

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS**

**January 29, 2004**

The Selectmen held their weekly meeting on Thursday, January 29, 2004, 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 11 Lincoln Street.

Present:       Kenneth A. Tavares, Chairman  
                  David F. Malaguti, Vice Chairman  
                  Christopher R. Lombard  
                  David J. Rushforth, M.D.  
                  Richard J. Quintal, Jr.

                  Pamela T. Nolan, Town Manager  
                  Mark D. Sylvia, Assistant Town Manager

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Pamela T. Nolan, Town Manager, explained that the pumping station at the corner of Billington and Westerly has been undergoing a total rehabilitation and that the hole in the station roof is for the removal of a chimney as part of a heating system conversion.

**LICENSES**

Vice Chairman Malaguti moved to approve the following and Selectman Rushforth seconded. Voted 5-0 approved:

**Mojar, LLC d/b/a The Central Café** 17 Savery's Lane is requesting to be closed for extensive cleaning and repairs starting on January 30, 2004 for four to six weeks.

**Colonial Restaurant** 39 Main Street is requesting to be closed from February 2<sup>nd</sup> until the beginning of March 2004 for renovations.

**ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES**

**Lease Extension** - The Selectmen granted Cabbyshack a one-year extension to their town wharf lease. Cabbyshack is requesting the one-year extension so that their lease term is twenty years, a requirement for SBA funding.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES (continued)**

**Amendments to Vehicle for Hire Regulations** - The Selectmen decided to take up the following at next week's Board Meeting: The acceptance of the Amendments to the Vehicle for Hire Regulations as proposed by Staff. These amendments clarify vehicle marking requirements for taxis and liveries.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Tavares asked Mr. Sylvia, Assistant Town Manager, to introduce all the new Department Heads to the Board, as some hadn't yet been introduced.

Lee Hartmann, Director of Planning and Development updated the Board on the status on the Route 44 traffic light issue. Mr. Hartmann explained that they have negotiated with Cumberland Farms for a traffic light at Plymouth Mobile Home Estates and they expect to have the lights up by year's end.

Selectman Lombard asked Mr. Hartmann to make sure we will still have access the water tank. Mr. Hartmann explained that he has spoken to the DPW Director about this and assured all we would still have access.

## **FY05 BUDGET REVIEW**

Chairman Tavares explained that the Board had met earlier that evening with the Town Manager and the Finance Director and had decided that Ms. Nolan and Mr. Dello Russo would present the budget. Mr. Tavares explained that if there were any questions from the Department Heads they would be answered, however no decisions were going to be made that evening. Mr. Tavares also mentioned that they have not heard from the School Department yet, or the Governor's Office, House or Senate on their budgets. Mr. Tavares thanked everyone for their hard work and professionalism. Mr. Tavares mentioned that this is just the beginning of the process, so again, no decisions will be made this evening.

Patrick Dello Russo, Director of Finance, explained that he wants everyone to know that all decisions are based on fact and that we have a lot of challenges ahead. Mr. Dello Russo mentioned that we have been living through a multiple year problem. Mr. Dello Russo explained that state aid has been reduced and that 2005 is the last year that the Town will receive 13 million from Boston Edison. In 2006 we will only receive 12 million. Mr. Dello Russo explained that because of this revenue reduction, they have attempted to budget accordingly.

## **FY05 BUDGET REVIEW (continued)**

Pamela Nolan, Town Manager, explained that because of the budget reduction, she had asked the Department Heads to cut their respective budgets by an additional 5.75%. These amounts may or may not reflect the exact reduction.

<b><u>Department</u></b>	<b><u>Amount of Reduction in Dollars</u></b>
Town Manager	\$ 30,000.00
Harbor Master	\$ 12,711.00
Town Clerk	\$ 18,000.00
Human Resources	\$ 11,864.00
Finance	\$ 82,311.00
Procurement	\$ 17,733.00
Assessing	\$ 20,000.00
Treasurer/Collector	\$ 26,934.00
Veteran's	\$ 22,000.00
Inspectional Services	\$ 26,435.00
Board of Health	\$ 8,124.00
Planning	\$ 26,178.00
Public Safety	
Police	\$455,439.73
Fire	\$399,987.00
Public Works	\$239,970.27

Ms. Nolan explained that these reductions affect everyone. Many of these changes are heartfelt, especially with the 9 personnel cuts in the fire department and the 6 in the police department. Ms. Nolan thanked the department heads for their work with these reductions.

