

**Wellfleet Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 6pm
Wellfleet Senior Center**

Selectboard Members Present: Chair Janet Reinhart; Kathleen Bacon; Helen Miranda Wilson; Michael DeVasto

Regrets: Justina Carlson

Also Present: Town Administrator Dan Hoort; Executive Assistant Courtney Butler; Acting Police Chief Hurley; Fire Chief Pauley; Director of Public Works Mark Vincent; Assistant Director of Public Works Jay Norton; Harbormaster Michael Flanagan; Assistant Harbormaster Will Sullivan; Shellfish Constable Nancy Civetta

Chair Reinhart called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, OPEN SESSION AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Note: Public comments must be brief. The Board will not deliberate or vote on any matter raised solely during Announcements & Public Comments.

- Hoort read a portion of an e-mail from a Wellfleet resident thanking the Town of Wellfleet for the 3-year-old preschool voucher program and noted the positive effect it had on her twin 3 year-old sons.
- Bacon announced that she will not run for re-election in May 2020. She said it has been an honor and privilege to serve the Town and residents in this capacity and wished the best to her successor. The Board thanked Bacon for her service.
- DeVasto announced that the 95 Lawrence Road Community Forum went well on Monday, January 6, and he is looking forward to a great project. He thanked Bacon for her efforts on the project.
- Audience member Walter Baron announced that there will be a Dredging Task Force meeting on January 8 at 3PM at Town Hall.
- Wilson: Attended the Shellfish Advisory Board meeting which had a good discussion on the possible effects of the Herring River Project and dredging.
- Audience member Chris Easley, Wellfleet's representative on the Nauset Regional School Committee gave an update on the Nauset High School construction project. Information can be found at nausetschools.org.

PUBLIC HEARING

Marina Fee Schedule

Flanagan presented the change in fees at the Marina. He said there are currently 2 seasons; in-season (May 15-October 15) and off-season (October 16-May14). Flanagan is proposing a third season, the winter season, the most difficult time of the year, noting the damage done to the marina and docks during the winter months. He said that the rate for off-season recreational dockage is currently \$22/night or \$131/week. Flanagan's suggested fees were as follows:

- Recreational/Mooring Holder Off-Season Dockage (September 1-October 15): \$200;
- Commercial Off-Season (April 1-May 14 and October 16-November 31), vessels over 25ft: \$250;

- Commercial Off-Season (April 1-May 14 and October 16-November 31), vessels under 25ft: \$150;
- Commercial Winter dockage (December 1-March 31), vessels over 25ft: \$1500; and
- Commercial Winter dockage (December 1-March 31), vessels under 25ft: \$750.

Wilson thanked Flanagan for his memo and asked if the difference between larger and smaller boats was simply that they take up more space; Flanagan said yes but they are also heavier which can cause more damage if they get stuck in the ice. Wilson asked what future projects were being planned at the marina as noted in Flanagan's memo. She also asked if Flanagan felt that these increases would support the work to be done by his department. Flanagan said he thought it would help, yes.

Bacon asked if these proposed changes had been vetted by the Marina Advisory Committee (MAC); Bacon said the MAC approved Flanagan's suggested changes. Bacon asked how the Town's fees compared to Provincetown and Chatham; Flanagan said the Town's fees are much lower.

DeVasto remarked that one of the proposed changes would increase the fee for a 25-foot vessel by 800%, noting that currently there is 1 season, the off-season, and a cost of \$250. He said he would not support such a high increase, of almost \$2000, on the commercial fishing industry. Flanagan noted it would only be a \$1200 increase, saying the \$250 fee is only paid one time; this additional season make for a longer season and the total fee to the owner would be \$1500 for the year. There was further discussion about the amount of the proposed fees.

Bacon asked Flanagan when fees had last been increased; Flanagan could not recall. Bacon said point made.

Wilson noted that it is currently hard to get in and out of the Harbor and asked if recreational dockage, and therefor revenue from that, was down; Flanagan said transient dockage *was* down. Wilson said she would like to see the fee for commercial users be a bit lower. That she was generally against making big fee increases too quickly. She concurred with DeVasto that it would be a big, sudden increase for users. Flanagan said a reason for proposing these fees is that the Marina has become a winter storage area, noting that vessels are being put in the storage area for the winter and that in some cases, the boat owners are not paying any fees.

