

~ PLYMOUTH BOARD OF SELECTMEN ~

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2013

TOWN HALL, MAYFLOWER ROOM

The Selectmen held a meeting on Tuesday, August 13, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall in the Mayflower Room.

Present: Mathew J. Muratore, Chairman
Belinda A. Brewster, Vice Chairman
John T. Mahoney Jr.
Kenneth A. Tavares
Anthony F. Provenzano Jr.

Melissa Arrighi, Town Manager
Michael Galla, Assistant Town Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Muratore called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Selectmen voted to enter an executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21, Paragraph 4, to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto, and Paragraph 6, to consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, as an open meeting on the matter may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the body. Chairman Muratore noted that that Board would reconvene in open session, following executive session.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Chairman Muratore reconvened the meeting in open session at 7:05 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PILOT AGREEMENT – PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER STATION

Town Manager Melissa Arrighi initiated a presentation on the recently-negotiated Payment-In-Lieu-of-Tax (“PILOT”) agreement between the Town and Entergy Nuclear Generation Company for the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station. Ms. Arrighi explained that the three-year agreement (for Fiscal Years 2014, 2015, and 2016) is financial in nature. While there are a number of important issues and concerns that residents may wish to see

addressed within the PILOT agreement, she said, there are statutory regulations that restrict the terms of the agreement to tax payment and fiduciary matters, only.

Ms. Arrighi introduced Sheila Slocum-Hollis of Duane Morris (special legal counsel) and Glenn Walker of George E. Sansoucy Appraisal Services, who served as the Town’s consultants on the PILOT Agreement.

Attorney Hollis provided an overview of the 18-month negotiation process between the Town and Entergy that resulted in a three-year, \$28,750,000.00 agreement (\$10,000,000 for FY2014; \$9,500,000 for FY2015; and \$9,250,000 for FY2016). The Town is not required to engage in a PILOT agreement with Entergy, she explained, but such agreements provide stability for budgeting, as annual taxation practices are complex and subject to litigation. Attorney Hollis explained the effect that economic conditions within the energy market and recent changes to federal energy regulations had upon the Town’s negotiating position. A market-wide increase in natural gas production, combined with an overall decline in energy demand, has significantly affected the profitability—and, thus, valuation—of nuclear facilities, she indicated.

Attorney Hollis referenced Entergy’s plans to construct an on-site dry cask storage facility to house Pilgrim’s spent nuclear waste. When plants like Pilgrim were originally permitted, she said, there was an understanding that the federal government would assume responsibility for the long-term storage of spent nuclear fuel. Though, decades later, there is no such federal repository in place, Attorney Hollis reported, the Supreme Court has just issued a ruling (August 13, 2013) that the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (“NRC”) is responsible for fulfilling the promise of a long-term federal solution.

A three-year PILOT agreement, Attorney Hollis explained, provides a fixed, reliable payment without locking the Town into a long term agreement that would prevent the Town from reassessing any favorable changes in the energy market. Reiterating Ms. Arrighi’s introductory comments, Attorney Hollis explained that the PILOT agreement is financial in nature; it does not address issues of operational compliance, environmental regulation, or security, etc. As a result of the negotiations, however, Entergy has agreed to improve its communication with the Town, she noted.

Glenn Walker from George E. Sansoucy Appraisal Services (“GES”) of New Hampshire discussed the appraisal work that he and his associates provide in evaluating the value, profitability, and salability of utility establishments throughout the nation. Mr. Walker noted that PILOT agreements are typically more preferable (over traditional tax assessments) to communities who host high-value utility structures.

Ms. Arrighi reviewed a history of PILOT payments from Entergy:

From the five-year agreement enacted in 2007:	FY2008 – \$ 9,000,000
	FY2009 – \$ 8,800,000
	FY2010 – \$ 9,600,000
	FY2011 – \$ 9,700,000
	FY2012 – \$ 9,600,000

From the one-year extension enacted in 2011: FY2013 – \$10,000,000
From the new three-year agreement: FY2014 – \$10,000,000
 FY2015 – \$ 9,500,000
 FY2016 – \$ 9,250,000

Chairman Muratore opened the presentation to questions or comments from the members of the Nuclear Matters Committee. Seeing none, he opened the presentation for public comment from the audience.

Meg Sheehan, Plymouth resident and representative of EcoLaw, asked for an explanation of how Entergy’s plans to construct a dry-cask storage facility at Pilgrim were factored into the valuation of the plant (as a capital improvement).

Mr. Walker affirmed that the dry-cask storage facility was included in his analysis, but he noted that there is no specific valuation tied to the casks, themselves. Though the storage facility does increase the overall value of the facility, he said, it is factored as part of the whole, not as a separate entity.

Ms. Sheehan posed additional questions pertaining to environmental concerns about the Pilgrim facility, but Attorney Hollis reiterated that such questions were beyond the scope of what can be achieved through a PILOT agreement.

Mary Lampert cited information from some recent court cases pertaining to dry cask storage facilities. Mr. Walker did his best to answer her questions, reiterating that there is some value associated with dry cask storage facilities.

