

Present: Chair James Plath, Brian Sullivan, Robert Prall, Michael Brennan, William Crowell, Peter McDowell and Ted Dumas. Also present: BOS Chair Donald Trepte, Jane Otis, Paul McCormick and Charles Crowell, Town Administrator Robert Canevazzi, Assistant Town Administrator Sandra Fife and Recorder Peggie Hunter.

Three handouts were given to Committee: a letter from the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District, a list of Yarmouth articles and a letter from the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Task Force.

Chair James Plath said that the Town of Harwich Selectmen are under the assumption that the scheduled joint meeting with the Dennis Selectmen will take place on February 27th. Robert Canevazzi emailed Harwich Town Administrator and hasn't heard back yet.

There is a meeting on 2/27/06, which will be a workshop on the school budget. BOS Chair Donald Trepte spoke about school formulas. Mr. Trepte detailed numbers and stated that at the current moment, there is a deficit of \$405,000.00 and \$1,000,010,00 if we are forced to go with Chapter 70 formula. Mr. Trepte then reviewed Town of Yarmouth Article 7 and Article 8.

Chair James Plath asked if this was based on their current budget. The movement to Chapter 70 that the Governor has gone with is an aggregate wealth model. It does not use per pupil as a measure of determining which community should pay what amount and is based on income and property value. There are 18 formulas for this school calculation.

Peter McDowell said there is a set of numbers related to school buildings and they are broken apart. Further discussion ensued with Chair Donald Trepte regarding the handout. Of that 32 million, 13 some odd million is assigned to Dennis. Further discussion occurred regarding calculations. In comparing our 41% at the top of the sheet, it seems as assessment has changed on bottom half of sheet. The bottom half of the chart is transportation, capital investments and debt service. It will be \$600,000.00 more if we go with Governor's calculations.

Robert Prall asked if assessed valuations are accurate comparisons. BOS Chair Donald Trepte said they are using 2004 numbers. Town Administrator Robert Canevazzi said while they are looking at the same fiscal years, it depends where community is in their revaluation. William Crowell asked about Article 7 and asked how are they going to arrive at a figure for the article. Chair Trepte said at the time they wrote the article, they didn't have number to put into article. Michael Brennan said that by default, Chapter 70 formula would prevail. Chair James Plath said that Yarmouth had to close their Warrant before they could plug in the number.

BOS Chair Donald Trepte said that in the budget we have received thus far, they are a little light on the amount for local revenues. Chair Trepte mentioned a joint meeting on

March 8, 2006 with the Yarmouth BOS and Capital Outlay Committee at Dennis Town Hall at 6:30PM. There will also be a public hearing on Thursday, February 16, 2006 at 10 AM on the Bridge Street project.

Municipal Buildings Transfer

A Reserve Fund Transfer request for \$6000.00 for sprinkler system at the Dennis Senior Center and emergency generator at Town Hall was made. Reserve Fund is currently \$89,000.00 because \$30,000.00 is set aside for energy purposes. Mr. McDowell said that he is sure if Mr. Estey is coming before Committee, it is indeed a needed request.

MOTION:

Peter McDowell moved and William Crowell seconded and Board voted 7-0-0:
Committee voted to transfer the sum of \$6000.00 for this request.

Golf Department Transfer

A Reserve Fund Transfer request for \$24,000.00 for removal of trees and stumps due to the unexpected December 9, 2005 storm was made. Chair James Plath asked about Town insurance. Dennis Penner said that he wasn't sure how that would work. Peter McDowell and Robert Prall met with Mike Cummings for a tour of Dennis Pines. Leaning trees are also posing a problem. Mr. McDowell said that the work involved is immense. Robert Prall agreed with Mr. McDowell's assessment. William Crowell asked about damage to the Highlands. Mr. Penner said that most of damage was at Dennis Pines and there was little damage done to the Highlands. Mr. Plath asked about damage to irrigation system and Mr. Penner said there wasn't any. Chairman Plath asked that Mr. Penner check with the Legal Department regarding any legal ramifications involved in the tree removal.