Audience member David Ziemba, a commercial fisherman, said that in Provincetown, the commercial vessel fee is \$61 year-round, no winter tie up; whereas Wellfleet it's \$40/foot. There are currently 11 boats in the harbor. He noted the new fee schedule would create \$15,000 in revenue. Ziemba noted that the Harbormasters do a great job, but they need help; he noted that the burden should not be placed on the fisherman who dock in the Marina, trying to make a living. He was for storage being charged for.

And for revenue from the 300 parking spaces.

Bacon, speaking to Ziemba, noted it was a labor to take a boat out of the harbor. She said she was looking at the issue from a liability standpoint, not a revenue standpoint.

Audience member Michael Ziemba, also a fisherman, said they typically remove their boats when winter weather comes. This would jam boats onto the L pier. He asked Flanagan if this wouldn't cause more damage than to the L Pier ?

DeVasto asked if it was possible to levy a fee on people who leave their boats in the harbor but do not use them. He said he did not think a fee should be charged to those who are responsible and take their vessels out of the water when the ice comes. Flanagan said they have to play it by ear in terms of watching for when the ice begins.

Audience member Nathan Davis, a non-resident tax payer, said he has a vessel in the harbor. He noted that in Chatham he pays \$294 for a year-round mooring plus a \$1400 parking pass; in Falmouth, the rate is \$250 for off-season; in Orleans, \$110 for year-round. He is currently waiting for a year-round slip in Wellfleet. He asked that the waiting list be moved ahead.

Reinhart said that managing the harbor and marina is very difficult and the Town is limited in many ways. She said she trusts and supports Flanagan and if he feels the fees need to be raised, she supports him in that decision. Wilson said she believed it was generally not a good idea to make a big increase in fees all at once. She said she agreed with DeVasto that the fees might be increased a bit and suggested raising the fee for commercial vessels over 25ft to only \$750, not the \$1500 suggested. Bacon asked Flanagan if he would be willing to accept that recommendation; Flanagan said yes. Wilson noted the issue of getting the boats out of the water, and she would be okay with having the smaller boats stay at \$750; DeVasto suggested \$750 and \$500 for vessels under 25ft.

- Wilson moved to approve the 2020 Marina Fee Schedule as presented by the Harbormaster, amended to have the winter dockage fee for commercial vessels over 25 feet be \$750 from December 1- March 31 and the winter dockage fee for commercial vessels under 25 feet from December 1- March 31 be \$500.
- DeVasto seconded, and the motion carried 3-1, with Reinhart opposed.

REVIEW OF FY 2021 PROPOSED BUDGETS:

Shellfish Department

Civetta presented the Shellfish Department's FY20201 budget. She noted that the Department had flown under the radar before she took the helm and she has made adjustments to get the Department to where it needs to be.

Wilson asked if there were anything different in Civetta's budget from the budget the Board received from Hoort. Civetta said the only change is that at the 2019 Annual Town Meeting a revolving fund for propagation was created and in FY20, the Department is authorized to use \$5,000. She noted that starting July 1, 75% of shellfish receipts from the shellfish fund will go into the revolving fund for propagation, as approved at Town Meeting, and the remaining 25% will go into the general fund. Civetta said that Hoort is working to get the revolving fund set up as it was intended to be used, by level-funding \$40,000 from the Propagation-180 budget.

Civetta said a consultant will probably need to be hired to finish the MEPA permitting process for culturing in the harbor which was accomplished by the Health/Conservation Agent. Funds will be withdrawn from the revolving fund for this. Wilson noted that previous permit process and told Civetta she hoped she didn't have to reinvent the wheel with a consultant. Civetta said she is

working with the Health/Conservation Agent on this matter. She will probably continue to be lead on this. Wilson asked how much would go into the General Fund this year; Civetta said that in total the Department makes about \$100,000 and so \$25,000 would go into the General Fund and \$75,000 into the Revolving Fund. This is a way to avoid having the Department having to go to ATM to get what they need from the General Fund every year.

DeVasto asked about the budget line-item for aquaculture supplies for cultching. Civetta noted that more racks were needed, which is a costly expense. There was further discussion.

