

~ PLYMOUTH BOARD OF SELECTMEN ~

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2015

TOWN HALL, MAYFLOWER ROOM

The Selectmen held a meeting on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 5:00 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 5:15 p.m.*]
Sean P. Page [*Arrived at 5:15 p.m.*]

Melissa Arrighi, Town Manager
Michael Galla, Assistant Town Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tavares called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Vice Chairman Provenzano, seconded by Selectman Mahoney, the Board voted to enter an executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21 Paragraph 3, to discuss strategy with respect to litigation and 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, 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 6:40 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Tavares announced that it would be Selectman Muratore's final meeting as a Selectman, prior to being sworn-in as State Representative for the First Plymouth District. Selectman Muratore's resignation as a member of the Board, he said, will take effect at 11:59 p.m. on January 6, 2015. Chairman Tavares congratulated Selectman Muratore and thanked him for his service to the community.

Chairman Tavares invited former Selectmen Belinda Brewster, William Hallisey Jr., and Sergio Harnais—who attended the meeting in honor of Selectman Muratore—to share a few words from the podium. Each took the opportunity to commend and congratulate Selectman Muratore, noting the spirit of cooperation, transparency, and inclusiveness that he consistently brought to the Board of Selectmen during his five years of service.

Chairman Tavares asked if the public wished to offer any thoughts.

Steve Lydon thanked Selectman Muratore for being so responsive to his phone calls and e-mails, and he wished Selectman Muratore and his family all the best in their future endeavors.

Selectman Page, Vice Chairman Provenzano, and Selectman Mahoney each spoke highly of Selectman Muratore, and they thanked him for the time he devoted to his role as a Selectman. Chairman Tavares presented Selectman Muratore with a copy of William Bradford's *Of Plymouth Plantation*, which included a personalized inscription and the signatures of each member of the current Board of Selectmen on the inside cover.

Selectman Muratore stated that he has been truly honored to have served Plymouth as a member of its Board of Selectman. He thanked his former colleagues—Ms. Brewster, Mr. Hallisey, and Mr. Harnais—for joining him at his last meeting, and he expressed appreciation to his current colleagues on the Board. Selectman Muratore explained that he sees his forthcoming responsibility as State Representative to be much like an extension of his service on the Board of Selectmen—with both roles ultimately serving the residents of Plymouth. Lastly, he thanked Town employees and the residents of Plymouth, on whom he said he will rely to provide guidance as the voice of the community.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Apology for Payroll Error – Town Manager Melissa Arrighi apologized to the 1,145 School Department employees who were affected by a significant payroll error that occurred the week of December 25, 2014. The Town's School and Finance Departments have done everything possible, she said, to remedy the error and put safeguards in place—from new procedures to software improvements—that will prevent future errors from occurring. Ms. Arrighi expressed appreciation to the banking institutions that were immediately willing to work cooperatively with the Town to correct the error: Rockland Trust, Rockland Federal Credit Union, Harbor One, Eastern Bank, and the Teachers' Credit Union. Bank of America and Citizens Bank have since agreed to work with the Town, she noted, but Santander has been unresponsive, to date. Ms. Arrighi thanked the employees who were affected by the error for their patience throughout the ordeal.

Toys for Tots – Ms. Arrighi was pleased to report that the Plymouth Firefighters Local 1768 and the Fire Department, under the guidance of Firefighter/Selectman Sean Page,

collected and donated 1,612 toys to children during the holidays. The department, she said, surpassed its collection total of 1,459 toys for the less fortunate, last year.

PILOT Agreement with Entergy – Ms. Arrighi announced that the Town has negotiated a one-year amendment to the Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement (“PILOT”) with Entergy, which adds Fiscal Year 2017 to the agreement that is currently in place. This amendment, she said, provides that the payment in FY16 of 9.25 million will also be the payment in FY17, while all other conditions and criteria in the agreement remain the same.

Street Light Fixtures – Ms. Arrighi informed the Board that staff has been working with NSTAR to upgrade the Town’s 265+ public lighting fixtures to energy efficient LED lighting. It is her hope, she said, that these upgrades will produce notable energy savings for the Town’s FY2016 electricity budget.

Local Option Meals Tax – Ms. Arrighi provided financial figures on the revenue that the Town has collected since the implementation of a Local Option Meals Tax on July 1, 2014. The first quarterly payment the Town received from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, she indicated, was \$122,752.55 for the month of July. The next quarterly payment, representing the Meals Tax collected for the months of August, September and October, totaled \$345,176.82—an amount that is slightly higher than the Finance Director’s initial projections. Ms. Arrighi was pleased to note that, in addition to exceeding expectations for the Meals Tax, the Town will collect nearly 4% more this year from the Local Option Hotel/Motel tax.

