

~ PLYMOUTH BOARD OF SELECTMEN ~

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2014

TOWN HALL, MAYFLOWER ROOM

The Selectmen held a meeting on Tuesday, August 26, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall in the Mayflower Room.

Present: Kenneth A. Tavares, Chairman
 Anthony F. Provenzano Jr., Vice Chairman
 John T. Mahoney, Jr.
 Mathew J. Muratore [*arrived at 6:10 p.m.*]
 Sean P. Page

 Melissa Arrighi, Town Manager
 Michael Galla, Assistant Town Manager

CALL TO ORDER

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Vice Chairman Provenzano, seconded by Selectman Page, the Board voted to enter executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21, Paragraph 3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, and Paragraph 6, to consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, as an open meeting on these matters may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the body. By roll call: Mahoney – yes, Provenzano – yes, Page – yes, and Tavares – yes.

Chairman Tavares noted that, following executive session, the Board would reconvene in open session.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Chairman Tavares reconvened the meeting in open session at 7:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board, he noted, would return to executive session at the close of the meeting, as it was unable to conclude its business prior to the start of open session.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Gift of Book from Local Author – Town Manager Melissa Arrighi noted that Plymouth resident Russell Shirley has gifted each of the Selectmen with a copy of local author Heidi

Mayo's new children's book, *Nelson Telson: the Story of a True Blue Blood*. Mr. Shirley, she said, has asked that the Selectmen pass the book along to a young person that they know.

Beach Rake – Ms. Arrighi announced that Plymouth resident Ken Buechs has submitted a petitioned article for the Fall Town Meeting warrant for the purchase of a specialized beach rake. In the fall of 2013, she indicated, the company that manufactures the Barber Beach Rake provided a demonstration of the machine on Plymouth Long Beach for Town officials. Following the demonstration—at which Town officials were generally pleased with the capability of the equipment—Mr. Buechs completed his research and has now submitted the request (\$54,000) for the 2014 Fall Annual Town Meeting, she reported.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection – Ms. Arrighi informed the Board and the public that South Shore Recycling Cooperative will host four household hazardous waste collections, this fall. One of the four collections, she said, will be held in Plymouth at the Department of Public Works (“DPW”) facility at 169 Camelot Drive, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on September 20, 2014.

September 11th Memorial Service – Ms. Arrighi informed the Board and the public that Plymouth will hold its annual September 11th ceremony at the memorial on South Spooner Street. The service, she said, will begin at 9:45 a.m. on Thursday, September 11, 2014.

LICENSES

ONE DAY WINE & MALT LIQUOR LICENSE

On a motion by Vice Chairman Provenzano, seconded by Selectman Page, the Board voted to grant a One Day Wine & Malt Liquor License to the following applicant, for the event detailed, below. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

- ❖ **Shauna Prifti / In Good Taste** (47 Court Street) requested a One Day Wine & Malt Liquor License for a Chamber of Commerce mixer to be held from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on September 18, 2014 at Auto Fair Honda, 9 Long Pond Road. Liquor liability insurance and a completed safety inspection will be in place before the license is released.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

Meeting Minutes – On a motion by Selectman Muratore, seconded by Vice Chairman Provenzano, the Board voted to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2014 Selectmen's meeting. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

Declaration of Jaws of Life Equipment as Surplus – The Board unanimously declared the “Hurst Jaws of Life” equipment from the Fire Department as surplus, to be donated according to the Fire Chief.

Authorize Borrowing for Plymouth South High School Project – On a motion by Vice Chairman Provenzano, seconded by Selectman Muratore, the Board voted that, whereas, this Board previously determined, by votes adopted on May 25, 2010 (which amended a vote of the Board adopted on October 20, 2009), in accordance with the provisions of the votes of the Town passed June 26, 2006 (Article 1) and September 19, 2006 (the “Town Votes”), that the cost of the Plymouth North High School project was \$88,249,040 and that the Board expected that the Plymouth North High School project will receive approval by the MSBA for a school facilities grant relating to the eligible costs of the Plymouth North High School project;

Whereas, this Board previously determined, by a vote adopted on May 25, 2010 (which amended a vote of the Board adopted on December 29, 2009), in accordance with the provisions of the Town Votes, that the cost of the Senior Center project was \$10,000,000;