Kevin Doyle speculated whether the decision to opt for a seemingly short-term, three-year agreement might allude to the potential closure of Pilgrim. Mr. Doyle questioned what would happen to the 1,500 acres of ‘prime real estate’ that Entergy owns, adjacent to Pilgrim, if the facility were to close.

Ms. Arrighi noted that the Selectmen have made it clear to Entergy that it has an interest in the fate of the 1,500 acres, in the event that Pilgrim Station closes. Though the Town was not able to negotiate a first right of refusal on the property, she said, the Town was able to maintain some protection of its interests with regard to this property, following the potential closure of the station.

Seeing no further questions, Chairman Muratore closed public comment to await a motion of the Board.

On a motion by Selectman Tavares, seconded by Selectman Provenzano, the Board voted to ratify the Payment-In-Lieu-Of-Tax (“PILOT”) Agreement between the Town of Plymouth and Entergy Nuclear Generation Company for Fiscal Years 2014, 2015, and 2016, as presented.

**PUBLIC HEARING: TRANSFER/ISSUANCE OF STOCK, NEW STOCKHOLDER
BERTUCCI'S RESTAURANT CORPORATION, 6 PLAZA WAY**

Chairman Muratore opened a public hearing to consider the application for a Transfer of Stock, New Stockholder, and Issuance of Stock for Bertucci's Restaurant Corporation, holder of an annual All Alcohol Restaurant Liquor License at 6 Plaza Way, Plymouth, Keith Rocha as Manager.

Brian Schwanke, partner in Bertucci's Restaurant Corporation, explained that his company's request for a Transfer of Stock, New Stockholder, and Issuance of Stock is related to a change in ownership within the corporation. There are no proposed changes to the restaurant's operations or staff, he affirmed.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Board, Chairman Muratore opened the hearing to public comment. No citizens came forth to speak, and, thus, Chairman Muratore closed the hearing to await a motion of the Board.

On a motion by Vice Chairman Brewster, seconded by Selectman Tavares, the Board voted to approve a Transfer of Stock, New Stockholder, and Issuance of Stock for Bertucci's Restaurant Corporation, holder of an annual All Alcohol Restaurant Liquor License at 6 Plaza Way, Plymouth. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kevin Doyle stated that he was happy to hear that the operational hours at Town Hall will return to a Monday through Friday schedule in September. He noted his wish, however, that the Town had chosen to maintain some of the late business hours that were offered as part of the current Monday through Thursday schedule as part of the transition back to a five-day schedule.

Meg Sheehan reported that she and the members of EcoLaw have filed an appeal in Land Court of the Zoning Board of Appeal's decision to grant Entergy the ability to construct a nuclear waste dry-cask storage facility without the requirement of a Special Permit. This appeal, she said, provides an opportunity to determine whether the Town will ultimately side with Entergy or require the Special Permit process.

Everett Malaguti, Town Meeting Member from Precinct 1, inquired whether the Town has considered pursuing the designation of the downtown area as a Massachusetts Cultural District. Such designation, he said, may provide the Town with the ability to receive grants for infrastructural improvements.

Ms. Arrighi responded that Lee Hartmann (the Town's Director of Planning & Development) has researched the potential benefits of designating an area within Plymouth as a Cultural District. Mr. Hartmann, she said, has indicated that the process of acquiring and maintaining a Cultural District is extensive and time-consuming, and, therefore, the

pursuit of such a designation must be carefully considered before assigning staff time to the task.

LICENSES

VEHICLE FOR HIRE OPERATOR (NEW)

On a motion by Vice Chairman Brewster, seconded by Selectman Provenzano, the Board voted to grant a Vehicle for Hire Operator License to the following applicant, as detailed, below. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

❖ For **Plimoth Transportation Inc d/b/a Mayflower Taxi:**

- Dax Martin, (20 Winslow Street)

Issuance of the above license is subject to review of the requisite CORI Background Check.

AMPLIFIED MUSIC PERMIT (AMENDMENT)

On a motion by Vice Chairman Brewster, seconded by Selectman Provenzano, the Board voted to grant an Outdoor Amplified Music Permit to the following applicant, as detailed, below. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

- ❖ **Rye Tavern Corporation**, 517 Old Sandwich Road, made a request to amend the hours on its Outdoor Amplified Music Permit. New hours would be 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. They were previously approved for the hours of 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

POLE PETITION

On a motion by Selectman Mahoney, seconded by Vice Chairman Brewster, the Board voted to approve the following Pole Petition, as detailed, below. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

- ❖ **NSTAR and Verizon Petition 1941641** – One petition covering the relocation of one pole on Town Wharf. The pole needs to be relocated due to the excavation of the under ground fuel tanks.

ONE DAY ALL ALCOHOL LICENSE

On a motion by Vice Chairman Brewster, seconded by Selectman Provenzano, the Board voted to grant a One Day All Alcohol License to the following applicant, as detailed, below. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

- ❖ **Robin Nutter / Pilgrim Hall Museum** requested a One Day All Alcohol Liquor License for an evening lecture event at the museum (75 Court Street) from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on August 17, 2013. Liquor liability is in place.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

Grant of Easement on Off-Billington Street – The Board accepted a Grant of Easement from Bruce Campbell and Adriene A. Bowles Campbell over a portion of property situated on Off-Billington Street, pursuant to the authority granted by Article 11 of the October 27, 2008 Annual Fall Town Meeting.