LICENSES

VEHICLE FOR HIRE OPERATOR (NEW)

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

❖ For Seabreeze Transportation:

- One Vehicle for Hire Operator: Erika Rizza, 845 Liberty Street, Rockland
Issuance of operator license is subject to CORI and SORI background check.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES⁵

Meeting Minutes – On a motion by Vice Chairman Provenzano, seconded by Selectman Page, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the following meetings:

- August 15, 2014
- October 7, 2014

- October 18, 2014
- October 21, 2014
- October 28, 2014
- November 14, 2014
- November 18, 2014
- November 24, 2014
- December 2, 2014
- December 9, 2014
- December 16, 2014

Amendment to PILOT Agreement with Entergy – On a motion by Selectman Muratore, seconded by Vice Chairman Provenzano, the Board voted to approve and endorse the *First Amendment to Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement* between the Town and Entergy Nuclear Generation Company. Within this vote, the Board also agreed to sponsor an article at the Spring Special Town Meeting regarding this Amendment. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

Affirmation of Practice Related to Health Insurance Coverage of Former Spouses – On a motion by Vice Chairman Provenzano, seconded by Selectman Muratore, the Board voted to affirm the Town’s practice of charging 100% premium to a group plan member or subscriber (employee or retiree) for the health insurance coverage of a former spouse if a judgment so decrees should the employee/retiree remarry. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

Note: Under MGL 32B, section 9H, the law currently reads that, “In the event of the remarriage of the group plan member or subscriber referred to in paragraph (a), the former spouse thereafter shall have the right, if so provided in said judgment, to continue to receive benefits as are available to the member or subscriber, by means of the addition of a rider to the family plan or contract or the issuance of an individual plan or contract, either of which may be at additional premium rates determined by the appropriate public authority to be just and reasonable in accordance with the additional insuring risks involved.” This means that the public authority (Selectmen) set the additional premium rate to be charged, as long as it is just. The Town has been charging 100% of this cost and that has been the practice for years.

Initiation of License Revocation – On a motion by Vice Chairman Provenzano, seconded by Selectman Mahoney, the Board voted to direct the Town Manager to begin the process outlined in Section VII “Termination and Revocation” of the License Agreement dated August 13, 2013 between the Town of Plymouth and Harald LLC. (The license agreement between the Town and Harald LLC was to allow Harald LLC the right of entry and use of Town property for an 18 month period, upon commencement of work. In summary, the license allowed Harald LLC to perform gravel removal operations on the town land, in an area within the Zone 2 Aquifer Protection District Boundary, in exchange for the removal of debris and construction materials on the town’s land and to perform final landscaping after their work was complete. Following this section of the License Agreement will start the notification process to Harald LLC for revocation as the purpose of the license is no longer valid.

Amend Traffic Rules & Orders / Stop Signs at South Meadow Road – On a motion by Selectman Muratore, seconded by Vice Chairman Provenzano, the board voted to amend the *1954 Town of Plymouth Traffic Rules and Orders* and as follows:

The addition of the following description to Article VIII, Section 51, Obedience to Isolated Stop Signs:

Meadow Park Road	Southbound drivers on Meadow Park Rd.	at South Meadow Rd.
Harold’s Way	Northbound drivers on Harold’s Way	at South Meadow Rd.
Roberts Road	Southbound drivers on Roberts Rd.	at South Meadow Rd.
Pinhurst Drive	Southbound drivers on Pinhurst Dr.	at South Meadow Rd.
Millennium Drive	Southbound drivers on Millennium Dr.	at South Meadow Rd.
Lawrence Road	Southbound drivers on Lawrence Rd.	at South Meadow Rd.
Dorothy Road	Southbound drivers on Dorothy Rd.	at South Meadow Rd.
Aero Park Drive	Northbound drivers on Aero Park Dr.	at South Meadow Rd.
Matthews Trail	Northbound drivers on Matthews Trail	at South Meadow Rd.
Bruce Road	Southbound drivers on Bruce Rd.	at South Meadow Rd.
Harvard Road	Northbound drivers on Harvard Rd.	at South Meadow Rd.
Fulton Street	Southbound drivers on Fulton St.	at South Meadow Rd.
High Pine Drive	Southbound drivers on High Pine Dr.	at South Meadow Rd.
West Pond Road	Northbound drivers on West Pond Rd.	at South Meadow Rd.
Jan Marie Drive	Southbound drivers on Jan Marie Dr.	at South Meadow Rd.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pine Dubois of Kingston voiced her concerns about the transfer of spent nuclear fuel that is scheduled to take place at Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (“PNPS”) during the month of January. The transfer of high-level nuclear waste to dry cask storage, she said, is one of the most dangerous operations that a nuclear power facility can undertake. Ms. Dubois encouraged the Selectmen to invite Entergy to provide a public presentation on its plans to transfer the fuel. Considering the dangerous nature of the operation and the proximity of PNPS to Cape Cod Bay, she said, it is important for the Town to hold Entergy accountable for the absolute safety of the public.