Civetta noted the additional \$1000 for contract services for GPS is a one-time thing.

Wilson asked when the Center for Coastal Studies would conduct the study about the Harbor bottom; Civetta said it was finished in November, but the Department does not yet have the tools to remove anything from the bottom if necessary.

- Reinhart moved to approve the FY 2021 budget for the Shellfish Department in the amount of \$264,384 as recommended by the Town Administrator.
- Bacon seconded, and the motion carried 4-0.
- Reinhart moved to approve the FY 2021 budget for the Shellfish Department for Conservation and Prorogation, in the amount of \$6,000 as recommended by the Town Administrator.
- Bacon seconded, and the motion carried 4-0.

Fire Department

Chief Pauley presented the Fire Department's FY2021 budget. He noted that the primary difference in his proposed budget and the Town Administrator's is concerning overtime: Pauley proposed a total budget of \$367,499 to include overtime and Hoort proposed \$325,000. Pauley noted staffing needs, citing that due to retirements and other circumstances, he will need to hire 5 full-time employees over the next 2 ½ years to fill the gaps.

Reinhart asked Pauley if he and other Chiefs had ever discussed sharing resources, including staff. Pauley said he is in favor of regionalization in the Outer Cape but does not think that there is the political will to achieve that, anytime soon.

Wilson noted the Town benefits from getting from getting – and giving - mutual aid from other towns. She commented that the Fire and Police departments both have a lot of staff, but that the Conservation/Health and Shellfish Departments both of which deal with crucial and constant environment issues have very few employees. Wilson asked the Fire and Police Chiefs to run their departments like “Swiss watches”. She noted she was not saying the departments shouldn't have that many staff, but that she scratches her head at the numbers.

Bacon said that the reality is that the Fire Department does not have enough staff; she asked Pauley if he was hopeful that it ever would. Pauley said yes, that getting 5 more people hired over the next 2 ½ years, will help. There was further discussion.

DeVasto clarified the total number of employees and asked if the 5 positions were in addition to this number. Pauley said there are currently 15 full-time staff members and 12 Firefighter

Paramedic/EMTs. There is a breakdown of groups in the budget narrative on Public Safety page 11, which can be found in full on the Town's website on the Selectboard's page. DeVasto noted that the 5 additional employees will amount to a total of 20 full-time response staff members. There was further discussion of staffing. Pauley noted that on-call staff is greatly reduced. He also noted that to maintain their ambulance license, three people had to be available for each run, adding that they can usually provide that for the first ambulance sent out but not always the second.

Wilson said that at no point will overtime cost nearly as much as salaries, health benefits and pensions for full-time staff. She said she was always in favor of overtime. Pauley said Wilson made a good point about overtime and the cost of doing business, but that this summer was the first time he had to put a policy in place to enforce employees to stay at work for overtime due to the lack of staffing. He said he did not like having to enforce this policy but that it was necessary.

- Bacon moved to recommend the FY 2021 budget for the Fire Department in the amount of \$1,808,013 as recommended by the Fire Chief.
- DeVasto seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

Police Department

Chief Hurley presented the Police Department's FY2021 budget. Chief Hurley addressed staffing issue in his department, similar to Chief Pauley's. He noted that, in all his years in the Wellfleet Department, the Department has been fully staffed for maybe one year. Chief Hurley cited retirement and other employee turn-overs. He noted that over the holidays he had to run 1-officer shifts, about 100 shifts per year, which raises cause for concern.

Chief Hurley noted the return of officer Keogh as Animal Control Officer as well as other matters related to animal control. Officer Keogh has undergone further training and accreditation with the the State and has brought that function up to another level. He noted that Eastham is willing to consider having one ACO for both towns and sharing the cost. Chief Hurley discussed training for staff in areas relating to marijuana and mental health.

Chief Hurley said he is continually searching for grants to provide funding for the Department.

- Reinhart moved to approve the FY 2021 budget for the Police Department in the amount of \$1,605,028 as recommended by the Town Administrator and the Chief.
- Wilson seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.
- Bacon moved to approve the FY 2021 budget for the Police Department/Communications/Dispatch, in the amount of \$406,667 as recommended by the Town Administrator and the Chief.
- DeVasto seconded, and the motion carried 4-0.