Grant Assurances for Runway Extension Project – The Board approved the *Grant Assurances* associated with the Runway 15-33 Extension Project at the Plymouth Municipal Airport.

Disclosure of Interest – The Board (a) acknowledged the receipt of a *Disclosure by Special Municipal Employee of Financial Interest in a Municipal Contract as Required by M.G.L. Chapter 268A § 20(d)* from James W. Baker, member of the Plymouth Historic District Commission, and (b) approved the exemption regarding financial interest identified by the special municipal employee, with the understanding that Mr. Baker will recuse himself from any discussion or votes while serving on the Historic District Commission related to the specific contract in which he holds financial interest.

Donation to Police Department Specialized Units – The Board accepted, with gratitude, a donation in the amount of \$500.00 from Wicked Awesome Productions made to the Plymouth Police Department for use towards equipment and materials for the department's Specialized Units.

ORDER OF EMINENT DOMAIN TAKING FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS SAMOSET STREET, NORTH PARK AVENUE, SOUTH PARK AVENUE

Chairman Muratore noted that the Board had received information from the Department of Public Works during a previous meeting regarding the order of taking for the Samoset Street, North Park Avenue, and South Park Avenue reconstruction projects. He asked if his colleagues on the Board had any further questions regarding the order of taking.

Selectman Tavares made a motion to adopt the order of taking by the inhabitants of the Town of Plymouth of certain parcels of land on Samoset Street, North Park Avenue, and South Park Avenue. Selectman Mahoney seconded the motion, and the Board voted 5-0-0 in favor.

PLYMOUTH PILGRIMS BASEBALL – UPDATE ON FIRST SEASON

Dave Dittmann, President of the Plymouth Pilgrims Baseball Club, provided the Board with an update on the team's first season in Plymouth. Though the team finished in last place within the New England Collegiate Baseball League ("NECBL"), he said, the team competed well and came very close to winning several of the games. Attendance averaged

at 314 per game for the entire season, he noted, but there were some games that attracted over 800 attendees—with one reaching nearly 1,200. Mr. Dittmann thanked the team's sponsors and those who opened their homes to host the players and coaches during the season.

Mr. Dittmann discussed his two, five, and ten-year projected plans for the team. While Forges Field is a very family-friendly environment, he said, he and his partners are considering the pro's and con's of moving next year's season to the baseball field at Plymouth North High School. Mr. Dittmann indicated that line drives along the first base line at Forges Field were dangerous, and the bathroom facilities were a problem. The team has identified a potential location for a future stadium in Plymouth, he reported, but the team simply does not have enough money yet to pursue such an endeavor.

Mr. Dittmann informed the Board that he and his business partners are committed to keeping the Pilgrims Baseball Team in Plymouth for many years to come, but the team needs the help of the community to reach its goals. He noted his wish that the team be given the right to provide fireworks displays and sell beer during its games, in order to maximize its profits. In addition, he said, he is hoping to secure a \$30,000 long term loan from the Town—which would be paid back, with interest—so that the Town has some investment in the success of the team. Mr. Dittmann encouraged residents and fans to contact him with any suggestions that they might have via dave@pilgrimsbaseball.com.

In response to questions from Selectman Mahoney regarding the team's potential plans to relocate to a different field, Mr. Dittmann compared the facilities at Forges Field and Plymouth North High School, noting the benefits and drawbacks of each. Mr. Dittmann acknowledged that he and his partners have not yet come to a decision on where the second season of the Pilgrims will take place.

At the close of the presentation, Vice Chairman Brewster thanked Mr. Dittmann for bringing the Pilgrims Baseball Club to Plymouth, noting her belief that the enterprise is good for the Town.

UPDATE FROM A.D. MAKEPEACE ON RIVER RUN PROJECT

Michael Hogan from A.D. Makepeace provided the Board with an update on the River Run development project.

A.D. Makepeace, Mr. Hogan indicated, owns over 3,800 acres in the Town of Plymouth in the Wareham Road / Bourne Road area and along the Carver / Wareham line. The River Run development, he noted, is planned for the Wareham Road / Bourne Road portion of the company's property. The development will be situated on fewer than 400 acres within A.D. Makepeace's total acreage at the site, utilizing the Town's Transfer of Development Rights ("TDR") program of condensing development to preserve 1,300 acres of conservation land. Mr. Hogan reported that the project will establish a new village center for South Plymouth, through the incorporation of a centrally-located service/retail area within the residential development.

Mr. Hogan reminded the Board that River Run Way (the central thoroughfare through the development) has been open to the public for some time. He reported that the development's village green and transportation design is complete, while the water and wastewater system design is currently underway. A.D. Makepeace's development team, he stated, has completed its negotiations with Old Colony YMCA for the facility that the organization will establish within River Run's village center.