Mary Lampert of Duxbury spoke to the Board on behalf of the Duxbury Nuclear Advisory Committee. The committee, she said, requests that the Town of Plymouth hold a public meeting to provide education and information on the transfer of spent fuel to dry cask storage at Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (“PNPS”). Ms. Lampert questioned the quality of the canisters into which the spent fuel will be transferred, and she expressed her belief that Entergy should construct a facility around the dry cask storage pad, where the canisters can be monitored for temperature/radiation and protected from the corrosive effects of salt. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, she said, should not allow Entergy to operate the reactor during the highly dangerous transfer of the fuel.

Heather Lightner of Plymouth expressed her belief that the Town must be compensated for absorbing the risks associated with the overcrowded spent fuel pool at Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (“PNPS”). Though the transfer of the spent fuel into dry cask storage is a positive thing, she said, the spent fuel pool at PNPS is still overcrowded, constituting an ongoing risk for the citizens of Plymouth and its surrounding communities.

BURIAL HILL TREE HEARING

Chairman Tavares reconvened a public hearing that had been continued from December 9, 2014, to consider the Department of Public Works / Parks, Forestry, & Cemetery Division's proposal to remove a number of specific trees from Burial Hill.

Ted Bubbins, Superintendent of the DPW's Parks, Forestry, & Cemetery Division, provided the Board with his Division's recommendations for the removal of trees on Burial Hill, following a study on the condition of the trees and grounds at the historic graveyard. Mr. Bubbins referenced a public hearing that he held at Memorial Hall on November 10, 2014 to report the findings of the tree study and discuss the trees that have been recommended for removal. Following the hearing, he reported, citizens were given the opportunity to make written objections to the removal of any specific trees, by a specific date. Mr. Bubbins indicated that Section 5 of Chapter 87 of the Massachusetts General Laws designated the Board of Selectmen as the deciding authority on the removal of public shade trees.

At the December 9, 2014 Selectmen's meeting, Mr. Bubbins stated, the Board directed him to meet with Plymouth citizen Tim Turner for a walkthrough of Burial Hill. Mr. Bubbins indicated that he met with Mr. Turner on December 18 and on December 31, 2014 to discuss each tree and identify those that might be spared. Since that time, he noted, Mr. Turner met with the Friends of Burial Hill ("FOBH"), and from that meeting, Mr. Turner issued a list of trees that the Friends group continues to protest.

Mr. Bubbins handed out a chart and a map to the Selectmen to illustrate those trees that are still in protest. The list of trees was broken into the following categories [*refer to chart, Page 7*]:

- Trees that the Selectmen voted to remove on December 9, 2014 (marked in green)
- Trees that Mr. Bubbins and Mr. Turner agreed could be removed, following the 12/18 and 12/30 meetings (marked in red)
- Trees that Mr. Bubbins and Mr. Turner agreed should be maintained, following the 12/18 and 12/30 meetings (marked in yellow)
- Trees that the Friends of Burial Hill wish to have maintained, contrary to the recommendation of DPW Parks, Forestry, & Cemetery Division (marked in blue)

Mr. Bubbins stated his opposition to the FOBH's recommendation to maintain nine (9) of the trees on the removal list (marked in blue), as these trees are disrupting the gravestones and/or the surrounding grounds at the site. He asked the Selectmen to consider voting to authorize the removal of those trees categorized on the chart in red, which he and Tim Turner agreed could be removed at their meetings of December 18th and December 31st.

Chairman Tavares invited Tim Turner to speak. Mr. Turner affirmed that he met with Mr. Bubbins on December 18th and 31st to review the trees slated for removal on Burial Hill. Mr. Turner noted that, prior to leaving for vacation during the holidays, he had not yet heard from the Friends of Burial Hill ("FOBH").

