

~ PLYMOUTH BOARD OF SELECTMEN ~

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2012

TOWN HALL MAYFLOWER ROOM

The Selectmen held a meeting on Tuesday, November 27, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall in the Mayflower Room.

Present: Mathew J. Muratore, Chairman
John T. Mahoney, Jr., Vice Chairman
Sergio O. Harnais
Belinda A. Brewster
Kenneth A. Tavares

Melissa Arrighi, Town Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Muratore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

DONATION TO PLYMOUTH VETERANS DEPARTMENT

David Honeycut, owner of the new Charles David Salon in Plymouth, presented a donation of \$1,000.00 to the Town's Veterans' Department. Mr. Honeycut explained that the donation was raised during the grand opening of the salon's new Plymouth location.

Veterans' Director Roxanne Whitbeck accepted the donation on behalf of the Town and thanked the employees and patrons of Charles David Salon for their generosity during a time of year when Plymouth's veterans struggle the most.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Parking Garage Bid – Town Manager Melissa Arrighi reported that, on Wednesday, November 14, 2012, she met with members of the Plymouth Growth & Development Corporation ("PGDC"), Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Transit Authority ("GATRA"), and the Town's Procurement Officer, Pam Hagler, to discuss the draft Request for Proposals ("RFP") for Project Designer Services for the Plymouth Transportation and Visitors Services Center Project. At this point, she said, there are some changes that GATRA will make to the document before the Town puts the project out to bid, but, in the meantime, the PGDC and GATRA will reach out to the Town's Building Committee and begin to get them involved in the process. Once the bid is in its final format, she added, the Board will receive an overview of the document.

AD Makepeace – Ms. Arrighi informed the Board that Michael Hogan, President and CEO of A.D. Makepeace Company, has notified the Town that the company has filed with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (“EOEEA”) for a new cranberry bog development east of the Wankinco River and west of the Frog Foot Reservoir. This project, she said, will take 10-20 years to complete and will allow them to take out of traditional production almost 100 acres of old style, flow-through bogs. A.D. Makepeace is currently working with the Town’s Planning Department and Marine & Environmental Affairs Department on other improvements that can be made in that area in conjunction with the bog development. Ms. Arrighi indicated that, once the list of agreed-upon improvements is formalized in writing, the Town will send a letter of support for the project to EOEEA.

New England Collegiate Baseball League – Ms. Arrighi reported that Denis Hanks, (Director of the Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce) recently facilitated a meeting between Town officials and representatives from the New England Collegiate Baseball League (“NECBL”) to discuss the League’s interest in using the Babe Ruth Field at Forges Field for a whole summer program for baseball practices/games. Preliminary talks, she said, indicate that NECBL would be willing to make some improvements to the field in exchange for its use, e.g. the installation of bleachers, a game scoreboard, and/or a press box unit. Ms. Arrighi stated that a license agreement between both parties could potentially be in place by January 2013.

Gasification Unit – Ms. Arrighi informed the Board that the manufacturer of the gasification unit located at the Plymouth Correctional Facility has been granted a “demonstration permit” by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”) to operate a “waste-to-energy” system at the jail. According to the Town’s Fire Chief, she said, the manufacturer has added carbon monoxide detectors and a fire alarm system to the unit. Ms. Arrighi stated that the Plymouth Fire Department is in the process of requesting a copy of the demonstration permit so that the parameters and fire suppression system under which the unit operates are clearly defined.

Plymouth, UK Visit to Plymouth, MA – Ms. Arrighi announced that plans are being outlined for an official visit from Plymouth, England (UK) in May or June of 2013. Denis Hanks, she reported, has organized a number of meetings between Plymouth, UK officials and MassPort representatives to discuss and encourage more direct airport connections between Boston and Exeter airports. Ms. Arrighi briefly reviewed the tentative itinerary for the official visit, which will include a number of receptions, tours, and a meeting with the Selectmen to reaffirm the sister or “twin” city relationship between Plymouth, Mass. and Plymouth, England (UK).

Thanksgiving Parade – Ms. Arrighi and Chairman Muratore thanked Ollie deMacedo and the volunteers of America’s Hometown Thanksgiving Parade for producing yet another successful Thanksgiving Parade and weekend-long celebration. Appreciation was also given to the Town’s Police, Fire, and Public Works employees for their assistance in facilitating a safe event.

LICENSES

ONE DAY ALL ALCOHOL LIQUOR LICENSE*

On a motion by Selectman Brewster, seconded by Selectman Harnais, the Board approved a One Day All Alcohol Liquor License for the following applicant, as detailed below. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

- ❖ **Janette Jaynes / South Shore Young Professionals** requested a One Day All Alcohol Liquor License for a business networking event to be held from 5.30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Setting the Space (2 Main Street) on January 8, 2012.