Whereas, the Plymouth North High School and the Senior Center projects are now complete and the total cost of such projects to be paid from the proceeds of the \$199,000,000 borrowing authorized by the Town Votes is \$81,500,000 with respect to the Plymouth North High School project and \$9,700,000 with respect to the Senior Center project, which are lower than the amounts previously determined by this Board to be the total project costs;

And Whereas, the Plymouth South High School planning project is now complete and the Town is ready to proceed with the construction of the Plymouth South High School project at a cost of \$107,800,000 to be paid from the proceeds of the \$199,000,000 borrowing authorized by the Town Votes;

It is hereby Voted: that the votes of the Board adopted on May 25, 2010 and October 20, 2009 are hereby amended in their entirety to read as follows:

That it is hereby determined that Plymouth cost of the Plymouth North High School project (including the expenses of designing and constructing a new high school at the Plymouth South High School site and/or the remodeling of existing school buildings at such site including demolition, additions, alterations, renovation, equipment and furnishings for said school and the construction and/or renovation of athletic fields at such site) to be financed with a portion of the proceeds of the \$199,000,000 borrowing authorized by the votes of the Town passed June 26, 2006 (Article 1) and September 19, 2006 is \$81,500,000.

Further Voted: that it is hereby determined that, based on correspondence and other communications with representatives from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), that the Board expects that the Plymouth South High School project will receive approval by the MSBA for a school facilities grant relating to the eligible costs of the Plymouth South High School project.

It is Further Voted: that the votes of the Board adopted on May 25, 2010 and December 29, 2009 are hereby amended in their entirety to read as follows:

That it is hereby determined that the amount of bonds that is necessary to finance the senior center project to be financed with a portion of the proceeds of the \$199,000,000 borrowing authorized by the votes of the Town passed June 26, 2006 (Article 1) and September 19, 2006 is \$9,700,000.

It is Further Voted: that it is hereby determined that the cost of the Plymouth South High School project (including the expenses of designing and constructing a new high school at the Plymouth South High School site and/or the remodeling of existing school buildings at such site including demolition, additions, alterations, renovation, equipment and furnishings for said school and the construction and/or renovation of athletic fields at such site) to be financed with a portion of the proceeds of the \$199,000,000 borrowing authorized by the votes of the Town passed June 26, 2006 (Article 1) and September 19, 2006 is \$107,800,000.

It is Further Voted: that it is hereby determined that, based on correspondence and other communications with representatives from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), that the Board expects that the Plymouth South High School project will receive approval by the MSBA for a school facilities grant relating to the eligible costs of the Plymouth South High School project.

NO PLACE FOR HATE

David Killory, chairman of the No Place for Hate Committee (“NPFH”), presented the Board with a “welcome poster” that was designed by students from Plymouth North High School’s photography and graphic design programs. Mr. Killory was joined by Plymouth North High School Class of 2014 graduate Lucas Santos, as well as NPFH members Joseph Horn, Susan Moore, Roy Zahreciyan, Barbara Aharoni, and Judith Manton.

The poster, Mr. Killory explained, was designed with photos taken by local students to illustrate Plymouth’s diversity and demonstrate the community’s welcoming spirit. The inspiration to create the welcome poster, he said, stemmed from an incident that occurred at the MBTA Commuter Rail Station, whereby someone had painted racist and hateful graffiti on the platform area and structures near where the trains arrive. Following that incident, Mr. Killory stated, NPFH organized a meeting at which residents and Town officials could discuss their concerns about the message that such graffiti could send to residents and visitors, alike. The committee decided to pursue the idea of creating a “welcome poster” to show that Plymouth has a long history of welcoming people from all over the world.

Lucas Santos displayed the poster to the Board and the audience. Mr. Killory informed the Board that Mr. Santos collaborated with another graphics artist student named Emily Freeman on the design of the poster, for which a number of other students contributed their photography. Destination Plymouth has purchased two of the posters, Mr. Killory noted, for display in the Town’s visitor centers.

Mr. Killory presented the Board with the framed poster, for display at Town Hall, noting that any other organizations who wish to display the poster may purchase a copy through NPFH. Chairman Tavares thanked the students of Plymouth North High School and the members of No Place for Hate for their work on the welcome poster.