MOTION:

Robert Prall moved and Peter McDowell seconded and Committee voted 6-0-0: (Ted Dumas)

Board voted to approve the Golf Department's request to transfer the sum of \$24,000.00 for tree removal.

Fire Department Transfer

Chief Mark Dellner spoke about pickup truck that was in an accident in December. Realizing money is tight there are a few options. Request is now for \$19,541.00 and not the previously requested \$27,000.00. Michael Brennan asked if truck has a plow on it. Chief Dellner said this vehicle will not have a plow. Discussion of vehicle type ensued. This vehicle could be used for a lot of Fire Department activities. Mr. McDowell asked about insurance estimates. Mr. McDowell asked Mr. Canevazzi who negotiated the decision to total the vehicle and Mr. Canevazzi responded that it was Pat Folcik. Chair Plath said this transfer request will bring Reserve Fund down to \$40,000.00 and discussed Article in Fall Town Meeting for around \$36,000.00 for vehicle. Mr. Plath said

he realized that we can't use money without Town Meeting approval. Chief Dellner said the vehicle came in \$2800.00 under budget.

Mr. McDowell suggested that Capital Outlay look at this item. Michael Brennan asked whose call it was to pay it off or to total vehicle. Town Administrator Robert Canevazzi said it was the insurance company's call.

Chief Dellner said they are trying to get something for the future that will last at least ten years. Request for '08 vehicle will be crossed off. It was asked if it is possible to fix the current truck. Town Administrator Robert Canevazzi said it is now salvage. Chief Dellner signed form to release the vehicle. Mr. McDowell wondered if a vehicle should be surrendered without the participation of the Town Administrator and if this was consistent with the law. Mr. Canevazzi said insurer guided him and we will rely on their judgment. Department will be down one vehicle if Finance Committee does not approve this transfer request. Jane Otis said that if insurance company deems that a vehicle is totaled, that is their job. Ms. Otis suggested that we ask the insurance company. The title would have listed on it that the vehicle was totaled. Mr. Canevazzi agreed with this. William Crowell suggested the lesser-priced model be looked into.

Chief Dellner suggested that if department heads are not allowed to sign contracts, perhaps other department heads should know about this. Chair Plath asked Chief Dellner to come back with a lesser-priced model or perhaps wait until the Annual Town Meeting.

Chief Dellner said that there are lesser options such as the F250 model for \$16,516.00. Chief Dellner asked Finance Committee to bear in mind, that this vehicle needs to last for ten years.

Ted Dumas agreed with Mr. Crowell that we should replace what we lost. Chair Plath asked for a revised handout with numbers in an organized fashion and Committee will get back to it.

BUDGET REQUESTS

Accounting-135

MaryAnne Gibbs, Town Accountant presented budget. Salaries include two full-time and one part-time assistant. Longevity is zeroed out due to a retirement of employee. Purchase & Services includes money for auditors and money for Munis Conferences. Michael Brennan asked about Munis Conference. Ms. Gibbs said it is for two people to attend Munis Conference in Chicago. Michael Brennan asked who would be attending this conference. Ms. Gibbs responded the Accountant and Assistant Town Administrator would attend.

MOTION:

Michael Brennan moved and William Crowell seconded and Committee voted 7-0-0:
Committee voted approval of Budget 135 for the total amount of \$161,138.00.

Police-210

Chief Whalen, Lt. Murphy and Cheryl Wilson came before the Finance Committee to present budget. There isn't any change in the Department's full-time payroll. Michael Brennan asked about overtime numbers for 2005. Chief Whalen said that was the year of the arson and Department was down people. This year was much tighter due to the fact that three individuals were attending the Academy.