Mr. Hogan displayed the most recent conceptual renderings of the planned village center and discussed the timeline projections and goals for the various construction phases of the project. The residential development, he said, has been designed to target empty nesters and first-time home buyers who are just starting out on their own. At the close of his presentation, Mr. Hogan thanked the Town Manager, Lee Hartmann (Planning Director), and Valerie Massard (Senior Planner) for their assistance and spirit of cooperation during the process of planning the River Run project.

Mr. Hogan responded to questions from Selectman Mahoney regarding the project; the projections of how the development will affect the total number of school-aged children within the Plymouth School System; and the way by which the TDR process was used in the planning of River Run. Within his response, Mr. Hogan noted that A.D. Makepeace is working with the School Department on how the company can assist with the provision of additional recreational facilities for Plymouth South Elementary School. A majority of the homes within the development will have only two-bedrooms, he said, which is consistent with the current demand within the real estate market.

In response to an inquiry from Chairman Muratore, Mr. Hogan indicated that the initial target opening date for the River Run YMCA (Fall 2014) may have to be pushed out to late 2014.

LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR EARTHWORK OFF HOME DEPOT DR.

Ms. Arrighi reintroduced the discussion on the proposal of a temporary license agreement for Harald LLC to conduct clearing work on a segment of Town-owned property near the Lout Pond well site, behind the Home Depot Plaza. The Board voted to table its decision on the matter from its meeting of July 30, 2013.

Directing the Board's attention to a map of the specific area where the earthwork is proposed, Ms. Arrighi explained that Harald LLC has requested permission to conduct some landscaping and grading that will span into Town-owned property within the Lout Pond well zone. In response to an inquiry from Selectman Provenzano, Ms. Arrighi confirmed that the proposal is for grading and landscaping—not gravel removal.

Chairman Muratore opened the discussion to public comment.

Robert Reifeiss of Billington Street pointed out (what he observed to be) some discrepancies with the buffer zones that should exist along the Route 3 interchange at Exit

5 and along the abutting residential properties. Mr. Reifeiss questioned how stormwater runoff from the extension of the proposed development's paved parking area might affect the water table in the area of the well zone.

Lee Hartmann, Director of Planning & Development, displayed maps of the development area and surrounding properties to explain the differences between the buffers established in the 2009 Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between the Town and Harald LLC and the modified MOU approved in 2011. The 2011 MOU, he said, eliminated a 50-foot buffer zone along a segment of Town property, as well as a buffer along the Route 3 off-ramp. The proposed temporary license agreement, Mr. Hartmann indicated, would allow some grading and the addition of materials on a portion of Town property, for the purpose of leveling a segment of the perimeter of the development site. The Department of Public Works, he stated, does not anticipate any effect upon the well site from the proposed grading work. Mr. Hartmann pointed out that Harald LLC's development plans must not only meet the Town's aquifer protection bylaw but pass muster with the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mark Forsberg of Billington Street questioned the distance from which Harald LLC will be allowed to grade from abutting residential properties, noting that developer has requested several bylaw variances as well as several changes to the MOU since its initial approval in 2009.

At the close of public comment, Selectman Provenzano made a motion to approve the proposed License Agreement between the Town of Plymouth and Harald LLC (which would grant the Licensee a temporary right of entry to a portion of Town owned property, as specified in the License Agreement and presented by the Town Manager). Vice Chairman Brewster seconded the motion.

Selectman Tavares noted that, though he understands the scope of what the Board is being asked to approve, he would feel more comfortable if there could be further discussion and information on the buffer zones around Harald LLC's proposed development project. Though the zoning changes pertaining to this property were approved by Town Meeting, he said, there have been a number of changes to the MOU between the Town and the developer that he finds unsatisfactory. Selectman Tavares emphasized the importance of protecting the Town's wells, and he noted his belief that the developer could make the proposed development project much more palatable for all those concerned if there were reasonable buffers restored around the site.

The Board voted 3-2 in favor of the motion to approve the License Agreement. Selectman Tavares and Selectman Mahoney voted in opposition.

PRESENTATION ON ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF TOURISM

Planning Director Lee Hartmann appeared before the Board on behalf of Denis Hanks (Executive Director of the Plymouth Regional Economic Development Foundation and the

Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce) to provide a presentation on the economic benefits of tourism in Plymouth.

The focus of Mr. Hartmann's presentation began with the impact of hotel stays upon Plymouth's tourism industry and the tax revenues collected through the Town's local-option Hotel/Motel Tax. The dollars spent on rooms in Plymouth's hotels and motels represent only 20% of the total funds that the average visitor spends while in town, he explained. Based on room occupancy, Mr. Hartmann reported, it is estimated that visitors spend an average of \$87,523,272 in Plymouth each year, not including what is spent by day trippers and transitory boaters.