UP WITH PEOPLE

Two student representatives from Up With People addressed the Board regarding the organization's upcoming performances at Memorial Hall. One-hundred students from more than 15 different countries will perform at the events, which are scheduled to take place on Friday, September 12 and Sunday, September 14, 2014. The mission of Up With People, the students explained, is to promote world peace and bring people of different nationalities and cultures together through community service and music.

The representatives from Up With People spoke about the organization's last visit to Plymouth, during which the group raised \$17,000 for local charities and undertook volunteer projects at Plimoth Plantation and the Plymouth Area Coalition for the Homeless. Up With People could not bring its programs to the various cities and towns that it visits around the world, however, without the assistance of host families, and, thus, the students put forth a call for residents in Plymouth who would be willing to open their homes to the performers.

Up With People's students closed their presentation with information on tickets and sponsorships for the scheduled events. Chairman Tavares praised Up with People's programs and performances, and he encouraged Plymouth's residents to attend the events and consider serving as host families to the students.

PUBLIC HEARING: ABOVE-GROUND STORAGE OF FLAMMABLES **PB&C SERIES, LLC, 140 SAMOSET STREET**

Chairman Tavares opened a public hearing to consider the application from PB&C Series, LLC for a license to store 16,239 gallons of flammable and combustible gas (compressed natural gas) in three new above-ground storage tanks at 140 Samoset Street. Prior to commencing the hearing, Chairman Tavares affirmed that notice of the hearing was given to the public in accordance with Chapter 148 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Jim Cranston of Bohler Engineering addressed the Board on behalf of the applicant, PB&C Series, LLC. Mr. Cranston explained that PB&C Series, LLC seeks to add storage for compressed natural gas to its existing license to store gasoline and diesel fuel at 140 Samoset Street. Specifically, he said, the proposed plan calls for the addition of three new above-ground tanks at the service station that will store a total of 16,239 cubic gallons of compressed natural gas. The Plymouth Fire Department has reviewed and approved PB&C's proposed plan, Mr. Cranston indicated.

Mr. Cranston responded to some brief questions from Vice Chairman Provenzano and Selectman Muratore regarding the specifics of the proposed project. The gas, Mr. Cranston explained, is not compressed to the point where it becomes liquid.

Chairman Tavares opened the hearing to public comment. No citizens came forth to speak on the matter. Seeing no further questions or discussion, Chairman Tavares closed the hearing and awaited a motion of the Board.

On a motion by Selectman Muratore, seconded by Selectman Page, the Board voted to grant a license to PB&C Series, LLC for the storage of 16,239 total gallons of flammable and combustible gas (compressed natural gas) in three new above-ground storage tanks at 140 Samoset Street. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

UPDATE FROM THE CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jeff Berger, chairman of the Town's Cable Advisory Committee, provided a brief update on the committee's activities. The Cable Advisory Committee, he explained, advises the Selectmen on all matters related to cable television services in the Town of Plymouth, including service quality, fee distribution, and customer complaints. Mr. Berger reported that, in addition to its usual responsibilities, the committee will soon begin the task of reviewing Comcast's application for renewal of its cable television license and contract with the Town of Plymouth, with direct assistance from Town Counsel.

Considering the work that the committee will undertake in the coming months, Mr. Berger explained, it is important for the committee to have a full complement of members. At this time, he informed the Board, the five-person committee only has three serving members. As such, Mr. Berger put out a call for residents who might be interested in serving on the Cable Advisory Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Liz Costa Cavacco spoke to the Board regarding the Recreation Division's recent decision to cut the hours of the drop-in program at the Manomet Youth Center. Ms. Cavacco stated that she and several Manomet residents were just recently made aware of this decision—only days before the school year is to begin—leaving parents little time to make new arrangements for after-school supervision of their children. Ms. Cavacco noted that she has gathered 700 signatures through an online petition to ask that the Town reinstate the drop-in hours at the Manomet Youth Center. Many parents and citizens are willing to lead a membership drive to help the Town make the drop-in program financially sustainable, she said.

Chairman Tavares advised staff to include the topic of the Manomet Youth Center on the Board's next meeting agenda. Ms. Arrighi stated that she would speak with the Town's

Recreation Director, Barry DeBlasio, to determine if there are any temporary solutions that could sustain the program until a longer-term resolution can be identified.