Chief Whalen budgeted 860 hours for bike patrol. The motorcycle officers also come into this line item. Third item into this line item is the beach car. These three components add up to 1574 hours of time. The Bike Patrols main thrust is for prevention. Chair Plath asked for breakdown of this group. The breakdown is as follows: Bike Patrol-\$37,840.00, Motorcycles-\$6480.00 and Beach Car-\$22,080.00. Chair Plath asked what the total number of hours for this line item in '06 was and Chief Whalen answered, 1290 hours. The increase is 60 hours.

Chief Whalen spoke about year-round officers. Difficult to get matrons in and Dispatcher and Animal Control Officers usually end up doing the job at a blended rate.

Cadets are teamed up with dispatchers and work 10-11 weeks during the summer. These cadets come in for two weeks of training. The Department's Mechanic is a great bargain.

Michael Brennan asked about the Department's Custodian due to recent conversations regarding Town-wide maintenance. Police Department's custodian, Mr. Barry works a 40-hour week strictly for the Police Department. Chief Whalen outlined Mr. Barry's duties. Michael Brennan would like to figure out number of hours worked on building maintenance. Lt. Murphy said that is difficult to decipher as duties are intermingled and often interrupted. Mr. Brennan asking for Library information purposes, as they are in need of increased custodial services.

Gross overtime is an increase from last year up 10%. It is for 7800 hours. This overtime is supplemented with a Community Policing Grant. There could be a problem with this grant next year. Specialist Pay has increased due to the fact that an Emergency Management Specialist has been added.

BOS Chair Donald Trepte asked about the LEAPS Program.

Lt. Murphy explained LEAPS Program. There are two officers that maintain computer system on state level.

Chair Jim Plath asked if the Emergency Management Specialist was negotiated into the contract or is it one that the Chief awards. Chief Whalen said he awarded it because the gentleman was already doing the job through a grant. Chair Plath said if it is contractual, it is a non-issue. Chief Whalen will research this and will send a memo to the Town Administrator.

Purchase of Services is a 5% increase over last year. Vehicular supplies increased and unclassified supplies increased by \$1000.00 for programs for parents. In-state travel amount was increased.

Capital Outlay removed additional equipment from the operating budget and put it back into Capital. Replacement of computers for \$4000.00 was moved to Steve Buss' budget.

William Crowell asked about the Beach Car. A pick-up truck is used. A special officer and a regular officer hit all beaches with a four-wheel drive vehicle. David Johansen and Dustin Pineau said this beach patrol has cut back on possible incidences.

MOTION:

Robert Prall moved William Crowell seconded and Committee voted 7-0-0:
Committee voted approval of 100210 Police Department budget in the amount of \$3,704,844.00.

Animal Control-292

Lisa Tissari on board now as Assistant Animal Control Officer.

MOTION:

Ted Dumas moved and Michael Brennan seconded and Committee voted 7-0-0:
Committee voted approval of Animal Control Budget 100292 in the amount of \$80,967.00.

Committee took a five minute recess.

Committee returned from recess.

Fire Department-100220

Chief Mark Dellner and Deputy Chief John Donlan came before Finance Committee. Committee went back to replacement vehicle discussion. Chief Dellner came back with a vehicle priced at \$11,900.00. This vehicle is not diesel operated. Chief Dellner requested that Committee look at this again at the \$11,980.00 price. This is a state bid price. Chair Plath asked if they would take it in trade? Chief Dellner will look into that. Reserve Fund Transfer is now for \$11,980.00.

MOTION:

Ted Dumas moved and Brian Sullivan seconded and Committee voted 7-0-0:
Committee voted approval of Reserve Fund Transfer to capital outlay for purchase of 2006 Ford Pick-up vehicle from MHQ.

Chief Dellner said that Department is presently redefining On-Call force of 12 active positions with an allotment of 18 positions.

Chair Plath asked how is Insurance Public Safety Law and McNamara Bill affecting insurance. Chief Dellner explained McNamara Bill and said that he is waiting for a quote from Provident. This insurance increase will be in Pat Folcik's budget. Peter McDowell asked how many weeks into fiscal year are we presently at. Chief Dellner answered 32 weeks. Overtime is salary driven.