On a motion by Selectman Harnais, seconded by Selectman Brewster, the Board approved two One Day All Alcohol Liquor Licenses for the following applicant, as detailed below. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

- ❖ **Karen Paul / Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra** requested a One Day All Alcohol Liquor License for a Holiday Pops concert reception to be held from 5.00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at Memorial Hall (83 Court Street) on Saturday, December 8, 2012.
- ❖ **Karen Paul / Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra** requested a One Day All Alcohol Liquor License for a Holiday Pops concert reception to be held from 5.00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at Memorial Hall (83 Court Street) on Sunday, December 9, 2012.

On a motion by Selectman Harnais, seconded by Selectman Brewster, the Board approved a One Day All Alcohol Liquor License for the following applicant, as detailed below. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

- ❖ **Bethany Kuhn** (43 Jacqueline Lane) requested a One Day All Alcohol Liquor License for a wedding to be held at the Loring Community Center (386 Court Street) from 5.00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. on December 1, 2012.

Liquor liability will be in place before these licenses are released.

*One day liquor licenses shall automatically cover the day before and the day after the event for the purpose of proper delivery, storage and disposal of alcoholic beverages purchased.

ONE DAY WINE & MALT LIQUOR LICENSE*

On a motion by Selectman Harnais, seconded by Selectman Brewster, the Board approved a One Day Wine & Malt Liquor License for the following applicant, as detailed below. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

- ❖ **Catherine Baird / Fred Astaire Dance Studio** requested a One Day Wine & Malt Liquor License for a dance showcase to be held at Memorial Hall (83 Court Street) from 5.30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on December 2, 2012.

On a motion by Selectman Harnais, seconded by Vice Chairman Mahoney, the Board approved a One Day Wine & Malt Liquor License for the following applicant, as detailed below. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

- ❖ **Patrick O'Brien / Memorial Hall** requested a One Day Wine & Malt Liquor License for a concert to be held from 7:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at Memorial Hall (83 Court Street) on December 1, 2012.

On a motion by Selectman Harnais, seconded by Selectman Brewster, the Board approved a One Day Wine & Malt Liquor License for the following applicant, as detailed below. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

- ❖ **Norm Laviolette / Improv Asylum** requested a One Day Wine & Malt Liquor License for a New Years Eve comedy show to be held from 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. at Memorial Hall (83 Court Street) on December 31, 2012.

Liquor liability will be in place before these licenses are released.

*One day liquor licenses shall automatically cover the day before and the day after the event for the purpose of proper delivery, storage and disposal of alcoholic beverages purchased.

TEMPORARY CLOSING (LIQUOR LICENSE)

On a motion by Vice Chairman Mahoney, seconded by Selectman Harnais, the Board approved a Request for Temporary Closing from the following two applicants, as detailed below. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

- ❖ **Lobster Hut** (25 Town Wharf, Bertrand Hindersheid, Jr.) requested permission to be closed from December 23, 2012 until February 13, 2013 for maintenance repairs. They will reopen February 14, 2012.
- ❖ **Union Fish** (14 Union Street, Christopher Tocchio) requested permission to be closed from December 2012 until February 2013 for maintenance and light renovations. They will reopen on March 1, 2013.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

Meeting Minutes – The Board approved the meeting minutes of the August 28, 2012 and September 4, 2012 Selectmen's meetings.

Purchase & Sale for 25½ Court Street – The Board approved and executed a *Purchase & Sale Agreement* pursuant to Article 16A of the 2012 Fall Annual Town Meeting for property located at 25½ Court Street, Plymouth, shown on Assessor's Map 17 as Parcel 145-2.

Community Innovation Challenge Grant – The Board authorized the Town Manager to sign the Community Innovation Challenge Grant, as requested by the Department of Public Works and DPW Water Division.

Accept Donation to K-9 Program – The Board accepted the donation of a male Dutch Shepherd / Belgian Malinois canine from the Plymouth Police Working Dog Foundation to the Plymouth Police Department’s K-9 program.

Natural Resources Designee on White Horse Parking Committee – The Board appointed Peter Denehy as the Natural Resources & Coastal Beaches Committee’s designee on the White Horse Beach Parking Committee, for a term effective November 28, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

Exclusive Vending Rights for Christmas in Historic Plymouth – The Board granted exclusive vending rights to the Kiwanis Club of Plymouth, for the Christmas in Historic Plymouth events to take place in Town Square and Shirley Square on the evening of December 7, 2012.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Patricia McCarthy spoke to the Board about the Town’s proposal to transition to a curbside pickup solid waste program. Ms. McCarthy expressed her belief that, with only two public forums presented to date, the Town appears to be forcing the curbside proposal onto residents. The most feasible and fair option, she said, is a Pay-As-You-Throw (“PAYT”) program, whereby residents who recycle will no longer have to subsidize those who do not. Ms. McCarthy offered her observation that PAYT will fit most easily with the Town’s existing transfer station system and infrastructure, while curbside service will present a number of challenges to residents with long driveways or physical limitations (i.e. hauling the trash carts).

