the workers to park in a different area.

Mary-Jo Avellar

Regarding the high-speed chase. All of us were very upset and I spoke with the Chief today.

Chief Meyers

Police Chiefs from here to Brewster are investigating this incident.

Brunetta Wolfman

The COA is concerned over the P & B bus schedule for the winter and wondering if town officials are doing anything about it.

Keith Bergman

It has been burning up cyberspace and is unacceptable to our town and other town.

Mary-Jo Avellar

This is a significant concern to us and I will let Keith fill you in.

Keith Bergman

P & B rescinded plans to stop their service as of the end of September. They complained that they are losing money on this route; however, with the complaints from towns and citizens all over the Cape they have changed their mind. The Cape Cod Transit Task Force Organization (Mark Forest) is meeting a week from Friday and I will be attending. Also, there is going to be an Outer Cape Summit in October (date TBA) and I will be attending that as well.

Rachel White

Telephones - downstairs at DCD are horrible. They ring off the hook and nobody answers. I get so frustrated at times that I drive down her instead.

Fireworks - You have to look at the fireworks themselves and keep track to make sure you are getting what you paid for.

My husband, Robert White, withdrew his application from the Harbor Committee as he was under the impression from another candidate that you had made up your minds who you were going to select and he didn't want to come here and be interviewed if you had already made your decision.

Elizabeth Patrick

Can we do something about the delivery trucks during the winter? They park in front of my store all the time. Thank you all for doing a great job.

Motion to adjourn by Michele Couture at 8:10 pm.

Minutes transcribed by: Vernon Porter, Secretary
September 16, 2003