Robert Spencer of Precinct 1 in North Plymouth informed the Board of potholes and potential drainage problems on South Cherry Street. During rain events, he said, a large puddle forms in the area of 21 South Cherry Street. In addition, Mr. Spencer asked if the Department of Public Works could clear weeds and brush from area at the top of Cordage Terrace Extension where the vegetation has become so overgrown that it is encroaching on the sidewalk.

Richard Tupper offered his observation that the Town is not adequately supervising the work that contractors are performing on the Town's streets. Many of these companies, he said, are digging trenches—on Cherry Street, Water Street, and Samoset Street—but they are not properly compacting the trenches, upon closure. Mr. Tupper indicated that, as someone with construction experience, he brought his concerns to DPW Director Jonathan Beder and Assistant DPW Director Dennis Westgate, who both indicated that contractors are responsible for ensuring that trenches are properly filled. While contractors may be the responsible party, he stated, the Town must ensure that contractors are fulfilling their obligations. Mr. Tupper also expressed his opinion that the Town must not continue to construct flat-roofed school facilities which, he said, have proven to be inferior and inevitably subject to leaking and deterioration. Mr. Tupper pointed to Nathaniel Morton Elementary School as an example of quality, long-lasting construction, noting his estimation that the facility's pitched roof has likely preserved the school longer than its younger, flat-roofed style counterparts.

2014 FALL TOWN MEETING ARTICLES

ARTICLE 25

To see if the Town will vote to correct, ratify, and confirm its vote under Article 13 of the 2012 Fall Annual Town Meeting by voting to:

- (1) transfer care, custody and control from the Plymouth Airport Commission for airport purposes to the Plymouth Airport Commission for the purpose of conveyance in the name of the Town of Plymouth of Lot 1-2D on Map 99 of the Plymouth Assessors' Maps, the adjoining parcel on the southwesterly end thereof extending into Carver (Lot 1-2D and the adjoining parcel extending into Carver being shown as Lot 1-2D on a plan recorded in Plan Book 24, Page 444 with the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds), and a portion of Lot 10 on Map 97, collectively totaling approximately 28 acres, located on and off Federal Furnace Road in Plymouth, with appurtenant easements over, on and across Lot 10 on Map 97 and Lot 1-2B on Map 99, all acquired by the Town of Plymouth by instruments recorded with the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds in Book 4907, Page 283, Book 4991, Page 148 and Book 5607, Page 395; and
- (2) authorize the Plymouth Airport Commission to (a) convey in the name of the Town of Plymouth the above described property and pay \$1,060,000 (\$1,007,000 in DOT grants and \$53,000 in Airport Enterprise funding) in consideration of the acquisition of a parcel of land in the name of the Town of Plymouth, containing approximately 45.5 acres, and shown as Lot 1-2A on Map 99 and Lot 7 on Map 97, on and off Federal Furnace Road in Plymouth; and (b) authorize the Plymouth Airport Commission to submit the acquired land to a conservation restriction to be held by a municipal, state or charitable conservation organization or to transfer the care, custody and

control of the acquired land to the Plymouth Conservation Commission for conservation purposes; and (c) and as funding therefor to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow a sum of money, for such purposes; and, further,

- (3) to authorize the Plymouth Airport Commission or other appropriate Town officials to apply for and expend any grants for such purposes, and to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments necessary on behalf of the Airport Commission on such terms and conditions as may be deemed to be in the best interests of said Commission and the Town of Plymouth; and that any grants received for the purposes of this Article shall be used to reduce the amount expended hereunder,**

or take any other action relative thereto.

AIRPORT COMMISSION

Tom Maher, Airport Manager, presented Article 25 on behalf of the Airport Commission. The article, Mr. Maher explained, makes a technical correction to the wording of Article 13 of the 2012 Fall Annual Town Meeting (“FATM”). The article approved by Town Meeting in 2012, he said, appropriated funds for the purchase of 45 acres of land, while simultaneously authorizing the sale of approximately 15-20+/- acres as partial payment for the acquisition. The 45 acres, Mr. Maher indicated, will be set aside as conservation land and will serve as a buffer between the airport and nearby residential neighborhoods.

