

Town of Chebeague Island
Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting
May 18th, 2011 at 6PM
Chebeague Island Hall Community Center

The regular business portion of this meeting will be from 6PM to 7:30PM and is expected to be the final budget and warrant discussion before Town Meeting on June 4th.

Present: David Hill, Donna Damon, Mark Dyer, Chris Rich, John Martin and Eric Dyer

1. Meeting called to order at 6:02PM.
2. Public Comment.
NONE
3. Old Business.

3.A To have the Selectmen discuss and possibly act on the 2011-2012 Budget.

David Hill: Eric has informed me that there are no changes from the last budget discussion.

Eric Dyer: I have one. We had a request from VNA Hospice Organization for \$750. I looked back and that had never been included in our budget that I am aware of. Considering the significant services that they provide the community I thought it would be a good thing to support that organization. My suggestion is that we add \$750 to the Health Services line of the budget.

David Hill: Is that reflected in the warrant?

Eric Dyer: It is not, it is reflected in the warrant.

David Hill: Discussion?

Donna Damon: We have been doing this for years.

Eric Dyer: I cannot find were we paid it out.

Chris Rich: Didn't we do a visiting nurse donation of \$500? Is that the same?

Donna Damon: Yes, it is the same. I do not know if it got paid, but know it is in a designated place so we need to be sure it is paid.

Mark Dyer: How will this be paid?

Eric Dyer: it will be a lump some at the first of the year.

John Martin: I have a copy of last year's budget and it was allocated in it. Is this in addition to that? It's under line 9510.

Eric Dyer: I guess it is the same line and it has been spent. We can just use the same line and show a \$250 increase.

Mark Dyer: Motion to add \$250 Health Services Department, line 9510.

Chris Rich: Second.

Vote: Four (4) in Favor with One (1) Abstention.

3. Old Business continued.

3.B To have the Selectmen discuss and possibly act on the 2011-2012 Town Meeting Warrant.

Mark Dyer: Is one of our decisions tonight is to take money out or not of the Undesignated Fund?

Eric Dyer: \$100,000 the first \$50,000 is for tax reduction and the second \$50,000 is for a transfer to a fund for Debt Service Reserve for 2014. It's in the budget and the warrant.

Chris Rich: Eric do you have a sense that doing this there will be more going into the Undesignated Funds that it would bring it back into our range.

Eric Dyer: I think it will bring us back to around seven and one half percent (7 ½%).

We could possibly put back around \$112,000. We are taking out \$100,000 so that current balance should be around \$189,000 and last year we were at \$252,000. So we will be down from ten percent (10%) to around seven one half percent (7.5%).

Chris Rich: It will bring us back a little.

Eric Dyer: Yes, a little but it outside the range of eight (8) percent and fifteen (15) percent. So that is a consideration to maintain our adherence to the policy for an Undesignated Fund Balance. We can elect to take less out of the Undesignated Fund or not adjust the taxes.

David Hill: Let's move on to the Town Warrant. We may do some as groups.

Article #1: Move to Town Meeting

Article #2: Move to Town Meeting

Article #3: Move to Town Meeting

Article #4: Remove "accepted" and use "consistent" as stated by the State of Maine Planning Office.

Add Selectmen Recommendation

Donna Damon: Motion to add recommendation.

Mark Dyer: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Article #5:

Add Selectmen Recommendation

Chris Rich: Motion to add recommendation

Mark Dyer: Second

Vote: Unanimous.

Article #6:

Donna Damon: Add the wording "non-binding"

Add Selectmen Recommendation.

Donna Damon: Motion to add wording and Selectmen Recommendation.

John Martin: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

4. Old Business continued:

Article #7: Move to Town Meeting with Selectmen Recommendation.

Chris Rich: Motion to move to Town Meeting with Selectmen's Recommendation.

John Martin: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Article #8: Donna Damon asked that we eliminate the last sentence of the explanation.

Donna Damon: Motion to eliminate last sentence of explanation.

John Martin: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Donna Damon: Motion to add Selectmen's Recommendation.

John Martin: Second

Vote: Unanimous.

Article #9: Selectmen Recommendation.

Mark Dyer: Motion to add Selectmen's Recommendation.

Chris Rich: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Article #10: Selectmen Recommendation.

Donna Damon: Motion to add Selectmen's Recommendation.

John Martin: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Article #11: Selectmen Recommendation.

Mark Dyer: Motion to add Selectmen's Recommendation.

John Martin: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Article #12: David Hill: This is a non-binding resolution regarding exploring a concept of creating a Municipal Transit District.

Donna Damon: I think this is very confusing. What this is saying is that this is an Article to set up a committee. It says this is non-binding advisory vote. We are only voting on setting up a committee.

David Hill: I agree.

David Hill: Is there a motion to approve this one?

Mark Dyer: I need to read further.

Donna Damon: I do not think the second paragraph fits. It is not what we are asking. It doesn't give any answers.