Chairman Muratore responded that the Town will schedule further discussions on the curbside proposal, during which residents will be allowed to offer questions and feedback.

Janice Capofreddi, chairperson of the Save Money and Recycle Trash Committee (“SMART”), informed the Board that she and her fellow committee members convened earlier in the evening to hear and discuss the Town’s proposal for curbside pickup. The SMART Committee, she indicated, voted (during their November 27, 2012 meeting) to endorse the curbside pickup option, which the group feels will be the best way to encourage residents to reduce waste and increase recycling.

Linda Benezra questioned why the Department of Public Works (“DPW”) appears to have increased the solid waste budget when the curbside option the Town has offered is supposed to reduce waste tonnage. If the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund is operating with a small surplus and the curbside program will truly encourage recycling, she said, the Town

should not draft a budget that implies an anticipated increase in tonnage disposal costs. Ms. Benezra speculated upon the number of households that will opt into the curbside program and inquired if the Town will offer a fee differential to seniors (consistent with the current transfer station system). Another consideration, she added, is whether the Town has taken any measures to determine how many households are pooling trash and cheating the current flat-fee system. Lastly, Ms. Benezra reported that she had difficulty finding information on the Town's website regarding the solid waste program, because the information is posted under "Recycling."

Kevin Doyle was pleased to note that the traffic lights and lane improvements at the intersection of State Road (Route 3A) and Manomet Point Road in Manomet Village have been completed. The Simes House, he said, is coming along well, with the much-needed roofing and siding work now complete and porch repairs currently underway. Mr. Doyle extolled the public benefits of the Community Preservation Act, through which the Simes House project has been funded. The project, he said, has brought a sense of pride to Manomet residents, as evidenced by a 300+ person turnout for the recent holiday lighting ceremony at the Simes House Commons.

Vice Chairman Mahoney and Selectman Harnais commended the Simes House Foundation's volunteers for the impressive progress they have made in returning the dilapidated property to its original grandeur.

Mark Donahue, Town Meeting Representative for Precinct 9, stated that many of the constituents in his area, the Ponds of Plymouth, have expressed their concern to him about the litter that may be generated by a curbside pickup program. Though his district does not appear to favor a curbside program, Mr. Donahue recommended that the Selectmen allow residents to vote on a preferred option, with the majority vote as the deciding factor.

Mike Leary of Billington Sea Road stated his support for Pay-As-You-Throw ("PAYT") for a number of reasons. With a curbside program, he said, you are asking that residents give up seven days during which they can dispose of their trash for one day of curbside pickup. Mr. Leary indicated that he has a long driveway, along which he does not wish to haul trash bins. Though he understands why the Town is considering the curbside option, Mr. Leary made the suggestion that the Town allow a referendum vote on the matter, to gain a true picture of the program by which Plymouth residents would prefer to dispose of their trash.

Matt Romboldi, owner of Lombard's Waste Services, expressed his concern that the Town's proposed curbside pickup program will drive local trash haulers out of business. Mr. Romboldi claimed that he and the area's other small hauling businesses cannot compete with the large companies like ABC Disposal, who can bid the lowest prices because of their size. ABC Disposal, he said, is an out-of-town business that will not pay taxes to Plymouth on its property or its vehicle fleet. Mr. Romboldi surmised that, though it may take some adjustment for residents, a PAYT program will work for those who wish to retain the transfer station drop-off option, while others can continue to choose between the local haulers for competitive curbside service.

PUBLIC HEARING: PROPOSED CHANGES TO SEWER RATES

Chairman Muratore opened a public hearing to consider proposed changes to the Town's sewer service rates.

Jonathan Beder, Director of Public Works, noted that, during his November 13, 2012 presentation on the Sewer Master Plan, he had brought forth a request to adjust the "Sewer Connection Fee" to a \$7.00 per gallon "Sewer Development Fee." It was brought to his attention, he said, that fee adjustments must be done through a public hearing process, and thus, the discussion was rescheduled to this evening.

The Town's Sewer Connection Fee, Mr. Beder reported, was originally \$16 per gallon until the Board adjusted the fee to \$5 per gallon to encourage new connections as part of the Interim Sewer Policy approved in May 2012. After some financial study, he said, it was determined that the newly-renamed "Sewer Development Fee" should be adjusted to \$7.00 per gallon.

Mr. Beder, along with Lynne Barrett (Finance Director), responded to some brief questions from the Board regarding the Town's existing sewer infrastructure and the financials related to the connection fee.

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

On a motion by Vice Chairman Mahoney, seconded by Selectman Harnais, the Board voted 5-0-0 to adjust the Sewer Connection/Development Fee from the interim fee of \$5.00 per gallon to a new fee of \$7.00 per gallon, as recommended by the DPW Director.