Chairman Tavares explained that he would now like to hear suggestions regarding these cuts. Mr. Tavares said that they would go department to department.

### **Administrative Services**

**Town Manager's Budget** – Ms. Nolan explained that this is the first month that they have decreased Town Counsel use. Vice Chairman Malaguti asked if this was the total legal bill. Ms. Nolan responded that it was along with the enterprise funds. Mr. Sylvia responded that there were approximately 50K in the enterprise fund. Mr. Malaguti responded that the representation on the television program was that our legal bill amounted to \$600,000. Mr. Sylvia responded that this was a total misrepresentation.

## **FY05 BUDGET REVIEW (continued)**

Selectman Lombard asked if doing any of these cuts, was Article 8 considered. Mr. Lombard sited the motor for the boat, which amounts to \$8,000. Pam Hagler, Procurement Officer, responded that this motor was not for Pond Patrol, which was cut in the Harbor Master's budget. Ms. Nolan responded that Article 8 was reviewed along with the budget.

Selectman Lombard asked the membership dues in the town manager's budget. Ms. Nolan responded that this was MMA and Chamber of Commerce dues. Chairman Tavares noted that the Town needs to belong to these organizations, as they are our only voice in the community.

**Town Clerk** – Selectman Lombard was concerned after reading Mr. Pizer's memo regarding the Town Clerk's Budget. Mr. Lombard had an issue with the Clerk not being able to meet legal obligations.

**Harbor Master** – Chairman Tavares was concerned with the elimination of the pond patrol. Mr. Tavares noted an issue with the increase in tourists on the ponds in the summer. Joe Ritz, Harbormaster, explained that he was concerned as well because there has been an increase of pond use of 100% per year. The cost for summer coverage on these ponds would only be \$2,500.00. Selectman Lombard asked Ms. Nolan if only the Harbormaster could enforce water rules/laws. Robert Pomeroy, Police Chief, said that he believes that the Police Department can enforce water laws as well. Ms. Nolan responded that she would talk to Counsel on this. Mr. Barry DeBlasio, Recreation Superintendent, explained that two of the ponds, Morton and Fresh, are regulated by the Recreation Department but the issue is actually getting to the people who are violating the rules. Vice Chairman Malaguti noted that this is the worst year he has ever seen regarding the cuts. Mr. Malaguti feels that all of the department budgets are too lean and inadequate. Mr. Malaguti hopes that the School Department is cutting as well. Selectman Lombard explained that even with these cuts we are utilizing the full 2-½% tax levy.

**Finance** – Selectman Lombard asked where the line item for the Moderator's salary was. Pamela Hagler, Procurement Officer, explained that the Town Moderator, Mr. Steve Triffeletti, decided not to draw a salary, but rather to transferred his salary to supplies. Chairman Tavares wanted more detail added to the cuts in assessing. Mr. Tavares noted that in other communities you could bring up assessments mid year. Mr. Tavares would like to be able to adopt mid year assessments. He would like more data and how it would impact the department.

## **FY05 BUDGET REVIEW (continued)**

**Community Resources** – Ms. Nolan said 2005 was a critical year for the Council on Aging as they are anticipating a move to the Cura Building. Dinah O'Brien, Director of Community Resources, said she anticipates a move in January 2005.

**Veteran's Services** – Selectman Lombard questioned why the sign on the Veteran's office door read closed and asked if they were still working on '04 budget. Don Lincoln, Director of Veteran's Affairs, told Mr. Lombard that they were just catching up regarding the transition from Tony Gomes to Mr. Lincoln.

**Library** – Chairman Tavares asked if Sunday openings were in the Budget. Ms. O'Brien said that the Sunday openings were included in that budget. Ms. O'Brien mentioned that in order to reach the full operating expenses to fulfill a \$50,000 grant requirement, they had to have the Library opened on Sundays. Selectman Lombard asked if they were currently open on Sundays now. Ms. O'Brien responded that they were not presently open now but in order to obtain the State Aid they would have to be. She mentioned that because the Manomet Rent line item was removed, they had to replace it with another expense in order to be eligible for the grant. Mr. Lombard questioned the \$5,000 line item for Literacy from Entergy. Ms. O'Brien mentioned that this was used directly for the program and not for the Library budget.

