

Annual Town-wide Policy Goals for FY 2011

The Provincetown Board of Selectmen held a Public Hearing on **Monday, July 12, 2010 at 6 p.m.** in Larkin Hall, Center for Coastal Studies, 5 Holway Avenue, Provincetown, MA, and then and there voted to adopt the following Town-wide policy goals for Fiscal Year 2011:

1) **Fiscal Management**

The Town Manager, the Finance Director, the Town Treasurer, the Principal Assessor, the Town Collector along with all employees involved in fiscal responsibility and management of their departments continue to contribute significantly in taking strides to comply with the Massachusetts Department of Revenue recommendations noted in their report to the Board of Selectmen in April 2008. Efforts to further improve all financial processes remain a priority while maintaining strong communication and accountability. Effectuating timely reporting to meet deadlines mandated by the Department of Revenue remains a priority with a target date of December 2010 for removal from the DOR watch list.

A five year fiscal policy plan and a five year capital improvement plan are essential tools which need to be in place for future forecasting and planning. The importance of these financial planning tools will enable the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee, the Town Manager and staff to communicate the financial needs of the Town throughout the budget process in the fall and winter months. Completion of the transition of the Town and the School Departments to the upgraded MUNIS financial package software remains a priority in order to work efficiently within the guidelines established by the Finance Director. An open dialogue with new school administrators has been successfully achieved. To that end the continuation of efforts to work with School Committee members in finding solutions for the viability of educational programs is essential.

Commit to meeting as often as possible with the Finance Committee to create a clear and concise planning strategy for budget preparation as well as for the future financial projections of the Town. Concentration and continual attention to identifying key sources of additional revenue are paramount to providing a sound financial future. These include urging state government leaders to equitably distribute revenues received from future local receipt options in order to maximize return to the Town; the continued dialogue with Town retirees so that there is an understanding of the urgency to approve the adoption of Section 18 of Medicare benefits; and the inclusion of additional pay stations for the benefit of maximizing parking revenues received during the seasonal months of the year.

Continue recognizing the importance of the stabilization fund while building reserves for the future financial health of the Town. Adherence to the formally adopted policies to build reserves in the range of three-to-five percent of the operating budget.

Maintain the process of closing outdated articles holding any remaining cash balances for purposes of efficiency.

2) Town Facilities Action Plan

Completion of Phase 2 of Town Hall will prove to be a welcome reminder to all Provincetown citizens that their government seat and central focal point of the downtown area is once again structurally sound while efficient space has been made to maximize town employee productivity. A smooth transition back into Town Hall at the completion of the project in late fall promises to be an event worth remembering. As the historic reconstruction of the auditorium is completed the grand space will be made available for Town Meeting as well as for live performances and other events.

Issue a Request for Proposal for a town wide building assessment as approved by voters at Town Meeting to maximize use of other town-owned buildings, including the public schools. Bring completed and comprehensive reports to Town Meeting with clear options for the future. Continue to invest resources into a maintenance program for all town owned facilities. Investigate alternative options for the location of the Community Center programs and related Recreation Department activities.

Develop a plan for all town owned buildings which describes current uses, if the building is appropriate for such usage and listing the repairs needed for each of the buildings for the short and long term. The information gathered on these buildings will be used by the Board of Selectman to assist in crafting long-term policy which will enable a proactive approach for the maintenance of all town owned buildings as opposed to being reactive as buildings fail in meeting their individual needs.

Continue to provide viable space considerations at the Freeman Street Building by communicating with the Tourism Director, PTV Coordinator and Art Commission for creating a healthy and livable environment for employees, citizens and visitors.

3) Paving of Commercial Street

Continue to pursue solutions and funding sources for the repaving and reconstruction of Commercial Street.

4) Police Station Relocation

Review and evaluate the detailed needs assessment prepared at the current location of the Police Department while determining future demands on resources, manpower, training and equipment. Identify funding sources and viable alternative locations of Town owned property to construct a new police facility.