Department of Public Works

Vincent and Administrative Assistant Jean Leidenfrost presented the Department of Public Work's (DPW) FY2021 budget. Vincent said the demands on the DPW have increased over the last 5 years, but he tries to keep everything on an even keel. Vincent began with the 417-Facilities budget, which is used to maintain all year-round Town buildings, beaches, and recreation facilities. He noted the conversion of all but one of Town buildings to propane from fuel oil. DeVasto asked about

contracted services, jumping from \$95,000 to \$148,574. Vincent said this was a one-time cost for the aluminum boilers that had to be replaced at the Fire Department.

Wilson asked if paying for the new fuel tank at the Marina was coming out of the Marina enterprise Fund; Flanagan said yes. Wilson also asked what had been spent from the snow budget last year; Hoort said that could be looked up. Vincent said in 2019 \$107,783 was spent and \$128,180 in 2018.

420-Operations is the general budget to pay for items such as maintaining vehicles and equipment, maintaining the cemetery, paying for gasoline, etc. 422-Highways is used for general road and infrastructure maintenance.

423-Snow Removal is the budget for snow removal operations. DeVasto asked if salt was always used to treat the roads; Vincent said the mixture is supposed to be 3-1, sand to salt. There was discussion about the method of treatments on roads.

424-Street Lights: there are 344 lights in Town that were changed to LED lights a few years ago, cutting the budget in half. Wilson asked Vincent to have the DPW look at areas where street lights may not be needed, citing she had the one on her road removed. She referred to light pollution and said she felt that they can be a distraction they can provide to drivers.

433-Transfer Station is the budget for the solid waste disposal system. Vincent said there was a \$93/ton increase in disposal to SEMASS. Reinhart and DeVasto discussed Amnesty Day operations.

Bacon cited the increase in disposal fees to SEMASS; Vincent noted that when he started his career in Town, Wellfleet was taking 4,000 tons to SEMASS, and last year it took 851 tons. He commended the Town and citizens on their efforts to get to this much lower level through recycling and the pay-as-you-throe system.

- Bacon moved to recommend the FY 2021 budget for the Department of Public Works in the amount of \$ 2,161,830 as recommended by the Town Administrator and Director of DPW.
- DeVasto seconded, and the motion carried 4-0.

Other Departments as may be requested by the Selectboard members

The Board did not request to speak with any other departments at this time.

REVIEW OF ALL TOWN FEES

Wilson asked that Department Heads submit any recommendations or suggestions; would they like the fees to stay the same? Butler said she would seek their opinions and have the review of town fees posted as a public hearing for a future meeting.

In regard to fees for the Transfer Station, DeVasto asked about the difference in prices between the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd vehicle stickers for the transfer station. Why should a 3rd vehicle be charged less than a second one? Vincent said these are determined by the Board of Health . The rates were devised to discourage overuse and perhaps illegal additional users claiming to be from 1 household.

Approved January 28, 2020

Wilson asked about building fees regarding pools, saying she would like the fees to be much higher to give people pause prior to constructing one, given the environmental harm they cause and the fact that we have some of the best swimming in the world in season and a 25 yerd pool in Eastham. .

Bacon suggested an increase for the Use of Town Property fees.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

No comments.

MINUTES

December 10, 2019 – Regular Meeting

Wilson provided amendments to Butler and the Board.

- Wilson moved to approve the minutes of December 10, 2019 as amended.
- Bacon seconded, and the motion carried 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

- Wilson moved to adjourn
- Bacon seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Courtney Butler,
Secretary

Public Records Material as of 1/2/2020

1. Public Hearing Papers for the Marina Fee Schedule including a memo from the Harbormaster;
2. Proposed 2020 Marina Fee Schedule
3. Shellfish Department Budget and Narrative;
4. Fire Department Budget and Narrative;
5. Police Department Budget and Narrative;
6. Department of Public Works Budget and Narrative;
7. Municipal fee lists: Use of Town Property, Licensing, Building, Conservation, Board of Health, and Transfer Station;
8. Correspondence Report;
9. Draft minutes for December 10th meeting.