PRESENTATION ON SOLID WASTE OPTIONS

Chairman Muratore introduced the presentation on "Solid Waste Management Options for the Town of Plymouth," noting that the Board had no intentions to make a final decision on the matter during this particular meeting. There are 18,000 households in Plymouth, he said, from which the Town needs to gather various opinions in order to debate and formulate the best decision.

Before commencing his presentation, DPW Director Jonathan Beder sought to address the comments made during public comment by Linda Benezra regarding the solid waste budget. The DPW, he said, does not anticipate tonnage expenses to increase if a transition is made to the proposed curbside program, and, now that there is a better understanding of the costs associated with the program, the proposed solid waste budget will be revised accordingly.

Mr. Beder explained that, in September of 2011, the Board gave the DPW the directive to pursue the issuance of a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for a municipal curbside solid waste pickup program. In September of 2012, after the issuance of the RFP and several months of analysis, the DPW presented the Selectmen with a presentation on the latest financials associated with the curbside option. Prior to these most recent activities, Mr. Beder said, the Town conducted a number of studies and considered various solid waste options—including Pay-As-You-Throw—going back as far as 2000.

Mr. Beder listed the Town’s goals relative to solid waste as:

- Reduce tonnage
- Increase recycling
- Provide superior customer service to users
- Sustain the environment
- Offer program with the greatest net effect on users

Mr. Beder provided a historical perspective on the ways by which residential trash disposal has evolved, from burning one’s trash in a barrel in the backyard to the closing of landfills and the current system of transfer stations. The Town currently operates three residential transfer stations with a pass-based, plate-scan system at locations in downtown Plymouth (South Street), Cedarville, and Manomet. Plymouth’s DPW, he indicated, manages all recyclable and non-recyclable operations at each location, with the exception of non-recyclable materials at the South Street Transfer Station (which is operated by Southeastern Massachusetts Resource Recovery Facility, a.k.a. “SEMASS”).

Mr. Beder reported that the sale of the Town’s flat-rate transfer station passes is trending downward, while recycling rates remain low. When Plymouth’s current disposal contract with SEMASS expires in 2015, he said, the rate to dispose of the Town’s municipal solid waste (“MSW”) is expected to increase dramatically. If the Town does not reduce its MSW tonnage and increase its recycling, Mr. Beder explained, the cost for a transfer station pass will rise concurrently with the anticipated spike in disposal costs.

There are other factors, Mr. Beder indicated, that have influenced the Town’s research into a curbside collection program. The South Street Transfer Station is situated on the former South Street Landfill, which, for a number of environmental reasons, must be closed and recapped according to Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”) standards. It is also important to note, Mr. Beder explained, that the Town leases the South Street location from Plymouth County, and the lease will soon be expiring. The convergence of rising disposal costs and declining transfer station pass sales with the uncertainty surrounding the Town’s busiest transfer station, he said, has catalyzed the need to seriously evaluate the future of Plymouth’s solid waste management system.

Dennis Westgate, Assistant Director of Public Works, resumed the presentation with financial data on each of the options evaluated by the DPW. Mr. Westgate noted that he worked collaboratively with Lynne Barrett (Finance Director) and Kerin McCall (Recycling Coordinator and Environmental Technician) on the financial projections.

Mr. Westgate reiterated Mr. Beder's comments regarding the uncertainty surrounding the future of the South Street Transfer Station. The Cedarville and Manomet stations, he said, are neither permitted for nor physically capable of handling the tonnage and vehicular traffic that would be diverted from the closure of South Street.

Mr. Westgate outlined five options that the DPW has identified for the Town's solid waste program:

- Option 1 – Curbside Pickup
- Option 2 – Three Transfer Stations (Status Quo)
- Option 3 – Three Transfer Stations with Pay-As-You-Throw
- Option 4 – One Combined Transfer Station
- Option 5 – Curbside Pickup via Private Subscription (Discontinue Town Services)

With regard to Option 1 (Curbside Pickup) and the factors on which staff based their estimates, Mr. Westgate reported that the 9,000+ households currently participating in the transfer station system are expected to migrate to the municipal curbside program. In expectation that a number of households currently using private curbside service will also opt for the Town's lower-priced service, Mr. Westgate indicated that financial estimates for the curbside program have been based on the assumption of 10,000 subscribers for the first year of the curbside program. Staff estimates that the single stream recycling service provided with curbside pickup will reduce household tonnage by 40%, while the tipping fee in 2015 is projected at \$65 per ton.

Mr. Westgate displayed a graph illustrating the estimated cost per household for curbside service, based on the assumptions made by staff. At the outset of the program in 2014, the fee is estimated at \$182 per household, and, following the anticipated spike in tipping fees when the Town's contract with SEMASS expires in 2015, the price is estimated at \$208. Following another increase to \$226 in 2016, he said, prices will level off and increase less dramatically in subsequent years.

