

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**MARCH 4, 2014**

Present: Shawn Harris, Chairman, John F. Danehey, Martin J. O'Toole, Anthony V. Vegnani

Nancy Holt, Finance Director/Town Accountant

W. Michael Stewart, Chief of Police

Mr. Harris announced that the Board of Selectmen would be entering Executive Session to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices or strategies with respect thereto. He also announced that the Selectmen would not return to regular session.

**The Board of Selectmen entered into Executive Session at 10:50 PM via roll call with Shawn Harris, John F. Danehey, Martin J. O'Toole and Anthony V. Vegnani all answering "yes".**

Chief W. Michael Brian Stewart provided the Board with two hand-outs providing statistical data relevant to Opioid-Related Events in Massachusetts, 2008-2010 and Nonfatal Opioid-related Cases FY2009 of MA residents. Both hand-outs provided data by municipality. Chief Stewart discussed that the problem of opioid addiction was not one just experienced by Scituate but that it was pervasive and that new methods needed to be employed to combat the growing issues as previous methods were obviously unsuccessful. He explained that the Florida drug connection providing Perc 30s (Percocet 30 mg) had been mostly shutdown by federal agencies. He discussed the transition from Oxycodone/Oxycontin addition to heroin. He also discussed that the type of usage varied by region to some degree (snorting vs. injection) and that there was some stigma attached to injection so it was a longer transition for some addicts. Mr. Danehey asked about the impact of lacing the heroin with Phentanol. The Chief replied that it took nine months to get results and that Phentanol was more pure and thus more expensive so it didn't make sense to use it.

He further stated that the practice of arresting all those present at the scene of a potential overdose had been discontinued under the Good Samaritan Act to encourage the users to call for emergency assistance for a potential overdose rather than sanitize the scene with the possible death of the victim. He provided an update on the treatment of overdoses with an injection of Narcan which reversed the effect of the opiates almost immediately as long as administered while the victim was still alive. Chairman Harris asked why police do not carry Narcan as well. The Chief replied that users tended to be very upset and potentially combative when they regained consciousness so it was more useful for the police to ride in the ambulance to discuss the potential impacts of negative action with the patient such as going to the hospital rather than going to jail.

The Chief discussed his plans to train officers in the various stages of overdoses so they can call it in appropriately to obtain the swiftest and most effective response for the victim. The Chief also provided detail on the importance of informants [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Mr. Vegnani asked the Chief what he needed to combat the issue in Scituate. The Chief stated he needed prosecution by the District Attorney of the involuntary manslaughter for those cases where the police could tie an overdose back to the distributor. The Chief did provide the Board with those actions he can do to combat the problem currently including; (1) involvement with FACTS as arrests do not work, (2) provide resources to community for education and assistance, (3) have officers equipped with information packet to provide to residents and (4) have officers trained to interact with addicts and help them.

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The Chief stated that distributors were throwing out their phones every 10-12 days so authorities could not tap them. He also discussed that relapses by addicts should be expected and that the greatest risk was for those just released from jail as they now had access and would relapse immediately. He informed the Board that the Department must provide good resources and guidance to addicts and their families as they would lose hope in the possibility of recovery if the same methods failed repeatedly for them.

Mr. Harris asked the Chief what he was doing now that he was no longer in the trenches. The Chief replied that he was training others but that there was a learning curve. He was hopeful that the issue of overdoses and opioid addiction would get more attention through a series of articles to be run by the Mariner that would look at the history, services of FACTS, stories of impact on families and stories from addicts.

The Chief further discussed lockdown drills at the schools. Faculty only lockdowns had been done at all schools to train faculty on how to react with an active shooter including how and when to evacuate. The goal was to have these drills 3-4 times a year to make it an ingrained response for the faculty. He mentioned that the next risk assessment would be done at town hall. The Marshfield High School will be used by area police as a training ground for active shooter scenarios prior to it being demolished.

Mr. Vegnani asked when one should evacuate such as at the sound of a gunshot. The Chief replied in the negative explaining that first the teacher should check the hall to see if the noise is getting closer then break the windows and get the kids out that way. He is looking at Jenkins School and others to change all doors so they push button close from the inside so a faculty member would not have to go into the hall to lock the door. It was this type of external locking door that was in use in Sandy Hook Elementary School. Additionally, all door glass should have a polymer to prevent an assailant from simply shooting through the glass opening in the door. Fire prevention can deal with the issue of the polymer but of more importance the shooter will move on to the next room and those occupants will be spared. Currently, the police send cruisers to the school every day so the students and faculty get used to seeing officers in the schools and walking in the halls. The Chief stressed the importance of school staff interacting with all students to avoid the issue of a student becoming desensitized.

In closing the Chief reviewed the security for the St. Patrick's Day parade and Heritage Days. There would be 2 bomb detection dogs walking through the crowd. The dogs would be a less imposing breed in order to better blend and not intimidate the crowds. Mass casualty discussions were also ongoing with Chief Judge to look at float accidents and any incident that occurred within the crowd.

The Board of Selectmen adjourned the meeting at 11:58PM and no votes were taken.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Shawn Harris, Chairman

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John F. Danehey

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Richard W. Murray

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Martin J. O'Toole

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Anthony V. Vegnani

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Holt  
Finance Director/Town Accountant