Burial Hill		Proposed Tree Removal					
Public Hearing 11/10/2014							
SECTION	SPECIE	DBH	Removal Criteria	BOS Approval 12/9/2014	Onsite Meeting 12/18 12/31		Still In Protest
					Agreed to Remove	Agreed To Stay	
A							
A1	Beech	60"	3				
A2	Linden	6"	3				
A3	Linden muliti stem	24"	3				
A4	Maple	30"	1				
SECTION	SPECIE	DBH	Removal Criteria				
B							
B1	Elm	16"	1				
B2	Dogwood	8"	1&2				
B3	Dogwood	8"	1&2				
B4	Dogwood	8"	2,3,4				
B5	Dogwood	8"	3 & 4				
B6	Dogwood	10"	3 & 4				
B7	Dogwood	10"	3 & 4				
B8	Maple	18"	4 & 5				
B9	Ash	4"	1 & 3				
B10	Maple	18"	4 & 5				
B11	Maple	20"	5				
B12	Linden	40"	1 & 4				
B13	Beech	30"	2 & 3				
Section	Specie	DBH	Removal Criteria				
G							
G1	Beech	26"	2 & 3				
Section	Specie	DBH	Removal Criteria				
J							
J1	Beech	32"	2 & 3				
Section	Specie	DBH	Removal Criteria				
K							
K1	Beech	36"	2 & 3				
K2	Maple	16"	1 & 5				
Section	Specie	DBH	Removal Criteria				
L							
L1	Maple	20"	3 & 5				
L2	Beech	50"	2 & 3				
L3	Linden Cluster	20"	2				
L4	Beech	36 "	2 & 3				
L5	Maple	12"	1				
Section	Specie	DBH	Removal Criteria				
M							
M1	Beech	48"	2 & 3				
Section	Specie	DBH	Removal Criteria				
N							
N1	Oak	16"	4				
Section	Specie	DBH	Removal Criteria				
P							
P1	Locust	16"	1				
P2	Locust	16"	1				
P4	Maple	22"	1 & 5				
Trees can be identified on a map created by Halvorson Design dated March 3, 2014							
Removal Criteria							
1	Health / Safety						
2	Disrupting Historic Object						
3	Preventing Grass Growth						
4	Blocking Historic Views						
5	Invasive						

Following a meeting with representatives from FOBH on January 4, 2014, Mr. Turner noted that he provided the Board with a list of those trees for which the FOBH continued to dispute removal. As the Board’s designated representative of the community, he said, it was his obligation to communicate the FOBH’s wishes, even if he had come to a different agreement with Mr. Bubbins. The nine (9) trees that the FOBH wishes to have spared, Mr. Turner indicated, all appear to be healthy. Mr. Turner pointed out that, separate from the list of trees identified by Mr. Bubbins, there are trees at the outer edge of the cemetery, near Russell Street, that appear to be in poor health and, thus, could pose a danger to pedestrians or motor vehicles.

Chairman Tavares asked the Friends of Burial Hill (“FOBH”) to discuss their opposition to the removal of nine (9) of the trees on Mr. Bubbins’ list. Cheryle Caputo spoke on behalf of FOBH. Ms. Caputo described the reasons why each of the following trees should not be removed, noting her belief that these trees are healthy and are causing little to no damage to the gravestones/site:

- A1 Beech
- B13 Beech
- G1 Beech
- J1 Beech
- K1 Beech (now marked by Mr. Bubbins to be maintained)
- L1 Maple
- L2 Beech
- L5 Maple
- M1 Beech

Selectman Page noted that he has made several site visits to Burial Hill, as part of his participation on the Town’s internal working group assigned to the restoration and rehabilitation of the historic graveyard. It should be noted, he said, that when the early colonial settlers first began using the hill as a burial site, there were few trees. While the Town will not be removing all of the trees on Burial Hill (i.e. returning it back to its original appearance), he noted, the Town must consider the long-term effects that the trees have had—and will continue to have—on the gravestones. If the Town is to make meaningful improvements to the site and prevent further damage to the stones, Selectman Page stated, the trees that Mr. Bubbins and Mr. Turner identified for removal should be considered, so that the process of rehabilitating Burial Hill can move forth.

Following some discussion between members of the Board, Mr. Bubbins, and Ms. Caputo, Chairman Tavares asked Mr. Bubbins and Ms. Caputo to provide their respective final recommendations on the trees in question.