If the Town maintains its current transfer station drop-off system (Option 2), Mr. Westgate continued, it must replace the South Street Transfer Station, increase staff and equipment (following the expiration of the SEMASS contract), and adjust prices to the new tipping fees expected in 2015. Disposal tonnage and recycling revenues are presumed to remain consistent with current figures. At issue, he noted, is the fact that, each year, fewer households subscribe to the transfer station service, thus leaving the same fixed expenses for the solid waste program to be borne by fewer ratepayers.

Mr. Westgate provided the Board with a graph displaying a comparison between the estimated costs for curbside pickup (Option 1) versus transfer station drop-off (Option 2). Though anticipated to be less costly in the years 2014-2016, the cost per household for transfer station drop-off will surpass curbside pickup in 2017 at a projected cost of \$234.

Option 3, Mr. Westgate explained, integrates a PAYT system with the Town's current transfer station drop-off program. Again, if the Town wishes to maintain its transfer stations beyond the closure of South Street, it must allocate the capital expense of

providing an alternative to South Street, increase staff and equipment (following the expiration of the SEMASS contract), and adjust prices to the new tipping fees expected in 2015. With PAYT, he explained, subscribers pay a base fee for the use of the transfer station and then pay per bag for what they dispose. The cost per bag is estimated at \$1.25 (for 30 gallons) in the early years of the program to \$1.75 after the first 10 years.

As with the other options, Mr. Westgate displayed a chart showing the estimated cost for PAYT per year, per household, based on the amount of trash a household might generate (single user, average user, large user). He then showed a chart comparing curbside pickup (Option 1) to the three-tiered estimates for PAYT (Option 3). The cost per household for the average user in the PAYT system, he pointed out, is nearly consistent with the estimated cost for curbside pickup.

David Gould, Director of Marine & Environmental Affairs, resumed the presentation with an update on the status of the South Street Transfer Station and landfill. South Street, he said, is centrally located and processes 60% of the Town's trash. SEMASS operates the non-recyclable trash collection at the station, while the Town operates the recycling station.

Mr. Gould reiterated the fact that the SEMASS contract for disposal services and the lease with the County will both expire on January 1, 2015. Sooner or later, he said, the Department of Environmental Protection will issue an Administrative Consent Order for the closing and capping of the station. Mr. Gould reported that, if the Town pursues PAYT, there will be an inevitable capital expense to build a new station and/or cap and rebuild the current facility at South Street. While he certainly supports the concept of PAYT, he commented, the factors surrounding the South Street Transfer Station pose a number of challenges—both logistical and financial—that prevent the PAYT / transfer station drop-off system from emerging as the best option.

Ms. Arrighi stated that staff did not begin the process of evaluating future solid waste programs with a preconceived notion of what the best option for the Town would be. Several studies on the Town's solid waste options have been conducted over the years, she indicated, from which a number of independent experts have recommended curbside services for Plymouth. Ms. Arrighi explained that, in order to vet such recommendations and determine public feedback, she formed the Town Manager's Solid Waste Advisory Group from a number of residents with industry experience and interest in the issue.

To develop, analyze, and project cost estimates, Ms. Arrighi continued, staff needed to make a number of assumptions based on existing data and evident trends. If residents want the Town to pursue PAYT, she said, we must consider how the declining number of households subscribing to the current drop-off system will affect the program's potential success or failure. Ms. Arrighi echoed the comments made by Mr. Beder, Mr. Westgate, and Mr. Gould that the challenges surrounding the South Street Transfer Station have narrowed the number of feasible choices for the Town to pursue. During the recent presentation on Solid Waste Options at the Council on Aging, for example, many seniors touted the convenience of being able to dispose of their trash on various days of the week

while running other errands. Ms Arrighi questioned, however, how convenient Plymouth's seniors—many of whom live in the downtown area—will find the drop-off program to be if they have to transport their trash to Cedarville or Manomet.

Ms. Arrighi listed the Town's environmental and service-based goals with regard to solid waste management:

- Prevent waste
- Increase recycling rates by making more convenient
- Reduce illegal dumping
- Cleanup of litter
- Protection of natural resources through environmental stewardship
- Reduction of "carbon footprint"

Ms. Arrighi noted that the Town's proposal for curbside service meets all of the goals she listed. Though there may be a small percentage of Plymouth residents for whom curbside pickup will not be beneficial, she said, staff has analyzed the data and determined that a curbside system can benefit a majority of the Town's households.

Vice Chairman Mahoney asked staff to discuss if and how the Town might be able to maintain a transfer station system, once the South Street Transfer Station is closed.

Mr. Gould reminded the Board and the public of the Town's effort to acquire the "corner lot" at the intersection of Long Pond Road and the entrance to the Plymouth County Correctional Facility, which could have been used as a temporary parking area for the Police Station during the capping process. This action was denied by Town Meeting, he said, thus leaving the Town with few options to adequately provide parking for the Police Station while allowing access to the transfer station during capping activities. Mr. Gould pointed out that there is little room to expand the Manomet and Cedarville Stations to accommodate more traffic, and the permitting process to construct a new facility can take 18-24 months, at a cost of approximately \$750,000 to \$1 million. PAYT is proven to work, he said, but it cannot work with Plymouth's current transfer station situation and resources.