Mr. Hartmann provided information on the funds collected through the Town's local-option Hotel/Motel Tax in 2012. From the \$1,050,279 collected locally, he indicated, \$577,654 was allocated to the Town's General Fund, while \$472,625 was dedicated to the Town's Promotion Fund. Mr. Hartmann reported that, in 2012, the Promotion Fund was invested in the following way:

- \$ 47,000 – Public Improvements
- \$ 220,000 – Visitors Center Operations/Marketing
- \$ 140,000 – Celebrations and Additional Marketing
- \$ 60,000 – Events

Mr. Hartmann talked about the various special events to which the Visitor Services Board ("VSB") allocates money from the Promotion Fund. In addition, he spoke about the Town's efforts to advertise Plymouth as a destination and attract small cruise lines to Plymouth Harbor. Plymouth's tourism industry, Mr. Hartmann explained, is supported interdependently by local events, attractions, dining establishments, and retail/service businesses. As such, he noted, twenty-six percent (26%) of the Town's entire workforce is connected to some form of the hospitality/tourism/destination/guest services industry. This, Mr. Hartmann reported, translates to 7,200 jobs and \$163 million dollars in annual payroll. In total, he said, tourism brings over \$325 million dollars per year in economic benefits to Plymouth businesses.

Mr. Hartmann discussed a number of ways by which the Town's tourism base could be expanded, such as the addition of new attractions (e.g. mini golf, museums); the implementation of infrastructural improvement projects (additional floating docks in the harbor, the reconstruction of the T-Wharf, downtown/waterfront beautification projects, etc.); and the leveraging of the Town's recreational amenities, i.e. "eco-tourism" (beaches, parks, ponds, lakes, walking trails, campsites, etc.).

Paul Cripps of Destination Plymouth ("DP") and the Plymouth County Development Council ("PCDC") resumed the discussion with a presentation on tourism promotion. Tourism promotion for Plymouth, he explained, is a collaborative effort between the Town, the State, and local and regional promotional organizations (such as DP and the PCDC). Mr. Cripps talked about the demographics of Plymouth's tourists, noting that most of the tourism dollars spent in town (80%) are from visitors age 50 and older. The top ten places from which Plymouth's tourists originate are Massachusetts, New York,

New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, California, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Germany.

Mr. Cripps reported that Plymouth's tourism collaborative produces 40 advertising campaigns each year, via print, radio, television, and web-based media outlets. Though print advertising is still one of the primary mediums through which the tourism industry connects with its audience, he commented, the internet (web advertising, social media outlets, etc.) has become a key resource for tourism promotion. Mr. Cripps displayed several examples of the numerous publications issued by DC/PCDC, such as the popular, annual *Dining, Shopping, & Activities Guide*. Because most of Plymouth's visitors are age 50 and older, Mr. Cripps noted, print media is still very effective.

Mr. Cripps informed the Board that international tourists represent 15% of Plymouth's overall tourist base. Plymouth's tourism collaborative makes a concerted effort to pursue international visitors, he explained, because they stay longer and spend more money while in town. Mr. Cripps indicated that DP/PCDC pursues the local/regional visitor, as well, to encourage day trips and overnight stays.

Mr. Cripps closed his presentation with information on Plymouth's two visitor centers: one on Water Street (Town-owned) and the other at the Route 3/Exit 5 interchange (County-owned). Plymouth's hotel/motel occupancy rates have been higher than other communities within Massachusetts (with the exception of Boston), he said, due to the efforts that the Town and its tourism partners have made to promote America's Hometown.

Following the presentation, Mr. Cripps and Mr. Hartmann responded to questions and comments from the Board regarding Plymouth's tourism needs and the way by which the internet has changed the tourism marketing landscape.

PLIMOTH PLANTATION: TOURISM CARES GRANT / PROJECT

Janet Young, Sales Manager at Plimoth Plantation, addressed the Board with a presentation on the Tourism Cares for America Grant Project. Joined by Rob Kluin, Director of Marketing & Communications for Plimoth Plantation, Ms. Young explained that Tourism Cares for America is a philanthropic organization supported by the travel, tourism, and hospitality industry that provides volunteer support for restoration projects at culturally significant historic attractions and tourist destinations. Plimoth Plantation, she said, has secured the volunteer grant from Tourism Cares for a number of Plymouth-based projects, to take place on September 27, 2013.

Ms. Young listed a number of local businesses and organizations that will partner with Plimoth Plantation to bring the Tourism Cares project to Plymouth. She indicated that as many as 136 volunteers from Tourism Cares will assist with the following projects:

- Burial Hill – general clean-up and maintenance
- Brewster Gardens – sanding and repainting of fence

- Town Brook – repair of stone wall along the brook
- 1749 Courthouse – removal of invasive species on grounds
- Plimoth Plantation – several projects

Ms. Young underscored the benefits of bringing the Tourism Cares project to Plymouth, noting that—aside from the obvious benefit of the improvement projects—the event is an opportunity to showcase Plymouth for the tourism industry professionals who volunteer to participate.

Ms. Young responded to questions from Selectman Mahoney regarding the work that the Tourism Cares volunteers will undertake at Burial Hill. Selectman Mahoney sought reassurance that the volunteers would be adequately supervised, and that the work being done would not interfere with the work that the Community Preservation Act is scheduled to fund. Ms. Young affirmed that the volunteers who will work upon Burial Hill will be trained and supervised by DPW Parks Superintendent Ted Bubbins and Friends of Burial Hill founder Cheryl Caputo.