Following the approval of Article 13 of the 2012 FATM, Mr. Maher indicated, it was determined that there were certain technical aspects of the original article language that warranted correction, such as the specific acreage and parcel identification of the land. Town Counsel has recommended the clarification of Article 13 of the 2012 FATM, he said, to ensure clear title to the properties involved in the transaction.

Chairman Tavares opened the discussion on Article 25 to public comment. No citizens came forth to speak on the matter.

On a motion by Selectman Muratore, seconded by Vice Chairman Provenzano, the Board voted to recommend Article 25 to the 2014 Fall Annual Town Meeting. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

ARTICLE 30

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provision of Chapter 32, Section 20(4)(h) to allow the Plymouth Retirement Board to expend a portion of its funds to increase the Treasurer’s stipend from \$1,500 to \$3,000 annually, as the custodian of the funds for the retirement system, or take any other action relative thereto.

PLYMOUTH RETIREMENT BOARD

Lynne Barrett, Finance Director, reported that the Plymouth Retirement Board (on which she serves as a statutory member) voted to accept Section 20 (4)(h) of Chapter 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws. Town Meeting’s acceptance of Section 20 (4)(h) via Article 30, she explained, will allow the Retirement Board to increase the stipend afforded to the Town’s Treasurer / Collector for the duties that the s/he performs for the Plymouth Contributory Retirement System (“PCRS”). Ms. Barrett indicated that the Retirement Board has voted to increase the Treasurer / Collector’s stipend from \$1,500.00 (annually)

to \$3,000.00 (annually), to reflect what they believe is adequate compensation for the work provided to the PCRS.

Chairman Tavares opened the discussion on Article 30 to public comment. No citizens came forth to speak on the matter.

On a motion by Selectman Page, seconded by Selectman Mahoney, the Board voted to recommend Article 30 to the 2014 Fall Annual Town Meeting. Voted 4-0-0, approved.

[Note: Selectman Muratore had temporarily stepped outside of the meeting room at the time of this vote.]

ARTICLE 17

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Five Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$5,600,000), for the construction costs and other related Town and engineering services costs associated with the Samoset Street Sewer System Expansion – Phase 1, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto; to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing, or otherwise, or any combination thereof; and to provide that such betterment assessments as the Board of Selectmen may make for the cost of such project, in accordance with Section 149-3 of the Plymouth Code and all other applicable law, shall bear interest at a rate equal to two (2) percent above the rate of interest chargeable to the Town for such project from the thirtieth day after the assessments have been committed to the collector; or take any other action relative thereto.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Jonathan Beder, Director of Public Works, provided a PowerPoint presentation on his department's request for \$5,600.00 to undertake the first phase of the Samoset Street Sewer Expansion Project. In 2012, Mr. Beder explained, the DPW worked with the consulting firm AECOM to develop a capital improvement plan, in which key areas to which the Town's sewer infrastructure can be expanded were identified. The Town's Wastewater Treatment Facility ("WWTF") is currently processing only half of the flow that it was designed to accommodate, he said, warranting further expansion of the public sewer collection system.

Mr. Beder referenced the Betterment Assessment Bylaw that was approved by the 2013 Spring Annual Town Meeting, which authorized the Town to assess special taxes for the costs associated with the Sewer Expansion Project. Though the Town's Sewer Enterprise Fund is not subsidized by the General Fund, he said, the Town carries debt on the cost of the WWTF. The expansion of the sewer system, Mr. Beder explained, will spread the debt and operating costs associated with the WWTF more equitably across a larger number of customers. The proposed betterment program, he noted, will help to fund the cost of the expansion and, thus, alleviate the burden of the costs associated with expanding the sewer system away from existing sewer customers and residents whose properties are not on the sewer collection system.

Mr. Beder provided a brief overview of the Town's existing sewer collection system, which encompasses 60 miles of pipeline, seven pumping stations, and 3,000 service connections.

Chad Whiting, Assistant Wastewater Manager, resumed the presentation on the request outlined in Article 17. Mr. Whiting provided an overview of the project, which involves the installation of 6,000 feet of gravity sewer main; 3,500 feet of force main; a pump station; service connection to the property line of each new location on the system; and roadway paving, once the work is complete. The flow from this expanded sewer collection system, he noted, will be treated at the Town's WWTF on Camelot Drive. Mr. Whiting displayed a map to illustrate those areas along Samoset Street to which the system will be extended, and he provided an overview of how the proposed infrastructure would operate. Following a description of the work that has been done on the project, thus far, Mr. Whiting discussed the way by which the betterment assessments will be calculated for the 30 parcels that will be served by the project.