Fringe Benefits deal with holiday pay. Clothing allowance is in the contract and purchases must be established guidelines approved by Administration.

Repairs and maintenance of radios and pagers was discussed. Peter McDowell inquired about the Department's phone system. Deputy Chief John Donlan spoke about telephone service contract. There are approximately twenty-five telephones in the building.

Michael Brennan asked about training. Mr. McDowell asked if firefighters are trained on company time. Chief Dellner said they are trained on their own time and this is not linked to overtime. Chair Plath asked about availability for grant money for training under Homeland Security. John Donlan spoke about grant received three years ago and said that Department applies for a lot of grants. Tuition for college courses is a contractual item. The bulk of the other expenditures line item is for ambulance billing through Coastal Billing. Coastal Billing gets 4% of ambulance billing fees. Robert Prall asked if ambulance billing was put out to bid. Chief Dellner said that it is a three-year contract and we are in the second year of the contract. Peter McDowell asked who monitors billing. Chief Dellner explained process and will provide Mr. McDowell with a print out from Coastal Billing. It was asked what triggers Coastal Billing into contacting the Fire Department. John Donlan said it is based on demand notices. Coastal Billing is not authorized to excuse anyone. Chair Plath asked about the collection rate and Chief Dellner said that it is 90.2%.

Chair Plath asked would it be possible to group Ambulance Services together to get a better picture. Chief Dellner said they have been working on this grouping and will work on it with Town Accountant MaryAnn Gibbs.

Chief Dellner said Department gets their money's worth with mechanics.

Chief Dellner said the Department would like to revamp the Dive Team.

Peter McDowell said that tuition having a 50% increase would be more workable than the 100% increase. Chief said he is willing to work with Finance Committee on lowering that amount.

William Crowell asked about dispatchers. Chief Dellner spoke about report regarding overtime vs. staffing and feasibility of dispatch. This report was due in January. Chief said this has to be negotiated as it is in the contract. There are lots of advantages to keeping the center the way it presently is, especially when there are injuries, as this is where those with injuries can work. It has proved to be cost effective. Walk-ins and public image is important. Third option is to put in non-firefighter dispatchers in. John Donlan said that we don't do emergency medical dispatch by giving medical information over the phone. The Police Department does not do this as well. Chief Dellner said that he is not locking this method in. Michael Brennan said that it is a very expensive solution. Mr. Brennan would like to understand what benefits are to others on the Cape that have gone to central dispatching. Mr. Brennan asked that Chief Dellner come back with details on this program. Chief Dellner has done some research and there are a lot of advantages to retaining in-house dispatchers. John Donlan said the only thing the county does is emergency. They do not take blood pressures or answer the business line or give out permits. Chief Dellner said that EMT's are rotated. John Donlan said the Dispatcher has to be an EMT and it is crucial that they have medical training. Peter McDowell asked about training at county dispatch level and rate of pay. John Donlan said we are in line with the rest of the county.

Robert Prall asked about fixing the HAV. BOS Chair Donald Trepte said that we have had this problem ever since the building was built.

Peter McDowell asked about deficiencies regarding building. Contractor has walked away from the building and there are still design flaws in the building. Chief Dellner said that some electrical work has been done, the dryer was fixed and other corrections have taken place.

MOTION:

Peter McDowell moved and Brian Sullivan seconded and Committee voted 7-0-0:
Committee voted to recommend all the numbers except for the sum of \$10,000.00 be reduced to \$2500.00 to equal \$7500.00 for a total Fire Department FY'07 budget of \$3,402,249.00

Next meeting is Wednesday, February 15, 2006.

MOTION:

William Crowell and Brian Sullivan seconded and Committee voted 7-0-0:
Committee voted to adjourn at 10:31PM.