Following the presentation, Chairman Muratore called for a five-minute recess at 9:35 p.m.

DISCUSSION ON FY2015 POSSIBLE BUDGET SCENARIOS

Ms. Arrighi introduced a presentation on possible scenarios for the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget. In an effort to engage the Board and the public earlier within the budget development process, Ms. Arrighi explained that she is trying to take a different approach to the process by providing weekly updates in her Town Manager’s Report, starting as early as July. The Board, she said, asked that she and the Finance Director begin with providing a preliminary report on projections for new growth and property tax revenue.

Lynne Barrett, Finance Director, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the preliminary budget information that she and the Town Manager have compiled. Ms. Barrett listed the following revenue estimates for FY2015:

- Level Funding for State Aid (including an increase in FY2014 of approximately \$1.2 million)
- Local Receipt Increase of 3% (over unofficial FY2014 final estimate)
- Indirect Charge Increase of 2%
- Level Funding of Other Available Revenues

Ms. Barrett then reviewed the following information on property tax estimates, making note that the 2014 property values are not yet finalized:

- 2.5% Increase over Previous Year’s Levy Limit
- New Growth Estimate of \$1.2 Million (similar to 2014 estimate)
- Debt Exclusion Estimate

Ms. Barrett displayed a graph to illustrate the Town's history of property tax revenue, dating back to 2005. The estimate for property tax revenue for FY2015, she reported, is \$137,700,000. Ms. Barrett then reviewed a list of anticipated expenses for FY2015:

- Increase in Debt Exclusion for Plymouth South High School Feasibility Study
- Tentative Infrastructure Projects for the 400th Anniversary Celebration (included in estimates for debt service)
- Contractual Increases for Collective Bargaining Agreements and Other Maintenance Contracts
- Fixed Cost Increases to Employee Benefits, Utilities, and Insurance

Ms. Barrett closed her presentation with a pie-chart graph of the revenues that comprise the General Fund. She indicated that property taxes represent 74% of the total fund; State Aid accounts for 17%; and Local Receipts cover 8%.

Ms. Arrighi resumed the presentation with an explanation of the questions and strategies that she and staff must consider while developing the budget. A key question in the annual budget development process, she said, is how to increase the Town's Local Receipt revenues to reduce the burden on property taxes. Ms. Arrighi noted that the Selectmen's newly-created Revenue Idea Task Force will address this question by researching and identifying the ways by which the Town can creatively maximize its non-property-tax-related revenues.

Ms. Arrighi provided an overview of the Town's General Fund operating expenses:

- Schools – \$79,346,088.00 (47% of the total General Fund Budget)
- Fixed Costs – \$44,200,900.00 (26%)
- Town – \$32,890,378.00 (20%)
- Debt – \$11,391,936.00, (7%)

Ms. Arrighi noted that the Town's debt falls within (what is considered to be) an acceptable range of 7%, but, as the Town looks to future projects such as the renovation of Stephens Field, the Parking Garage, the 400th Anniversary-related infrastructure projects, the expansion of the sewer system, funds for private roads, etc., it must consider how these projects will affect the Town's overall debt.

Ms. Arrighi indicated that she and her staff have looked carefully at the Town's benefit expenses (i.e. health and liability insurance), to determine where any cost savings might be achieved. The Town's budget, she said, is approximately \$33 million, which is 20% of Plymouth's overall General Fund budget. Of the Town's 20%, she said, only 4.7% is attributed to expenses other than salaries and benefits—demonstrating that much of the Town's non-employee-related expenses have been reduced to a minimum.

A 2.5% increase on the Town's tax levy (on top of the Town's debt exclusion and new growth), Ms. Arrighi reported, will amount to a \$293 annual increase on the average value single-family home (assessed at \$300,298). A zero percent increase to the tax levy, she said, would still amount to a \$200 increase on the average value home, because of the debt

exclusion and other factors. Ms. Arrighi indicated that staff can build a budget on a 0% increase on the Town's tax levy, but this would essentially eliminate all of the (previously-mentioned) capital improvement projects that the Board has identified as priorities.

Chairman Muratore opened the presentation to public comment.

Steve Lydon of Precinct 12 referenced the solar farm project that is reported to have saved the School Department \$500,000 in energy expenses. The School Department had already budgeted for these expenses, he said, leading him to question why the \$500,000 in savings would not be returned to the General Fund. Mr. Lydon also stated his belief that the Town has spent too much money on the acquisition of open space.

Everett Malaguti of Precinct 1 reported that the Town's Energy Committee is working on a number of great ideas for reducing the Town's utility costs, which, he said, might help with lowering the Town's overall budget.

The Selectmen offered comments and questions on the budget presentation. Ms. Barrett again reiterated that the figures she offered within her presentation are "estimates upon estimates," as the 2014 valuation has not yet been certified. The projections presented to the Board should be considered worst-case-scenario, Ms. Barrett indicated; depending on the final results of the assessment valuations, the (aforementioned) \$293 projected annual increase on the average value home might, in actuality, turn out to be as low as \$63.