**Inspectional Services** – Chairman Tavares asked what impact these reductions would have on getting inspections done or on generating fees. Ms. Nolan deferred this question to Paul Vecchi, Building Inspector. Mr. Vecchi responded that this was going to weigh very heavily on the department as the cuts call for the elimination of 4 part time positions and also the reduction of hours for the sealer of weights and measure for the Pinehills. Mr. Vecchi also noted all the upcoming projects like the Super Walmart, BJ's, Kohl's, the Olive Garden and others as well. Selectman Rushforth asked if the 1.6 million dollars in receipts would be affected by the cuts in employees. Mr. Vecchi responded that most likely it would. Selectman Lombard asked what would happen if they couldn't inspect within 72 hours for the interior. Mr. Vecchi responded that they could then move on and seal up the walls. Selectman Quintal responded that the wait for building permits is at 2 weeks now and the residents shouldn't have to wait longer. Mr. Quintal also asked if all the money from the building dept goes into the General Fund. Patrick Dello Russo, Director of Finance, responded that all the money does go into the General Fund. Chairman Tavares would like to see what fees could be raised and how much total revenue increase this could be.

## **FY05 BUDGET REVIEW (continued)**

**Planning** – Chairman Tavares noted that we have always been short in the department but we've managed. Lee Hartmann, Director of Planning and Development, explained that we will have to cut committee involvement but with the cooperation of the various Boards and some reductions, we will meet minimum statutory requirements. Presently they work with 27 different committees. Mr. Tavares asked Mr. Hartmann if the Board could see a list of those committees.

### **Department of Public Safety**

**Police Department**– Selectman Lombard questioned the 7629.00 line item for publications as he felt that this was very high. Robert Pomeroy, Police Chief, explained that these publications included the Reverse Listing book, Prosecutor's Guide, MVA Listings, Desk Reference for Ids, Evidence Handbooks etc. Chairman Tavares explained that this cut hits at the heart of public safety. Mr. Tavares does not want to eliminate crossing guards. Mr. Tavares wants to give Mr. Pomeroy the opportunity to tell the Board what "may not be adequate to meet the demand" means, from his memo.

Mr. Pomeroy explained that we lose more officers but the population keeps increasing. Mr. Pomeroy does not want to cut crossing guards, but if he does not then it's another officer laid off. His concern is with public safety specifically, with 911. With all the new businesses, there is an increase in police calls as well. Mr. Pomeroy also mentioned that all the staff does their own typing and filing as well and this time can be used more efficiently if they had clerical staff. Mr. Tavares asked Mr. Pomeroy what happens to a community in crime statistics when these things are cut. Mr. Pomeroy responded that it effects the quality of life in town because it affects the community's safety. Selectman Lombard asked Mr. Pomeroy why he needs more money for uniform supplies if he hasn't spent all the money for last year. Mr. Pomeroy responded that these are bulk purchases so sometimes they are expended at one time. Mr. Tavares also explained that these figures are November figures and therefore only represent 4 months into the budget. Selectman Quintal asked Mr. Pomeroy if 9 sergeants were required and if we were considered "top heavy". Mr. Pomeroy responded that we had less superior officers than anyone in the area. Mr. Pomeroy also responded that there should be one sergeant per 5-7 officers and we do not meet that criterion. Mr. Quintal asked that if you promote someone, do his duties change as well, for instance, Mr. Abbott who was just promoted. Mr. Pomeroy responded that yes his duties change but then you rehire at the base level of that position. Mr. Pomeroy said that Mr. Abbott was promoted to prosecutor.

## **FY05 BUDGET REVIEW (continued)**

**Fire Department** – Ms. Nolan explained that the elimination of 9 firemen has serious consequences. Selectman Lombard asked about the large budgets but noticed to date hardly any money was expended. James Pierson, Fire Chief, explained that many of these are annual programs and that the money is expended over 2-3 days, however he will clarify with the Fire Inspector as well. Mr. Lombard asked Ms. Nolan why we have such large line items if they are not spent. Chairman Tavares wanted to respond to this and explained that he has spent a lot of time with the Finance Committee and also has faith in the Department Heads not to spend any overages. Mr. Tavares wants to discuss wages and how to keep people. He wanted to talk about justifying cuts and not sacrificing coverage. Mr. Pierson said response times are key, so therefore we need adequate coverage. He responded that in some cases citizens might have to wait.

