

Selectmen's Meeting
February 8, 2010
4:00 pm

A meeting of the Board was held on the above date in the Fred B Morgan Jr. Meeting Room, Town Hall. Members present were Margaret Serpa; & Arthur Smadbeck. Also present was Town Administrator, Pamela Dolby.

At 4:00 pm Ms. Serpa opened the meeting.

The Board then approved the following items:

The minutes from January 4, 2010 and January 11, 2010.

The Girls and Boys Club Tour on May 1, 2010.

The Certificate of permitted mortgagee and the deed rider for Jennifer Morgan.

Ms. Serpa then recognized Mr. Alan Gowell, member of the EAHC who was present in reference to Article #29 on the April Town Meeting Warrant.

Mr. Gowell stated that the EAHC wanted to use a different deed rider on advice of Town Council. The State requires it to be adopted at Town Meeting. The new rider would make it so that the Town had the first refusal before auction when it came to selling in a foreclosure situation. It would be an opportunity to keep a property affordable housing, but would not be an obligation.

Mr. Smadbeck asked about the wording of the article that indicated that the DCRHA would be the authority involved not the EAHC.

Mr. Gowell answered that Town Council took the wording from the Chilmark article and that certain things will be changed to fit Edgartown by correcting them on Town Meeting Floor.

Ms. Serpa asked if the EAHC approves the mortgage.

Mr. Gowell replied that the applicants get approved and then go to the bank and get a mortgage on their own.

Ms. Serpa stated that the wording of the article seems questionable and needs to be fixed before the Town Meeting.

Mr. Smadbeck stated that it needed clarification.

Mr. Gowell answered that it would be ready before Town Meeting.

The Board then awarded Nancy Cook the cleaning contract for the Town Hall after taking the bids under advisement of February 1st.

Ms. Dolby stated that she would be out of the office from Wednesday the 3rd to Friday the 5th. She also stated that she had received from the Police Chief some regulations in regards to Segway type scooters and had distributed it to the Board.

The Board then set a hearing date of February 16, 2010 at 4:00pm to discuss articles that had been submitted for the Town Meeting for an additional 2% to the room and occupancy tax, an additional .75% to the meals tax, and new noise and curbcut bylaws.

The Financial Advisory Committee then joined the meeting.

Ms. Dolby then stated that the Library was having a meeting at 5:00 pm that afternoon and were voting on what to do about the Library project. It was expected that they were going to vote to restart the library project from scratch and exchange the large Article for a smaller one of \$300,000 for start up money. Ms. Felicia Cheney was expected to call Ms. Dolby shortly after the meeting started to tell her of the outcome.

Ms. Marilyn Wortman, Personnel Assistant, was in to discuss Town medical insurance. She stated that the Town would save \$300,000 if everyone on Blue Cross Master Health Plus moved to the Blue Cross PPO.

Mr. Smadbeck responded that the Town needed to be careful about pushing people to a new plan. He was worried about the Town's liability if there was a reason these people chose to be in the MHP instead of the PPO and something unforeseen wasn't covered on the PPO. The best approach would be education and information and letting them decide to change on their own.

Mr. Fred Condon stated that this was an ongoing issue and Ms. Wortman had done a good job and produced significant savings to the Town already. It is a very complicated thing to compare one plan to another.

At 4:28 the Board and FINCOM went over the latest additions to the Town Meeting Warrant. First was the Vineyard Health Care Access Program. They wanted to add a second article in the amount of \$18,903.27 in additional funds.

Ms. Serpa was unhappy about the request and stated that Edgartown pays the largest amount of all the Towns. She felt the formula was flawed and that originally the program started as not costing the Town anything and now the Town had to pay and it then kept going up.

Mr. Smadbeck was also unhappy with the formula used. He felt that the additional fund request put the original request at risk and the Town was already paying more than any other Town.

Mr. Tad Crawford, for the VHCAP, replied that the formula can be worked on for next year. The funds had originally been met by grants which were now no longer available. The Program had cut quite a bit last year to cope with the shortage. The VHCAP would like to put the second article before the Town and let them decide.

Mr. Smadbeck stated that the Dukes County Regional Housing formula was much more fair to spread the expenses and wanted a "rock solid" promise that next year that formula would be used and that the whole need would be in one article.

Mr. Larry Mercier stated that they had promised that the previous year and that nothing had changed.

Mr. Crawford stated that the VHCAP was willing to use that formula next year.

Mr. Bob Clay urged the board to adopt the article. The VHCAP assists a lot of people and they have promised to use the other formula next year.

Ms. Serpa stated that they had made the same request last year and nothing had changed. She understood the need for the service.

Mr. Smadbeck moved to approve the article with the "rock solid" commitment to change the formula next year. Ms. Serpa seconded, but stated that the VHCAP needed to find other sources than the Towns and she didn't want to see this high of an amount again. Unanimous for the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Condon moved to approve. Mr. Clay seconded. Four (4) in favor. One (1) abstention for the FINCOM.

They then moved on to Article 16 which was the article for an increase on the room occupancy tax.

Mr. Mercier asked if they had to wait for the public hearing.

Ms. Dolby replied that the FINCOM could still vote on it and the Selectmen would wait.

Mr. Condon asked if a portion was going to the Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Dolby replied no.

Mr. Condon moved to approve the article. Mr. Mercier seconded. Unanimous for the FINCOM.

Article 17 on the increase in meals tax was similarly discussed.

Mr. Mercier moved to approve. Mr. Condon seconded. Unanimous for the FINCOM.

Article 26 on using CPA funds to replace a roof on the Captain Pease House owned by the MV Museum to protect the historical articles enclosed was then discussed. Mr. Alan Gowell, Vice-chair of the CPC, was present and briefly described the article and the precautions the CPC had taken in case the building was sold.

Mr. Mercier moved to approve. Ms. Barbara Shriber seconded. Unanimous.

Article 29 on the option of the Edgartown Affordable Housing Committee to add a rider to future affordable housing units which the Board had previously discussed in the meeting.

Ms. Shriber moved for a "Neither Nor" decision. Mr. Mercier seconded. One (1) opposed. Four(4) in favor.

Article 54 on the exhaust hood for the Katama Airport.

Mr. Mercier moved to recommend. Ms. Shriber seconded. Unanimous.

The subject was then brought up of reducing the CPA portion that the taxpayer pays to 1% instead of 3%.

Mr. Gowell stated that the Town couldn't change until after 5 years. He thought maybe that would be next year. The 3% allows the Town to be in the second and third rounds of state funds. The 1% would mean even less.

Mr. Smadbeck stated that the CPC seemed to be banking a lot. It seemed worth a discussion.

Mr. Gowell responded that the money being banked was mostly in the Open Space account in case of future purchases.

Ms. Cheney then called with the Library Board meeting update. They had voted to withdraw the article for four million dollars and would like to start from scratch.

They then reviewed Article 15 on the putting all the post retirement benefits from all the towns into one fund. All the towns have the same article.

Mr. Smadbeck moved to adjourn at 5:35 pm. Ms. Serpa seconded. Unanimous.

Approved:

Michael J. Donaroma, Chairman

Margaret E. Serpa

Arthur Smadbeck
Board of Selectmen

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Rose
Assistant