Selectman Mahoney reiterated his long-standing advice that the Town must begin to plan, now, for the eventual loss in revenue when the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station ceases operation. Chairman Muratore agreed, noting that citizens should be aware that the loss in revenue from Entergy / Pilgrim could result in another (estimated) \$300 increase in the average value home.

Vice Chairman Brewster agreed with Selectman Mahoney about the potential loss of Entergy revenue, but she noted that municipal employee salaries and benefits are just as important to consider when looking at the future sustainability of the budget. She stated that she would like to see the Town move in a new direction towards reducing the Town's health insurance benefit contribution for new employees (not current employees or retirees), to bring the contribution split more in-line with the private sector. Vice Chairman Brewster noted that she does not want to see the Town in the same predicament as the City of Detroit, which recently went bankrupt because it could not fund its employee pensions.

Referencing the comments about the potential loss of revenue from the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, Selectman Tavares pointed out that Plymouth's voters have not always been supportive of the Town's efforts to set aside some of its tax revenue in the BECO (Boston Edison Company, former owners of Pilgrim) stabilization fund. The Town previously received more money from the owners of Pilgrim than it does now, he said, but these funds were used to address the exponential residential growth that occurred as a result of the power station. Selectman Tavares asserted that the bulk of the Town's budget goes to the school system. If the Selectmen and School Committee cannot partner on the

common cause of reducing expenses—and if the community cannot articulate which services it is willing to do without—it will be extremely difficult to make meaningful reductions to the budget, he explained.

Chairman Muratore indicated that, during his campaign for Selectman, the number one constituent concern was taxes. Yet, when he asked those same constituents to identify which services they would be willing to reduce in order to trim the budget, they were unwilling to alter any of the current services they receive. Chairman Muratore noted that there were only a few citizens in the audience to hear the budget presentation, and, thus, he encouraged Plymouth’s citizens to become more engaged—and let their voices be heard—during the budget development process.

Ms. Arrighi asked the members of the Board if they wished to reconsider the implementation of a Local Option Meals Tax. The Meals Tax, she said, could potentially produce \$1 million, annually, towards the Town’s budget.

Vice Chairman Brewster expressed concern that the Meals Tax would again be repealed by the voters, at an expense of \$30,000 (the cost of a special referendum). Selectman Tavares recommended that the Board reconsider the Meals Tax, which, he said, has proved to be a financial boon for those communities who have implemented it. Chairman Muratore agreed that the Meals Tax should be reconsidered by the Revenue Idea Task Force. Selectman Mahoney noted his observation that there are so many unfunded projects waiting for attention—such as the acceptance and repair of private roads—that any potential revenue from a Meals Tax or a large commercial development could be considered ‘already spent.’ Selectman Provenzano stressed the importance of revenue diversification, so that the Town does not rely on any one major source of revenue (i.e. the Entergy/Pilgrim Payment-In-Lieu-Of-Taxes).

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

SEMASS Waste Disposal Contract – Ms. Arrighi reported that Town has entered into a five-year waste disposal contract with SEMASS/Covanta. She provided the Board with a review of the basic terms of the contract (below), and she thanked John Giorgio from Town Counsel for his assistance on the agreement.

- Term: January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2020, with an option for 1 year extensions for the next five years
- Tipping Fee: \$65/ton for calendar year 2015, with a 2.5% escalation rate throughout the rest of the contract term
- \$7,500/year given to the Town of Plymouth for beautification related to solid waste management or to promote recycling
- Possible exploration of SEMASS developing an anaerobic digestion facility in town
- Right of First Refusal language to SEMASS in terms of recyclables

- Financial protection for the Town, in the event that municipal solid waste deliveries are diverted to the Haverhill Facility

FY2015 Budget – Ms. Arrighi provided the Board with a schedule of budget review discussions, which will begin with an internal meeting between the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen and the Chairman of the School Committee on September 11, 2013. The Town’s Department Heads, she indicated, have been asked to submit their departmental budgets earlier, so that the Board may have the opportunity to review the draft FY2015 budget on December 10, 2013 (a month earlier than the usual schedule). A subsequent follow-up discussion will be scheduled for the Selectmen’s meeting of December 17, 2013. By holding these earlier budget review discussions, Ms. Arrighi explained, the Selectmen will be able to reach a united consensus on the budget before submitting the document to the Advisory & Finance Committee.

Selectman Tavares offered his recommendation that the Town Manager schedule the Board’s first budget review a week earlier (December 3, 2013), to avoid scheduling subsequent meetings too close to the holidays.

Update on the 1820 Courthouse Feasibility Study – Ms. Arrighi gave a brief update on the 1820 Courthouse Feasibility Study, noting that the consulting firm has completed its initial drawings and inventory of internal space needs. If the cost estimates associated with the study are completed according to schedule, she noted, the Board will be provided with a full presentation on the results of the feasibility study during its meeting of September 10, 2013.