Ms. Arrighi responded that, if the Town chooses to maintain its three transfer stations, the likely choice would be to reestablish the South Street facility, following the completion of the capping process. The former Water Department Barn on Long Pond Road, she said, is too small of a space to adequately accommodate a transfer station and will better serve the taxpayers when it is sold (as it is located in a highly valued, commercially zoned area).

Selectman Tavares stated that he is not yet convinced that curbside is the best option for Plymouth, considering the size of the Town and the quality of many of its unpaved, unaccepted roads. Whether in a rural or downtown setting, he said, trash carts become obstructions for snowplows during winter weather conditions and a burden to Plymouth's seniors who may not have the physical capacity to move them back and forth from their home to the end of their driveway. Selectman Tavares speculated whether ABC

Disposal's variety of vehicles can truly address the remote areas of town or some of the narrow historic streets, and he questioned how those homeowners with small downtown lots will be expected to store the unattractive bins if they do not have sheds or garages. Perhaps it is time, he pondered, to consider the long-term investment into a well-planned, centralized, state-of-the-art facility that would be complemented by the Cedarville and/or Manomet locations. Selectman Tavares encouraged his colleagues to listen to the concerns of those for whom a curbside program will not be convenient, and he cautioned staff members and the Board to carefully analyze the validity of the service costs that ABC Disposal has proposed.

Mr. Beder resumed his presentation with a list of some of the most frequently asked questions and comments that he has received regarding the curbside pickup program, for which he hopes to have more specific responses in the coming months.:

- My road is too narrow, how will the trucks access my property?
- My driveway is too long.
- Is curbside service practical in a rural town?
- Will there be a senior discount?
- What happens in the event of a snowstorm?
- How do we achieve fairness for those households that recycle more and generate less trash?
- Can the Town leave one transfer station open for residents who may have missed their pick up or need to dispose of extra trash?

Mr. Beder stated that he would not object to the establishment of a transfer station facility at the Town's property on Camelot Drive, but if the Town chooses to pursue such an idea, the facility—which, again, would be located at the end of a private way—would have to be ready by January 2015. PAYT would certainly reduce the Town's non-recyclable tonnage, he acknowledged, but there are too many challenges related to South Street to feasibly maintain a transfer station drop-off system. Mr. Beder echoed Mr. Gould's estimate that the expense to construct a new or temporary facility will cost the Town approximately \$750,000 to \$1 million.

Selectman Brewster indicated that she was leaning towards supporting the curbside proposal. Staff, she said, has invested a great deal of their time and professional expertise into a well-thought-out proposal, and it is time for the Board to make a decision after nearly ten years of debate on the matter. Seventy-five percent of Massachusetts communities have implemented municipal curbside programs, she noted, and there are those in the industry who claim that curbside pickup is the way of the future, as PAYT becomes outdated. Selectman Brewster acknowledged the concerns of those who feel that seniors may not be able to handle the trash carts, but if the number of households who use the transfer station service is declining each year, the Town must seriously consider whether to invest taxpayer money into the maintenance of its current transfer stations and/or the construction of a new facility. On the other hand, if the Town transitions to a curbside pickup program, she noted, no future capital investments into solid waste disposal will ever be necessary. Selectman Brewster pointed to the similarity in cost between curbside pickup (with single stream recycling) and PAYT (with pre-sorted recycling); if

the Town can offer an affordable pickup program that alleviates the need for residents to spend gas, mileage, and time to travel to the Town's transfer stations, she said, it seems only reasonable to pursue this option.

Ms. Arrighi, Mr. Beder, Mr. Westgate, and Mr. Gould responded to some remaining questions and comments from the Board regarding the information provided in the presentation. Ms. Arrighi noted that, if the Board wishes to pursue a PAYT program, the Town will need to reach an agreement with the County pertaining to South Street, and staff will need to prepare financial figures quickly in order to be ready for Town Meeting in April. Mr. Beder pointed out that, should PAYT be the choice, it would be best to retain the current and more lucrative system of pre-sorting recyclables (as opposed to single stream).

Mr. Beder encouraged citizens to contact him directly with any questions about the curbside proposal. The challenges surrounding the South Street Transfer Station, he said, have essentially backed the Town into a corner and narrowed the number of feasible choices for the Town to pursue. Curbside technology has changed, Mr. Beder said, to the point that the Town can offer pick-up service at a cost that is less expensive than the cost of a transfer station pass.