Mr. Whiting recommended that the Board of Selectmen, acting as Sewer Commissioners, vote to assess betterments on those properties that will be affected by the first phase of the Sewer Expansion project and to base the betterment assessment on the uniform unit ("Equivalent Dwelling Unit") method.

At the close of the presentation, Mr. Beder and Mr. Whiting responded to questions from Selectman Page, Selectman Muratore, and Selectman Mahoney regarding the areas that will be served by the expansion; the borrowing period afforded to the owners of those properties to which a betterment will be assessed; and the amount of flow that will be added to the system as a result of the expansion.

Chairman Tavares opened the discussion on Article 17 to public comment. No citizens came forth to address the Board.

On a motion by Selectman Mahoney, seconded by Vice Chairman Provenzano, the Board voted to recommend Article 17 to the 2014 Fall Annual Town Meeting. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE REVENUE IDEA TASK FORCE

Christine Pratt, chairman of the Revenue Idea Task Force ("RITF"), presided over a presentation on the first phase of the task force's recommendations on revenue enhancement ideas. Ms. Pratt reviewed a history of the RITF, noting that the task force of nine members was created in 2013 to develop ideas for new revenue streams for the Town. The RITF, she said, split into subcommittees that worked upon several different assignments. Following the completion of its due diligence, Ms. Pratt indicated, the RITF is ready to issue its first phase of recommendations.

Ms. Pratt listed the current and former members of the RITF, offering specific thanks to the RITF's former chairman, Linda Benezra, for her work in leading the committee during its first six months. The RITF developed a philosophy, she said, to be respectful of residents' wallets and pocketbooks while investigating creative new revenue streams. The task force, Ms. Pratt explained, felt that it was important to focus only on those revenue-enhancing ideas that would also enhance the quality of life for Plymouth's residents.

Ms. Pratt listed the RITF's first five recommendations to the Selectmen:

1. Institute a Cultural Arts District
2. Create a New Town Position: Revenue Officer
3. Enact Betterment Programs for Road, Sewer, and Seawall Improvement Projects
4. Establish a Commuter Boat Service from Plymouth to Boston
5. Implement a Cannabis Excise Tax

The RITF recommends the establishment of a Cultural Arts District for Plymouth's historic downtown area. The Cultural Arts District designation, she explained, will enable the Town to be eligible for a number of significant grants that will enhance and promote cultural, artistic, and economic activity in the heart of Plymouth. Ms. Pratt indicated that Plymouth 400, Inc. has taken a leadership role in pursuing Cultural Arts District status for the Town of Plymouth. It is the recommendation of the RITF, she indicated, that Plymouth 400, Inc. and the Plymouth Cultural Council cooperatively lead the Cultural Arts District initiative.

Ms. Pratt explained the reasons why the RITF has recommended the creation of a Revenue Officer position for the Town of Plymouth. The position, she indicated, would be assigned specifically to the task of identifying and managing new revenue streams, including the pursuit of grants, the management of property leases, and the negotiation of Payment-In-Lieu-Of-Tax ("PILOT") agreements. Ms. Pratt pointed out that the salary for the position would be commission-based.

John Moody, chairman of the Advisory & Finance Committee and member of the RITF, provided details on the recommended salary structure for the proposed position. The commission-based salary scale, he explained, would be structured in such a way that a portion of the base salary would be phased out, each year, thus creating an incentive for the employee to pursue further revenue streams. Mr. Moody provided estimated revenue projections as to what the Revenue Officer position could potentially generate in new revenue for the Town. The RITF, he acknowledged, will need to verify with the Town's Human Resources Director whether such a commission-based salary structure would be allowed in a municipal setting.

Ms. Pratt noted that the RITF could find no community across the country that had this type of Revenue Officer position, as most communities utilize a consultant to identify revenue stream enhancements. The RITF, she said, felt that the development of new, non-residential-tax-based revenue was important enough to have a full-time position that was specifically focused—and financially incentivized—on the task.