TREE	MR. BUBBINS’ RECOMMENDATION	MS. CAPUTO’S RECOMMENDATION
A1 Beech	Remove	Maintain
B13 Beech	Maintain (compromise)	Maintain
G1 Beech	Remove	Remove (compromise)
J1 Beech	Remove	Maintain
L1 Maple	Remove	Remove (compromise)
L2 Beech	Remove	Maintain
L5 Maple	Remove, but delay removal for 2 years	Remove, but delay removal for 2 years
M1 Beech	Maintain (compromise)	Maintain

Chairman Tavares opened the hearing to public comment.

June Gillette of the Friends of Burial Hill (“FOBH”) expressed her concern that the Town is treating Burial Hill as one of its parks, rather than the 17th century cemetery and historical artifact that it is. Burial Hill, she said, is one of the few original remaining historical sites in Plymouth, and the removal of these trees could compromise the integrity of the graveyard.

Chris Hall expressed his belief that the trees and indigenous plants that exist at Burial Hill are not causing damage to the site.

Jean “Joni” Patenaude-Lane stated her belief that the removal of trees from Burial Hill is a mistake. Ms. Patenaude-Lane indicated that, as a descendent of some of the citizens interred at the site, she strongly objects to the removal of any of the trees, as many of the trees may have been planted as memorials. Noting her experience and training in the field of forestry, she offered her observation that the consultants hired to conduct the study of the trees were not adequately qualified to do so.

Robert Spencer, Town Meeting Member from Precinct 1, advised the Board to maintain those trees that are healthy and remove those that are not. If the Town was concerned about damage to the stones, he said, it should have removed the trees a long time ago. Mr. Spencer offered his belief that the erosion problems on Burial Hill can be remediated.

Chairman Tavares noted that the Board would vote on the color-coded spreadsheet [*see chart, Page 7*] provided by Mr. Bubbins. Chairman Tavares stated that, as indicated, those trees marked in green and red will be removed, pending the Board’s vote on the trees coded in blue that are considered “still in protest.” Chairman Tavares called for individual votes on the trees coded in blue, with the exception of beech tree “K1,” which Mr. Bubbins has agreed to preserve.

On a motion by Selectman Mahoney, seconded by Vice Chairman Provenzano, the Board voted to authorize the removal of beech tree “**A1**.” Voted 3-2-0, approved. Chairman Tavares and Selectman Mahoney voted in opposition.

Vice Chairman Provenzano made a motion to authorize the removal of beech tree “**B13**.” Selectman Mahoney seconded the motion, and the Board voted 1-4-0 in favor. The motion did not carry and, thus, the tree will be maintained. Vice Chairman Provenzano cast the lone vote in favor.

On a motion by Selectman Page, seconded by Selectman Mahoney, the Board voted to authorize the removal of beech tree “**G1**.” Voted 5-0-0, approved.

On a motion by Vice Chairman Provenzano, seconded by Selectman Page, the Board voted to authorize the removal of beech tree “**J1**.” Voted 3-2, approved. Chairman Tavares and Selectman Mahoney voted in opposition.

On a motion by Selectman Mahoney, seconded by Vice Chairman Provenzano, the Board voted to authorize the removal of maple tree “L1.” Voted 5-0-0, approved.

On a motion by Vice Chairman Provenzano, seconded by Selectman Mahoney, the Board voted to authorize the removal of beech tree “L2.” Voted 5-0-0, approved.

On a motion by Vice Chairman Provenzano, seconded by Selectman Page, the Board voted to authorize the removal of maple tree “L5,” provided that the removal be delayed by two years. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

Vice Chairman Provenzano made a motion to authorize the removal of beech tree “M1.” Selectman Mahoney seconded the motion, and the Board voted 1-4-0 in favor. The motion did not carry and, thus, the tree will be maintained. Vice Chairman Provenzano cast the lone vote in favor.

TOWN MANAGER’S FY2016 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Town Manager Melissa Arrighi introduced a follow-up presentation on her recommendations for the Town's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget. Joined by finance Director, Lynne Barrett, Ms. Arrighi built-upon her presentation of December 16, 2014, in which she provided an outline of the Town’s anticipated expenses and revenues for FY2016. In this particular presentation, Ms. Arrighi focused on the Town’s fixed costs—those expenses to which the Town is legally or contractually bound, such as state and federally-mandated programs, insurance, employee benefits, and debt service.

