

Town Council Special Meeting and Workshop
February 8, 2010
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

Roll Call

Councilors present and answering roll call: Councilors Libby, Rodden, Armitage, Payne, Breen, and Chase were present and answering roll call.

Councilor Pierce arrived later.

**Item 1 Presentation by members of the Falmouth High School
2010 Katrina Relief Service Team.**

Falmouth High School faculty chaperones Jon Radtke and Holly MacEwan, and Town Councilor Dave Libby, participated in a Habitat for Humanity project on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi in January 2010 along with ten FHS students. The students shared a slide show with the Council and spoke of their experience. The following students were in attendance: Kalen Jabar, Ellie MacEwan, Danielle Mokarzel, Alana Becker, India Sprague, Samantha Levy and Hutch Hurwitz. The three other students who were on the trip were Alison Derhagopian, Morgan Larrabee and Katie Ventura.

**Item 2 Public hearing and order to grant a new food service/victualer's
and new liquor license for Mister Bagel and Bernie's Foreside
located at 204 US Route One.**

Chair Breen opened the public hearing. There was no public comment. Chair Breen closed the public hearing. Owner Adam Shapiro was present to answer questions. Councilor Libby moved to approve the new licenses Councilor Armitage seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

**Item 3 Continuation of the Green Ribbon Commission presentation
to the Town Council regarding the third and final section of
the Energy and Climate Protection report, such section is titled
"Transportation and Land Use".**

This item was postponed to a later meeting.

Item 4 Presentation regarding a proposal to consolidate Public Safety Dispatching service for the Towns of Falmouth and Yarmouth at the Falmouth Police Department.

Town Manager Nathan Poore and Police Chief Ed Tolan discussed the proposal with the Council. Poore stated all the results were not in from the budget survey, but the indication is that 65 % want to see Dispatch stay in Falmouth. The Council supported proceeding with a proposal agreement with Yarmouth pending action by the Yarmouth Town Council.

Item 5 Introduction by Councilor Libby of an amendment to the Zoning and Land Use Ordinance to amend the definition of recreational vehicle and how they are stored.

Councilor Libby moved to table this item; Councilor Rodden seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Item 6 Discussion regarding the site visit conducted by town staff as a condition of amendments to the settlement agreement for 105 Sunset Road.

Chair Breen, after reading the report from the Town Assessor Anne Gregory and Code Enforcement Officer Al Farris, recommended rescinding the offer made on January 11, 2010. The Councilors discussed with homeowner Rob McDaniels the issues that were addressed during the inspections and the original order.

Councilor Rodden moved to revoke the order from January 11, 2010 until the homeowner, Rob McDaniels has a chance to meet with the Code Enforcement Officer Al Farris and fill the zoning requirements and pay fines. Chair Breen seconded. Motion failed 4-2. Nays Councilor Libby, Armitage, Payne, Chase.

It was decided to have the homeowner work with the CEO on the violations.

Item 7 Presentation on the current Fund Balance Policy set by the Council.

Councilor Pierce arrived at the meeting and explained the current Fund Balance Policy. In simple accounting terms, fund balance represents the difference between assets and liabilities in a particular fund. The general fund balance is a critical measure of a town's financial health and is the primary measure used by credit rating agencies, such as Moody's and Standard & Poor's, to evaluate the town's fiscal health. As a result of its healthy general fund balance, Falmouth enjoys a high "AA+" credit rating, which has saved the town hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest costs on its bond issues. In

accordance with national “best practice” standards, the Town Council adopted a written policy in 2005 governing the use of fund balances. Written policy is also strongly recommended by the credit rating agencies. “Designated” indicates that portion of fund balance earmarked by the Town Council and Staff for specific uses on a multi-year basis. It includes CIP (capital improvement plan). School Departments carry-forward fund balance. “Undesignated” indicates the unallocated fund available for general use by the Town Council.

Item 8 Discussion about future Council agendas.

Town Manager Nathan Poore reviewed the upcoming Council agendas.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Planer
Town Clerk