Ms. Pratt recommended the implementation of betterment programs identified by the RITF for road, sewer, and seawall improvements. The RITF reviewed the Town's history of betterment programs, including the Roadway Betterment program proposed by the Roads Advisory Committee and the Sewer Betterment strategy being implemented by the Department of Public Works. Ms. Pratt indicated that the RITF has recommended the use

of these programs to undertake much-needed improvement projects that will benefit the citizens of Plymouth. With specific regard to the Sewer Betterment program, she indicated, the RITF recommends that the Board of Selectmen refrain from waiving sewer betterment fees—or any other revenue-generating fees—for new businesses.

Along with the recommendation to utilize the previously proposed roadway and sewer betterment programs, Ms. Pratt reported, the RITF looked at the benefits of implementing a Seawall Betterment Program. Considering the fact that Plymouth has 8.1 miles of public seawall that require varying degrees of ongoing care and repair, she said, the Town could consider a betterment program to assist with the associated expense of maintaining these walls. Many of these walls, she noted, protect private properties, by extension, and, thus, those property owners should be assessed some portion of the cost to repair the structure. Ms. Pratt relayed the RITF's recommendation that seawall betterments be calculated using a method that will recognize both the varying property value and degree to which each private parcel is protected by the seawall.

Mr. Moody returned to the podium to review a slide illustrating how a seawall betterment might be assessed, using the RITF's proposed variable method. Mr. Moody responded to some brief questions from the Board regarding the RITF's proposed assessment method.

Ms. Pratt explained that seawall betterment programs—while common in southern states—have typically been met with controversy in Massachusetts. As such, she said, the RITF has developed what they believe is a different approach that brings more equity to the assessment method. Ms. Pratt acknowledged that betterment programs are not generally considered to be revenue enhancement mechanisms, but, rather, the RITF viewed such programs as highly important cost-avoidance measures.

The RITF's fourth recommendation, Ms. Pratt reported, is the establishment of commuter ferry service from Plymouth to Boston. The coastal communities of Salem and Hingham have successfully capitalized on their respective residents' needs for alternative commuting options, for years, she said. Not only could Plymouth's residents benefit from a commuter ferry service from the harbor, Ms. Pratt stated, but the service could be utilized to bring visitors from Boston to Plymouth. The 34.6 nautical mile ferry trip from a (recommended) terminal location at Cordage Park to Boston would take approximately one hour, she indicated. There are a number of grants that could provide nearly 80% of the start-up costs for this type of service, Ms. Pratt informed the Board, because ferry service contributes to economic development and reduces traffic and air pollution.

Everett Malaguti III, a member of the RITF, discussed the potential benefits of implementing commuter ferry service from Plymouth to Boston. The Town, he explained, could collect revenue from the proposed commuter ferry service via the application of an embarkation fee on each ticket. Mr. Malaguti noted that several coastal communities, such as Boston, Provincetown, and Barnstable apply embarkation fees on all ferry services operating from their ports. Based on the projected number of commuters that could potentially be served by a Plymouth commuter ferry, he speculated, the Town could recoup approximately \$217,000 (for a small/medium sized vessel) to \$582,000 (for a medium /

large size vessel) each year, based on a typical embarkation fee of \$0.50 per ticket. Mr. Malaguti discussed the startup and annual maintenance costs associated with the proposed ferry service but noted the funding that may be available from the Massachusetts Seaport Advisory Council and Federal Highway Administration to offset these costs.

Lastly, Ms. Pratt provided information on the RITF's recommendation that the Town consider the implementation of a Cannabis Excise Tax. Following the statewide voter referendum that authorized the legalization of medical marijuana in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, she explained, applicants for cultivation and dispensary licenses have courted Plymouth as a location for their respective facilities. If such cultivation / dispensary businesses are interested in situating their facilities in Plymouth, Ms. Pratt indicated, this may present an opportunity for the Town. The RITF, she stated, recommends that the Town consider the establishment of a 5% local excise tax on all cultivation, transfers, and sales of medical marijuana, cannabis compounds, and other cannabis-sourced products within Plymouth or from an establishment situated within Plymouth.