Ms. Arrighi displayed a pie chart to illustrate the Town’s overall budget and the portion thereof that must be set aside for fixed costs. Fixed costs—especially those associated with unfunded and underfunded mandates—are difficult to project and control, she explained. Ms. Arrighi identified the categories of fixed costs (below) and provided an explanation of the key changes in the FY2016 Budget for each.

- Out-of District Student Transportation – \$29,500 for FY2016
- Member Insurance – increase of \$2,400,000
- Member Benefits – increase of \$316,000
- Pension Contributions – increase of \$777,000
- Property & Liability Insurance – increase of \$127,000
- Unemployment Compensation – increase of \$100,000

Ms. Arrighi provided the Board with more in-depth information on the increases anticipated for employee health insurance, Medicare reimbursements for retirees, pensions, unemployment compensation, and general liability coverage for the Town’s public facilities. She noted that some assumptions were made on the budget for employee health insurance, in anticipation of potential changes to employee contributions or plan changes through the Public Employee Committee (“PEC”) process.

Ms. Arrighi discussed the services that the School Department must provide for its students, as mandated by state and federal education regulations. Though required by the state and federal government, she said, these services are not funded—or are not fully funded—by either of those entities, thus placing the burden of funding on the municipality. Ms. Arrighi listed some of the services the School Department must provide as a result of these unfunded mandates:

- Out-of-district transportation for vocational students
- Special education
- Changes to discipline policies and alternative education for disciplined students

Ms. Arrighi listed some examples of the state and federal mandates with which the Town must comply (as opposed to those specifically assigned to the School Department), noting that these unfunded mandates are much more difficult to quantify:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) – water quality sampling & reporting
- U.S. Affordable Care Act / Health Reform – administrative reporting
- Civil Service – administrative processing, tracking, and legal procedures
- Mass. Department of Public Safety – training costs for annual license certifications
- Building Code and Inspectional Services – staffing needs and training requirements
- Mass. Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission – new liquor license inspections

Ms. Arrighi summarized the way by which these fixed costs affect the Town’s General Fund Budget. Overall, she indicated, Fixed Costs represent 26% of the Town’s total budget. The Board and the School Committee, she said, will discuss these costs—and strategies to mitigate them—at their joint session scheduled for January 13, 2015.

Selectman Muratore noted that, as a Selectman and former member of the Advisory & Finance Committee, the FY2016 Budget will be the tenth that he has reviewed for the Town of Plymouth. Upon review of the FY2016 budget, he said, there is little that can be ‘nickel-and-dimed’ from the overall budget plan. Selectman Muratore acknowledged that the unfunded mandate issue is a growing concern for cities and towns, an issue which he believes the incoming governor, Charlie Baker, will address as part of his administration’s platform. Lastly, Selectman Muratore maintained his belief that the regionalization and consolidation of local services will help cities and towns to reduce their respective budgets.

Selectman Mahoney agreed with Selectman Muratore’s assessment that there is little that can be cut from the FY2016 Budget, in its current form. The unfunded mandates discussed by the Town Manager, he said, give the Town little choice as to how the overall budget is constructed. Selectman Mahoney reiterated his long-standing forewarning that the Town will encounter major financial challenges when the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station eventually goes offline. The Town, he said, must cull regular allocations from its budget and stockpile funds for the mitigation of these unavoidable, future challenges.

Chairman Tavares thanked Ms. Arrighi and Ms. Barrett for their presentation, noting that the Board will meet with the School Committee in joint session on January 13, 2015 to discuss and vote upon the budget.

COMMITTEE LIAISON / DESIGNEE UPDATES

There were no items raised for discussion under Committee Liaison / Designee Updates.

OLD BUSINESS / LETTERS / NEW BUSINESS

Midnight Masquerade Celebration – Chairman Tavares thanked the organizers of the Midnight Masquerade Celebration that was held at Memorial Hall on New Year’s Eve. The event was held as a fundraiser for Plymouth 400, Inc., he said, and it was clear that those who produced the event invested a great deal of time and effort into its success.

Staffing Change – Chairman Tavares noted that the Selectmen’s Assistant, Tiffany Park, has been appointed to another position within the Town Manager’s Office. He thanked Ms. Park for her outstanding service as the Selectmen’s Assistant and wished her well in her new position with the Town.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

On a motion by Selectman Muratore, seconded by Selectman Mahoney, the Board voted to adjourn its meeting at approximately 8:40 p.m. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

Recorded by Tiffany Park, Administrative Assistant to the Town Manager

A copy of the January 6, 2015 meeting packet is on file and available for public review in the Board of Selectmen’s Office.