

Truro Board of Selectmen Meeting
Truro Community Center
Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Truro Members Present: Chair Paul Wisotzky; Maureen Burgess, Jay Coburn, Robert Weinstein, Janet Worthington

Present: Town Manager Rae Ann Palmer, Assistant Town Administrator Maureen Thomas, Town Accountant Trudi Brazil

Paul Wisotzky called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

Noise Bylaw Discussion

Maureen Burgess had concerns about the current noise bylaw, which is difficult to enforce, according to the Chief of Police. Ms. Burgess asked if adopting the Massachusetts Regulations on Noise was an option that the Selectmen would like to consider. She said that a definition of noise would be necessary. Rae Ann Palmer said that a decimeter would be needed to measure noise. Maureen Burgess said there are noise mitigation alternatives that can be applied.

Paul Wisotzky asked how or if this would fit into the Selectmen's Goals and Objectives. Jay Coburn pointed out the amount of work involved. Rae Ann Palmer said Town Counsel would need to weigh in on the issue. Jay Coburn and Robert Weinstein suggested putting it on a future list of Goals and Objectives. Robert Weinstein discussed the various types of noises. Janet Worthington said she was uncomfortable with pursuing regulations that targeted operations in the business area near Maureen Burgess' home.

It might be possible to turn down back-up truck alarms through cooperation from truck owners now, but work on the noise bylaw would have to be considered for placement on the FY18 Goals and Objectives. Rae Ann Palmer said there is need for more research on the subject.

Town Counsel

Rae Ann Palmer asked if the Selectman would be amenable to moving all legal advice to Kopelman & Paige. At present, there is a quarterly retainer fee as well as an hourly rate for the other counsel the Town uses. The Selectmen agreed that one law firm overlooking all areas of Town business would be more economical and efficient. The matter will be brought to a regular meeting as an agenda item that requires a vote.

Budget Parameters

Rae Ann Palmer discussed the Recap Process and setting the Budget for FY18. She said that the Town Accountant was concerned about use of Free Cash. Free Cash comes into the General Fund through unexpended, unencumbered funds, Town Accountant Trudi Brazil said. She advised against relying of Free Cash. Ms. Palmer has asked Department Heads to examine what money has been turned back last year and to reprogram accordingly for the next Fiscal Year. She will have the department heads look at their services and the costs of services even before they put together their next budget. Chair Paul Wisotzky said that the emphasis on services would have departments consider their service priorities. This is also tied into the Goals and

Objectives, Jay Coburn observed. Paul Wisotzky suggested discussing at a future meeting what services the Selectmen want to provide.

Maureen Burgess moved to adjourn. Robert Weinstein seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Rogers,
Secretary

Paul Wisotzky, Chair

Maureen Burgess

Jay Coburn, Clerk

Janet Worthington, Vice-chair

Robert Weinstein