Selectman Harnais indicated that he has worked closely with Mr. Beder on the curbside proposal since the Board voted to pursue further investigation into the option. Every other community that provides curbside—and does it successfully—has faced and overcome the same concerns and unique challenges in implementing the program, he noted. Selectman Harnais stated that, though PAYT is a valid alternative, the decline in sales of transfer station passes may indicate that residents would ultimately prefer curbside service.

In response to an inquiry from Chairman Muratore, Mr. Beder reported that 9,166 (out of approximately 18,000) households purchased a transfer station pass for FY2013. The other 50%, he speculated, are either using private haulers, pooling their trash with neighbors, or bringing their trash to the workplace. Mr. Westgate noted that the sale of transfer station passes has decreased by an average of 2.74% in recent years, and there has been no indication that this trend will change.

Chairman Muratore requested more information from the DPW and ABC Disposal on the ways by which those households with unique circumstances could be serviced by the curbside program. He also recommended that the Board consider maintaining a discounted rate for senior citizens, should the Town choose to transition towards curbside pickup. Regardless of which option one prefers, he said, it seems speculative for anyone to claim that a majority of Plymouth residents would prefer a PAYT program, without actually taking a survey of Plymouth's 56,000 residents. Chairman Muratore expressed an interest in hearing more information about the reasons why most Massachusetts communities (75%, according to Mr. Beder) have opted for curbside service.

At the close of the discussion, Chairman Muratore asked the members of the Town Manager's Solid Waste Advisory Group to stand and be recognized. Ms. Arrighi

introduced Paul Martinelli, Rich Rothstein, and Pat Adelman, who were in attendance at the meeting. Ms. Arrighi then acknowledged those on the committee who were unable to attend: Robert Nassau, John and Patrick Minerella.

Chairman Muratore opened the discussion to public comment.

Robert Alford advocated for a PAYT disposal plan and encouraged the Board to consider relocating the South Street transfer station to Town-owned property in Camelot Park (near the DPW facilities and Wastewater Treatment Facility). Mr. Alford reported that, as an 80-year-old, he has no problems recycling most of his trash. For years, he said, the residents of Plymouth were allowed to throw anything into the Manomet landfill—now colloquially dubbed “Mount Trashmore”—and it appears to be time to pay for this past carelessness.

Mr. Beder acknowledged that the Town does own additional land behind the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Ms. Arrighi speculated whether the relocation of a public transfer station to the end of a privately-owned road (Camelot Drive) would require the Town to compensate the owner(s) of the road for the wear and tear that would be caused by increased traffic. Selectman Tavares stated his belief that the Town already maintains Camelot Drive because of the heavy equipment traffic generated by the DPW facilities.

Linda Benezra indicated that when she served on the former Solid Waste Advisory Committee (“SWAC”), committee chairman Larry Fava put together a recommendation on the reconfiguration of the Manomet transfer station that would cost only \$87,000 while maintaining the current footprint of the facility. Industry experts, she said, report that single stream recycling is not as beneficial, lucrative, or problem-free as sorted recycling. Those who refuse to recycle—and, therefore, cannot adjust to PAYT—are those who will migrate away from the system to private haulers, and these residents will ultimately make the choice to pay more for their disposal costs. Ms. Benezra encouraged the Board to take advantage of the fact that Plymouth residents are already accustomed to a sorted recyclable program, which is more lucrative for the Town than single stream.

Ms. Arrighi noted that a PAYT disposal system would likely require additional staffing at all three transfer stations to monitor and police the program.

Rich Rothstein of the Town Manager’s Solid Waste Advisory Committee read the comments that he shared during the November 26, 2012 Forum on Solid Waste. Mr. Rothstein indicated that, during his service on the committee, he has based his observations and decisions on science—not politics—as a result of spending nearly half of his career in the fields of solid waste and meteorology. Many cities and towns across the nation have recently transitioned to curbside pickup programs; if these programs were not effective, he said, this trend would not exist. Mr. Rothstein commented that newer technologies are improving the efficiency of single stream recycling and the repurposing recyclable materials.

Mr. Rothstein noted that he lives within an active 55+ community within Plymouth that has its own successful curbside pickup and bi-monthly recycling program. Residents in their 70's and 80's—some with long and sloping driveways—have no problem with managing their carts, he said, and despite prevailing winds and the occasional snowstorm in a coastal community like Plymouth, there are few problems with litter or missed pickups. Mr. Rothstein stated his belief that PAYT will not produce more recycling than a curbside, single stream recycling program will generate. There are those, he said, who claim that weekly pickups are not frequent enough to prevent food from spoiling and becoming odorous within their household storage areas, yet weekly curbside pickup has not posed a problem for his community.

Pat Adelman of the Town Manager's Solid Waste Advisory Committee noted that not all members within the group share the same opinions about curbside pickup. Ms. Adelman expressed her disappointment that the DPW's presentation appeared to focus more upon curbside pickup than waste reduction strategies. A number of communities across the State and nation have implemented successful PAYT programs, she reported, leading her to question why the DPW has not invested the same amount of time into evaluating a PAYT option as it has devoted to curbside pickup. If the Town wants residents to recycle more and dispose of less, Ms. Adelman said, any curbside program that is implemented should include weekly recycling pickups.