Parking Garage – Ms. Arrighi reported that plans for the construction of a transportation facility and visitors center at the Memorial Hall parking lot are moving forward, rapidly. On August 8, she noted, the Plymouth Growth & Development Corporation hosted a day-long event with the architectural consulting firm that is assigned to the project, at which stakeholders were given the opportunity to provide feedback on the various facets of the proposed transportation center. Ms. Arrighi indicated that it is the hope of the project’s sponsors—the Greater Attleboro-Taunton Transit Authority (“GATRA”), the Plymouth Growth & Development Corporation (“PGDC”), and the Town of Plymouth—to have the project ready for consideration at the 2014 Spring Annual Town Meeting.

Letters from Plymouth Brownie Troop 75059 – Ms. Arrighi informed the Board that she recently received letters from several young members of Plymouth Brownie Troop 75059. The letters, she explained, appear to have been part of a project assignment by which the girls were asked to look around their community and determine if there was something they felt could be fixed, improved upon, or needed. Ms. Arrighi reported that six members of the troop submitted letters in which they expressed an interest in the establishment of a community swimming pool. The members of the troop, however, signed the letters with only their first names, and no return addresses were provided. As such, Ms. Arrighi publicly encouraged the members of the troop to contact her office, so that she may respond to their correspondence.

Ban of “Sky/Wish Lanterns” in Plymouth – Ms. Arrighi announced that the Plymouth Fire Department has issued a Town-wide prohibition on the use of aerial “sky lanterns” or “wish lanterns.” These devices, she said, are made of paper or cloth and are set aloft by the hot air generated from a candle or other open flame device. Because these devices are inherently uncontrollable, Ms. Arrighi explained, they can fall onto rooftops or forest areas before their fuel supply is exhausted and start a fire. The Town of Plymouth has many older buildings, as well as densely populated areas, and as a result, Fire Chief G. Edward Bradley has recognized the potential for serious harm that can be caused by these devices.

COMMITTEE LIAISON / DESIGNEE UPDATES

Healthy Communities Initiative – Chairman Muratore asked Lee Hartmann to provide a brief update on the Healthy Communities event that took place on August 12, 2013.

Mr. Hartmann reported that Jordan Hospital held a ribbon-cutting event at The Market in The Pinehills, to announce the designation of the grocery store as the first official “healthy market” in Plymouth. The designation, he explained, is part of the collaboration between the Town and Jordan Hospital to promote safe pedestrian routes to schools, complete streets, healthy markets, and healthy school meals in the Town of Plymouth.

OLD BUSINESS / LETTERS / NEW BUSINESS

Chapter 61 Lands / Notice of Intent to Convert – Assistant Town Manager Mike Galla provided the Board with a brief update on the status of a 23.5-acre parcel of Chapter 61-designated land off Bourne Road, identified as Lots 10A and 11 on Assessor’s Map 129 (owned by The Garland Holding Company, LLC). Mr. Galla reported that an initial appraisal on the property is expected to be complete on August 23, 2013.

Request for Parking Restrictions on Highland Terrace – Selectman Tavares indicated that he received an inquiry from a resident who has asked the Town to restrict parking on Highland Terrace.

The Selectmen’s Assistant, Tiffany Park, reported that the Parking & Traffic Task Force (“PTTF”) has held an initial discussion on the request. The members of the PTTF, she said, have requested more research from the Engineering Department to assess whether it is necessary to restrict parking on one side of the road. In addition, she noted, a public hearing may be necessary to determine whether a majority of nearby residents will support such restrictions on parking, as requested by the concerned resident.

Roadway Surface at Plymouth Beach – Selectman Tavares offered his observation that the roadway at Plymouth Beach, from the guard shack past Sandy’s concession area, is in significant need of grading.

Repair of Civil War Monument – Vice Chairman Brewster inquired about the status of the repair of the Civil War Monument on the Town’s Training Green. Ms. Arrighi explained that the Parks Superintendent is working with the Procurement Officer to develop the specifications for the repair bid.

Golf Tournament to Benefit the Council on Aging – Chairman Muratore encouraged citizens to participate in a golf tournament to benefit the Council on Aging. The tournament, he said, is hosted by the Friends of the Council on Aging and will take place on September 13, 2013.

Trip to Shichigahama, Japan – Selectman Provenzano talked about his recent trip with Plymouth students to Plymouth’s sister city, Shichigahama, Japan. He conveyed greetings from Mayor Watanabe and presented the Board with the Mayor’s official gift of a handcrafted clock from Sendai. Selectman Provenzano shared information on the city’s efforts to recover from the devastating earthquake and tsunami events of March 2011, noting that the Mayor and several residents continue to live in temporary housing during reconstruction process. Approximately one-third of the city was destroyed in some measure, he said, and there are some areas that will never be rebuilt, based on their low elevation. Selectman Provenzano was pleased to report that the students with whom he traveled to Shichigahama represented Plymouth, well.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

On a motion by Vice Chairman Brewster, seconded by Selectman Provenzano, the Board voted to adjourn its meeting at approximately 10:45 p.m. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

Recorded by Tiffany Park, Clerk to the Board of Selectmen

A copy of the August 13, 2013 meeting packet is on file and available for public review in the Board of Selectmen’s Office.