5) Affordable Housing

Continue over site of the Town's project at 90 Shank Painter Road while supporting The Community Builders in their pursuit of sufficient state funding relief. Ensuring that construction of the 50 rental apartments are completed with due diligence and timeliness. Continue to work with the Cape Cod Commission traffic engineers to review the completed traffic study analysis on Shank Painter Road, a highly congested two lane road impacted by business, commercial/retail property, existing residential properties and projected increased traffic from build-out of a 50 unit affordable rental community. Investigate solutions and options for varying traffic patterns or traffic control

devices at the intersection of Shank Painter Road and Route 6 as well as the intersection of Shank Painter Road and Bradford Street.

Institute quarterly meetings of the Board of Selectmen with the Provincetown Community Housing Council in order to share information and communicate initiatives.

6) Water Management Plan

Continue discussions with Truro in pursuing North Union Field acquisition of property for long sought redundant water supply as mandated by the DEP. Close on and acquire private property in Truro needed to secure land adjacent to North Union Field contained in Zone 1, the 400 foot buffer around the public water supply that the Town is required by DEP to maintain control over. Seek continued discussions with the Cape Cod National Seashore to work through pitfalls of obtaining water resources and withdrawal from CCNS property.

Continue system improvements on both the supply side and distribution system while using USDA Rural Development grant funding awarded through the Federal Government's stimulus monies earmarked for such projects. Reducing accounted for water will remain a priority throughout these infrastructure improvements.

7) Wastewater

Continue and finalize construction related to Phases 3a and 3b expansion of the sewer system by utilizing USDA Rural Development grant monies for this project. Concentrate on generating new users onto the system and hooking up others who either have failed septic systems or desire to be connected to the public sewer system.

8) Harbor Plan

The Department of Environmental Protection utilizes a *Harbor Plan* for direction when making decisions on individual Chapter 91 licenses in the attempt to provide public benefit when private property has encroached on public tidelands. The Harbor Committee is chartered to review and update the plan.

Forward long awaited and revised *Harbor Plan* to Town Meeting for approval by voters. Continue to work with the Harbor Committee and the Conservation Committee while encouraging beach nourishment along the waterfront.

9) Storm Drain Repairs

The harbor side drainage assessment was completed in 2003 reflecting that the town has 25 outfall pipes that directly discharge into the harbor. Continue the pursuit of grants and other funding mechanisms in order to continue the process of completing this important drain rehabilitation project each year.

10) Alternative Energy

Continue to support and encourage the Recycling and Renewable Energy Committee in their pursuit for sources of alternative energy and grant funding while meeting with this

group more frequently. To determine which town buildings are suitable for solar or wind generators as a long term energy savings goal.

Work with state leaders, regional groups and the Cape Cod National Seashore in the acquisition of alternative energy sources in the form of wind turbines.

Pursue a town-owned utility system for electricity and a back-up generator system for emergency situations.

Encourage alternative sources of transportation, especially bicycles, where desirous.

11) Economic Development and Tourism

The Board of Selectman officially recognize that tourism is the town's primary economic engine and will work in conjunction with the VSB and the EDC to improve and enhance the infrastructure needed to support this economy. Included in this effort will be continuing support of any legislative efforts to augment the tourism fund by way of extending room tax to short term rentals. Continue to work on initiatives and incentives that keep businesses in town in addition to attracting new businesses, including accommodations, dining and retail establishments. Work with the Department of Community Development to create a more effective and efficient environment for regulatory transactions between businesses and the town.

Focus on implementation and finalizing plans for Cape-wide internet access.

12) Cape Cod National Seashore

Work and support efforts of CCNS to improve highway access, directional signage and other vehicular traffic related issues affecting citizens and visitors to Provincetown. Support and respect the efforts of the Dune Shack dwellers of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District to validate their plea for recognition as a traditional, historic and cultural community.

Enhance the partnership with the CCNS concerning matters of mutual interest.

*Michele Couture
Chairman, Board of Selectmen*

Posted Town Hall, www.provincetown-ma.gov: July 14, 2010
Provincetown Banner: July 22, 2010