

Selectmen's Meeting  
Tuesday, August 15, 2017 -6:30 p.m.  
Scituate Maritime Center  
Board Working Meeting/Annual Retreat

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. and the following members were present: Maura Curran, Shawn Harris, John Danehey. Tony Vegnani arrived at 6:40 p.m.

Also present was Patricia Vinchesi.

The Board reviewed its **FY 17 goals and FY 18 year-to-date**. Selectman Vegnani asked about the status of the Town's Master Plan and was informed that retired Town Planner Laura Harbottle was working on it. He observed that the Board will need to work closely with the Planning Board and EDC on development issues facing the town.

Board members next discussed the **lack of land in town** and the pressure for many school and municipal needs. Selectman Danehey observed that the town should look closely at land opportunities. Ms. Vinchesi stated that an exhaustive land inventory was undertaken in 2011 to locate land for the public safety complex and an updated inventory of land would be in order. Members also inquired as to the status of the St. Francis Cabrini land and if the Archdiocese had sold it yet.

Members next focused their discussion on the **location of a new senior center**. The Town's current debt structure was reviewed along with a long discussion of the survey that is about to go out asking residents to provide feedback on desired locations for a new center. The four locations studied by BH+A would be included but that Gates should also be part of the mix. The survey should also clearly indicate that the Kent Street property would also require a land swap with the Housing Authority. How to get the maximum participation of residents and tallying the survey was also discussed and the Town Clerk will be contacted for more information. The Board would like to have the survey finalized, out and tabulated as soon as possible but that 60 days would be a minimum timeframe.

The Board next focused on a discussion of the **opioid crisis** in the country, state and town. The Town will need to fully absorb the cost of the FACTS operation in FY 19 as the five-year grant runs out. The location of the staff to the current senior center when a new center was built was also mentioned. While FACTS focuses on education, the other piece of the challenge is enforcement.

The Board next discussed the moving pieces of its **public buildings**—the current COA, the Scituate Harbor Community Building and Gates Middle School.

Use of buildings and development lead to a long discussion about **sewer capacity** and the next phase of the sewer master plan. The Board asked for the number of connections that would result with the "tree streets" phase implemented. They also suggested a letter go to residents in the area here to see if they are still interested in sewer connections there. The potential for regional sewer

with the Towns of Cohasset, Hull and Hingham was also discussed and Selectmen Curran and Harris will attend the next meeting on September 7 at the Norton EOC. Selectman Harris also mentioned the possibility of public-private partnerships.

Following the sewer discussion, **water distribution and brown water** was brought up. Selectman Vegnani mentioned brown water continuing even with the pipe replacement. DPW Director Kevin Cafferty will be asked to come to a meeting in September. The Town did not flush last year due to the drought. In addition, brown water occurs with a water pipe break and flushing goes through both old and new pipe taking debris with it. Selectman Curran had recently taken a tour of the plant and stated that it needs an expansion, but that any expansion could impact the Little League field. This segued into a discussion about **the need for fields**. Selectman Vegnani indicated that the school department desired the fields to be turf. A meeting with the chair and vice chairs of the school committee and selectmen was suggested to begin discussion of these issues. Selectman Vegnani asked about the status of the design work for the land acquired for fields at Clapp Road. Ms. Vinchesi informed him that the issuance of the RFP for this work would not be accomplished before her departure November 1.

The Board discussed **road improvements** and to review a listing of the streets in the paving management plan that are scheduled to be done and if a longer-term strategy is needed.

Finally, Ms. Vinchesi discussed with the Board the **financial forecast** for the Town for the next five years and in particular FY 19. She stated that the \$400,000 in the Town operating budget for roads and foreshore protection is not sustainable and that town services are limited as a result. The same amount can be allocated from Free Cash but out of the town side of the revenue budget which is only 33.33% is no longer prudent with increased pension costs and absorption of FACTs and the Coastal Resources Officer position. In addition, she indicated her ongoing concerns about the school budget and operating costs of the new middle school. A variety of information was distributed as part of this discussion.

Chairman Curran reported that the Board will likely have the need for an **interim TA** in November as only nine applications have been received thus far.

The Board voted to adjourn the open meeting at 8:30 p.m. and convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy relative to collective bargaining – AMP, TOSCA, FIRE and POLICE.

Patricia Vinchesi  
Recorder.

## Board of Selectmen Retreat Meeting Minutes for August 15, 2017

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Maura C. Curran, Chairman

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Anthony V. Vegnani, Vice Chairman

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John F. Danehey, Clerk

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Shawn Harris