In response to Ms. Adelman's comments, Mr. Beder insisted that the DPW's presentation did address waste reduction. The industry standard for single stream pickup is every other week, he indicated, as it would be wasteful for haulers to expend the effort of picking up half-full carts.

Paul Martinelli of the Town Manager's Solid Waste Advisory Committee stated his belief that there is no reason why curbside pickup cannot work in Plymouth, noting his four years of experience as a trash truck operator in Weymouth. Trash disposal companies are very good at what they do, he said, and they have the ability to adjust to the unique qualities of each neighborhood and community.

Everett Malaguti III, Town Meeting Representative for Precinct 1, reported that he, several of his fellow Precinct 1 representatives, and a number of his constituents do not support the curbside option. While the Town's transfer stations require redesign to promote recycling and improve traffic flow, he acknowledged, Plymouth's residents should not be forced to choose one option when they already have the choice between curbside and drop-off service. Mr. Malaguti stated his belief that, if the Town is truly sincere about supporting its local, small businesses, it should not award a Town-wide curbside bid to a large, out-of-town business like ABC Disposal. In addition, he said, those who recycle should no longer be forced to subsidize those who do not (via a flat-fee system).

Chairman Muratore asked Mr. Malaguti to share the concerns that have been offered by those who oppose curbside pickup. Mr. Malaguti reported that the constituents with whom he has spoken prefer the freedom of choosing between options and the ability to visit the transfer station whenever it is convenient. In addition, Mr. Malaguti said, many

of his constituents are concerned about the distasteful appearance of the barrels and the potential for litter if the barrels are not properly secured.

Selectman Brewster differed with the repeated sentiment that those who currently use the transfer stations would not prefer a curbside program. There are many residents who cannot afford a private hauler, she said, but if the Town were to offer an affordable curbside program, they may very likely prefer to take advantage of the service.

A brief discussion ensued about the current system of separating recyclables at the transfer stations and the feasibility of utilizing a temporary, alternative drop-off location while the South Street transfer station is being re-capped.

Vice Chairman Mahoney stated that, for the past four years, the Board has done everything in its power to engage the County on the matter of recapping the South Street transfer station, yet the County has acted as obstructionists at every turn. The County's Treasurer, he said, recently commented that the County will not renew the Town's lease for South Street when it expires in 2015, yet the lot—considering its history as a landfill—can never be used for anything but a transfer station or a solar field. Vice Chairman Mahoney offered his observation that, if Town Meeting does not support curbside in the spring, the Town will have 20 months left on the South Street lease to resolve the future of its solid waste program.

Selectman Tavares wished to make it known that, though the County has faced a number of financial challenges in recent years, County officials have historically been cooperative with the Town on a myriad of issues. Chairman Muratore concurred.

Ms. Arrighi reported that Dan Pallotta, chairman of the Plymouth County Advisory Board, has indicated that the County has no intentions of evicting the Town from the South Street location. She is concerned, she said, about the concurrent convergence of three important factors that will affect whether the Town can continue to operate its most busy transfer station: the expiration of the South Street lease, the expiration of the SEMASS contract, and the administrative orders—and potential punitive fines—that will be issued from the Department of Environmental Protection pertaining to the environmental issues at the site.

Chairman Muratore thanked everyone for their participation in the presentation and discussion. With 9,000 households currently using transfer station services and 9,000 using private disposal haulers, he said, there is no singular decision on the future of the Town's solid waste program that will please everyone.

OLD BUSINESS / LETTERS / NEW BUSINESS

Medical Marijuana – Selectman Harnais raised the question of how the Town will prepare for the implementation of the recently-passed legislation allowing the sale of medical marijuana in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He offered his recommendation that the Town proactively evaluate its bylaws and zoning regulations to

prevent any problems that might inadvertently arise as a result of the new law, i.e. the establishment of a dispensary in a residential neighborhood.

Chairman Muratore agreed with Selectman Harnais. Ms. Arrighi indicated that she would speak with the Town's Planning Director to determine if there are any measures that should be taken for the Spring Town Meeting.

Telephone Scams – Chairman Muratore cautioned residents regarding a number of recent incidents of phone scams affecting local residents. He cautioned elderly residents, in particular, to beware of requests for personal information and social security numbers, as legitimate financial institutions would never ask for such information over the telephone.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

On a motion by Vice Chairman Mahoney, seconded by Selectman Harnais, the Board voted to adjourn its meeting at approximately 10:35 p.m. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

Recorded by Tiffany Park, Clerk to the Board of Selectmen

A copy of the November 27, 2012 meeting packet is on file and available for public review in the Board of Selectmen's office.