John Martin: It says "some other method" then on page four "to bring the transportation services under Town auspices and thereby eligible for State and Federal funding for vessel replacement and operational support. What does that mean?

David Hill: It means let's get some federal money like Casco Bay Lines does.

Article #12 continued:

John Martin: It says Town auspices. What does that mean?

David Hill: What that means is the Transportation Company is not eligible for federal or state funds. One of the ways to do that is come into agreement some way with the Town so the Town applies for the money.

John Martin: That's where I have difficulty with the article. It sounds like that CTC is coming under the Town. The people will make the final decision.

David Hill: it is becoming associated with the Town in some manner so to leverage funding. We are going to buy a boat at some time and it will be difficult on our own.

John Martin: We meaning CTC?

David Hill: We are who ever buys the boat.

John Martin: Currently "we" is referring to CTC.

David Hill: No I am not. I am referring to the citizens of Chebeague Island.

John Martin: The "we" you are referring to is CTC; right now this is CTC's responsibility. So it sounds to me that it is coming under the Town. We need to let folks know that it is but it really isn't.

David Hill: It could be it doesn't have to be. It could be like the Recreation Center it could be like any of the other organizations that are affiliated with the Town, but not directly under the Town.

Donna Damon: I think we are mixing things together. If we are creating a committee to do the research and come back to us it should not be explained how it going to happen. There may be other options.

John Martin: I think it should be clear. If we are talking about the possibility of CTC becoming part of the Town or it is something else. It seems that the direction this is going is it is going to become part of the Town. It's fine, but it needs to be clear.

David Hill: In a prior article we talked about the Comprehensive Plan. It is stated to make transportation services eligible for state and federal funding.

Herb Maine: Since the language in the article states that your objective is to create a Municipal Transit District under statutes. It would be by definition and the Town once created by municipal ordinance in that case or by another method.

David Hill: That is a possibility.

Mark Dyer: Isn't the purpose of asking the people in this article if they want the Town to put an advertisement and take applications to form a committee to research the possibility.

Herb Maine: That is what it says.

Article #12 continued:

Mark Dyer: I thought the Board would not be the appointee's. We talked about have the Town Administrator do that in our conversation.

Donna Damon: I think the responsibility of the Board is to make appointments. It doesn't make sense to have a committee established by the Town Administrator.

Donna Colbeth: We went through this many years ago. Why can't the Transportation Company do that work they did then and come to the Town at that point with explanation of what they need?

David Hill: Well I think that is the starting point you are referring to the community transportation forum in 1994/1995. The playing field has changed since then. The laws have changed. So the recommendation is not the same.

Donna Colbeth: This could turn into a meeting all by itself. I do not think it belongs in the warrant of a Town Meeting.

David Hill: The purpose of this is to find the will of the community. I am tired of this languishing around and would like to see what the community thinks.

Herb Maine: First of all the recommendation that you quote here closely follows CTC's reorganization. What are you doing here?

David Hill: I am trying to determine what we need, to appoint or recruit a committee to do this.

Herb Maine: I think it would make more sense to reference the final report of the community transportation committee. They had hard recommendations. Take them and bring them up to date.

David Hill: That's true. Those recommendations are sixteen years out of date.

Herb Maine: The work done in the Comprehensive Plans is much less detailed.

Paul Belesca: I find this very confusing. I think this is poorly worded. I appreciate Donna comment earlier has committee work to be done and already forecast the outcome. There are many transportation alternatives and structures. They should be investigated. How they are investigated whether it be by a board of public citizens, town representatives or CTC should be determined. I am confused by this and I agree with Donna how anyone is going to understand the very specific goals and outcomes.

Donna Damon: I think we should get rid of the first to paragraphs and reference the Comprehensive Plan. The last one sets the structure of the committee. I think we should add that we will post the minutes.

Article #12 continued:

David Stevens: There are a couple of things that bother me. One is that it is a forgone illusion that becoming part of the Town or Transit District you will qualify for public funds. I have been involved with this for a long time. The funds are very much sought after. There are other things that come up from time to time for non-profits as this is written you are really limiting yourselves. I think you have to form a committee. I think they could review the transportation for Chebeague Island how it is set up, what it does and vessels used. Review the report from years ago and update it. This is pointed a municipal district.

Claire Ross: In paragraph one it states that the Town should follow CTC reorganization plan. In the sequence of the articles we will already approved our Comprehensive Plan.

David Hill: The Comprehensive Plan is just that, its suggestions.

Claire Ross: I just think it would be more appropriate if CTC was proposing a structure.

David Hill: Once again that is what the purpose of this committee is supposed to do.

Donna Damon: I think with a community like this we need a committee with very broad representation.

David Hill: Donna why don't you read what you have for a draft.

John Martin: I don't know what the Board of CTC would like to see us do. To get involved without any idea of what the current organization of CTC would like to see the Town get involved or how the Town should be involved. I afraid I cannot support the article. I do not see this as being ready as written.

David Hill: CTC does support the concept of forming a committee to explore this. The question really is to form a committee. I think it is high time we form a committee and see where it goes.