Selectman Quintal asked why would we hire 7 only to fire 9. Mr. Pierson responded that we have to fill the vacancies so there is no overtime. Mr. Quintal asked the cost for new hires and Mr. Pierson responded that it was minimal at about 1,500.00 for the gear because the training is done in house. Mr. Quintal asked if they were still in the “black” for 2004. Ms. Nolan responded that we were still in the black, until April. After that, they will run out of overtime. Mr. Dello Russo responded that he has been working with the Chief and the Union in order to find additional funds at the April Special Town Meeting. Mr. Quintal asked what will happen when ½ the force retires in 2008, will we close the stations. Mr. Pierson didn’t think that closing the stations was the answer.

**Emergency Management** – Selectman Lombard asked Ms. Nolan what happened to the grant shortfall. Ms. Nolan responded that it was covered by another item. Mr. Lombard then asked why this budget wasn’t cut and Ms. Nolan responded that all the salaries are paid through Entergy.

**Department of Public Works** – Selectman Lombard asked where in the budget did we cut out middle management. Ms. Nolan responded that the Assistant DPW Director position was eliminated and other positions were cut as well. Ms. Nolan responded that they also made changes to Solid Waste, Mechanics and Maintenance Departments. George Crombie, Director of Public Works, responded that essentially they moved many numbers as opposed to cutting positions.

**Parks & Forestry** – Selectman Lombard asked what the Town Forest line item was for. Ted Bubbins, Park Superintendent, responded that this is for the Town Forest Committee. The committee safeguards the forest. Mr. Lombard asked if

## **FY05 BUDGET REVIEW (continued)**

we could consolidate this. Ms. Nolan responded that she would discuss this with Mr. Dello Russo.

**Recreation** – Chairman Tavares asked what would happen if we eliminated this Department entirely. Ms. Nolan responded that our beaches would be eliminated. Barry DeBlasio, Recreation Superintendent, explained that we maintain all the beaches, the recreation center and the sports fields in the Town with this budget. Mr. DeBlasio explained that almost \$176,000.00 of this budget is for the beaches. Mr. Tavares knew the answer but wanted it brought out in this forum. Selectman Lombard asked about the mileage and the telephone expenses. Mr. DeBlasio explained that none of our beaches have telephones so they need to maintain a cellular network for communications.

**Enterprise Funds** – Selectman Lombard asked where the revolving accounts would fall under. Mr. Dello Russo responded that they would fall under Article 3. Mr. Lombard asked if he were close to self-sufficiency with the Solid Waste Fund. Mr. Dello Russo responded that we were at about 70% but he will speak to Mr. Crombie to confirm.

Chairman Tavares explained that the Board had the opportunity to go through the Budgets and ask questions. Mr. Tavares said that on Tuesday the revenue side of the budget would be discussed and if it is the wish of the Board it will be finalized. Mr. Tavares thanked everyone involved.

## **OLD BUSINESS/LETTERS/NEW BUSINESS**

**Nuclear Matters Committee** – Selectman Lombard spoke about this committee and their possible dissolution. Mr. Lombard explained that he found their charge and had the clerk put it in their mailbox. Mr. Lombard explained that the first memo dated 2001 had a mission statement and/or a charge. Mr. Lombard was at a loss because he explained that he felt there was a lot of work for them to do. Chairman Tavares asked Mr. Lombard what he would like to do. Mr. Lombard explained that he would like to see committee and asked them if they needed help. Mr. Tavares suggested that Mr. Lombard attend one of their meetings. Mr. Lombard responded that they are not meeting at all and that is the issue. Mr. Tavares asked the Clerk to schedule time with the Chairperson for February 10, 2004.

Vice Chairman Malaguti moved to adjourn the meeting and Selectman Quintal seconded. Voted 5-0 approved.

Lisa Conroy, Clerk