Mr. Moody reviewed the research that the RITF conducted on the proposal to establish a Cannabis Excise Tax. Based on an assumed price level of \$10 per gram of medical marijuana / cannabis products produced at a 10,000 square-foot facility, he said, a 5% local excise tax could generate \$170,000 annually. Mr. Moody talked about the benefits and drawbacks of a percentage-based excise tax versus a dollar-denominated (per gram) tax, and he reviewed a graph to illustrate a comparison between the two methods of taxation. Another important consideration in the production of medical marijuana is the amount of water required to cultivate the product, he said. While the Town would be compensated for the water use, he noted, any additional water revenue is inconsequential to the demand that cultivation operations will place on the Town's water supply and environment.

Ms. Pratt discussed the steps needed to implement the proposed Local Excise Tax, and she outlined the potential impediments to such implementation. The RITF, she said, recommends the reservation of a warrant article for the 2014 Fall Town Meeting that will authorize the Board of Selectmen to request special legislation for a Local Cannabis Excise Tax. If approved by Town Meeting, Ms. Pratt indicated, the legislature could consider the Town's request as early as the winter/spring of 2015.

Ms. Pratt informed the Board that, beyond these initial recommendations, the RITF is considering the financial benefits of establishing a Nuclear Waste Storage Tax and a number of other Payment-In-Lieu-Of-Tax agreements.

At the close of the presentation, Ms. Pratt, Mr. Moody, and Mr. Malaguti responded to some questions and comments from the Selectmen regarding the proposed recommendations. Chairman Tavares thanked Ms. Pratt and the members of the Revenue Idea Task Force for their work in formulating revenue enhancement ideas for the Town. Ms. Pratt indicated that the RITF would provide the Board with their recommendations in the form of a written report, by the end of the week.

COMMITTEE LIAISON / DESIGNEE UPDATES

Open Space Committee – Selectman Mahoney indicated that the Open Space Committee is working on some potential articles for the Fall Town Meeting.

Nuclear Matters Committee – Selectman Muratore reported that he attended the August 18, 2014 meeting of the Nuclear Matters Committee, at which the group discussed a number of topics, including the proposed UMASS study (on the socio-economic impact of the decommissioning of a nuclear power station); the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s Post-Fukushima Lessons-Learned Report; and the number of members assigned to the committee (currently set at seven seats).

400th Anniversary / Plymouth 400, Inc. – Chairman Tavares announced that Plymouth 400, Inc. is within 100 orders of reaching its goal of 1,500 commemorative license plate purchases. He encouraged citizens who are interested in ordering the 400th Anniversary commemorative license plate to contact Plymouth 400, Inc. as soon as possible.

OLD BUSINESS / LETTERS / NEW BUSINESS

Gravel Removal Operation on Hedges Pond Road – Selectman Mahoney inquired about a memo that the Board received from the Zoning Board of Appeals (“ZBA”) regarding a gravel removal operation on Hedges Pond Road. Ms. Arrighi explained that the project referenced in the ZBA memo is one being undertaken by the Plymouth Regional Economic Development Foundation (“the Foundation”), on which the Town has two sitting members. Ms. Arrighi stated that she would reach out to the chairman of the ZBA to discuss the matter.

Chapter 61 Lands / 429 Sandwich Street – Assistant Town Manager Michael Galla spoke to the Board regarding a Chapter 61 Notice of Intent to Sell that the Town received regarding property at 429 Sandwich Street. Mr. Galla indicated that he has initiated the Town’s internal Chapter 61 review process to determine if the Town has any interest in the parcel. As per the Chapter 61 policy, he noted, the Notice of Intent to Sell for 429 Sandwich Street will remain on the Board’s agenda (under “Old Business / Letters / New Business”) for each meeting, until a determination is made.

Opening Day Ceremonies for Plymouth Public Schools – Chairman Tavares noted that he attended the School Department’s opening ceremonies / teachers’ welcome for the 2014-2015 school year, which was held earlier during the day (on August 26, 2014). The ceremony was very inspirational, he said. Chairman Tavares wished Plymouth’s teachers and students a wonderful new school year, and he reminded citizens to be mindful of school buses and children walking to school.

RETURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION / ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

At approximately 9:40 p.m., Chairman Tavares adjourned the open session portion of the meeting to reconvene the Board's executive session (initiated at the outset of the meeting). Chairman Tavares stated that the Board would not return to open session, following executive session.

Recorded by Tiffany Park, Clerk to the Board of Selectmen

A copy of the August 26, 2014 meeting packet is on file and available for public review in the Board of Selectmen's Office.