Claire Ross: As a C-Corp entity. As a private entity shouldn't they be bring this to us?

David Hill: We have to start somewhere. The Transportation Company has been floundering around with this for two or three years now. This is just to find out what the Town. Is the Town going to a part of this? That's the whole idea is to find out what the relationship will be.

Donna Damon: Maybe we should table this and call Susan Stranahan and have her address this.

David Hill: That can be done at Town Meeting. This is a separate issue.

Chris Rich: David is you saying this is just to find out the feeling of the community?

David Hill: That's it.

Article #12 continued:

Donna Damon: To see if the Town of Chebeague Island will direct the Board of Selectmen to form a Transportation Committee to research the concept of working with the Chebeague Transportation Company to devise a method to be eligible for State and Federal Funding

David Hill: No to make transportation services eligible.

Donna Damon: to make transportation services eligible for State and Federal funding for vessel replacement and operational support. The objective is to explore the creation of organizational structure which would empower the Town and or CTC to be a stand in as the recipient of State and Federal funds to support transportation.

Donna Damon: Where it says any recommendations shall be reported at a subsequent Town Meeting. Do you want a date on this?

David Hill: No, that's fine.

Donna Damon: I know this needs to be done, but my concern it that we never say this until last week. I do not believe it has been on an agenda. That's my concern.

David Hill: My response to that is that it has been discussed and discussed. It has come up time and time again at the Comprehensive Plan meetings. I think it is time to recognize we need to do something.

David Stevens: Does this need to go to Town Meeting.

David Hill: No. The purpose of taking it before the Town is to understand if there is enough energy within the Town to do so. If somewhere less than fifty percent (50%) vote there will not be a committee.

Eric Dyer: There seem to be a lot of work being done on this. When the explanation is longer than the article the article gets lost. I would hate to see something like this go to Town Meeting and fail. Is this something you would consider a special town meeting for? To give people time to digest this. It has to be looked at, but there not a lot of support.

Herb Maine: Town Meeting could do just that. It would direct the Town to hold a Special Town Meeting in September. It would give you time to hold public meetings.

David Hill: That is delaying. I understand what you are saying, but it delays this.

Eric Dyer: This could easily be voted down. I think you need time to hold meetings and then hold a Special Town Meeting in the fall.

Mark Dyer: If we decide to go in that direction in our opinions, Herb can you say what that article might say.

Herb Maine: Make it short. Setting some proactive thing is good. It would Send a signal that it is time for the Town to get involved. I do not think this committee should be function of the Board of Selectmen.

Article #12 continued:

The simpler the better, to get it on the table. It could be as simple be to direct the Board to hold a Special Town Meeting.

David Hill: I think if we had a basic question and no explanation just that we want to form a committee.

David Stevens: In my opinion I think you as the Board of Selectmen of Chebeague Island represent the people of Chebeague Island and the Board of Directors represent the Shareholders should set down and confirm what really should be done. We should have people that know transportation and were there planning to go.

David Hill: That's exactly what we need.

David Stevens: I think you need to sit down and figure out what both of them want.

Donna Damon: It's not a new thing to have a committee do research.

Mark Dyer: I think this is a good thing that you brought forward David, but from listening to all this and taking it in and knowing about the transportation. I do not think we are ready to go into the process. I probably will not support the article as it is written.

David Hill: I would like to see a bare bones article, scratch the explanation and just get the sense of the community.

Claire Ross: This is the single largest move that this Town or CTC could make economically and affect the lives of every single person on this island. We need to garner as much support as possible and as much public educations as possible. We need to encompass everybody. I want to see this succeed.

David Hill: Do you want to put a recommendation on this?

David Hill: So this goes on the warrant without the support of the Board?

No response from the Board.

David Hill: Let's move on to the next articles.

Articles #13 to #38:

Motion to add Selectmen Recommendation.

Mark Dyer: Motion to add Selectmen Recommendation

Donna Damon: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Articles #39 to #44:

Motion to add Selectmen Recommendation.

Mark Dyer: Motion to add Selectmen Recommendation.

Chris Rich: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Articles #45 to #61:

Motion to add Selectmen Recommendation:

Mark Dyer: Motion to accept Articles #45 to #61 as presented by the School Committee.

Chris Rich: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Articles #62 to #71:

Motion to add Selectmen Recommendation.

Mark Dyer: Motion to add Selectmen Recommendation.

Chris Rich: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Mark Dyer; Motion to move Warrant to Town Meeting

Donna Damon: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

5. Approval of prior minutes:

None will be approved tonight. The minutes of May 11th will be approved on June 8th, 2011 at the Regular Selectmen's Meeting.

Ernie Burgess: Asked if the broken planks be cleared off the Stone Pier and that he boulder be moved away from the side of the wharf.

Eric Dyer: stated he will look into both matters.

6. Adjourn business meeting.

Mark Dyer: Motion to adjourn into Executive Session

Donna Damon: Second.

Vote: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Campbell, Town Clerk

