MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
Donn B. Griffin Room, Town Hall
732 Main Street, Harwich, MA
Executive Session 5:15 P.M.
Regular Meeting 6:00 P.M.
Monday, March 24, 2025

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Jeff Handler, Chair, Michael MacAskill, Vice Chair, Peter Piekarski, Clerk, Julie Kavanagh and Don Howell

ALSO PARTICIPATING: Meggan Eldredge, Assistant Town Administrator

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Handler called the Harwich Select Board meeting back to order to order on Monday, March 24, 2025 at 6:00PM.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Pursuant to MGL c.30A section 21 (a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for all town unions and non-union personnel and or contract negotiations with non-union personnel and the Chair has determined that open session would have a detrimental effect on the town's bargaining position

B. Pursuant to MGL c. 30A §21(a)(7) to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements, the Open Meeting Law, MGL c. 30A §§ 22(f), (g) to review, approve and or discuss the possible release of executive session meeting minutes dated: January 27, 2025, February 10, 2025, February 18, 2025, February 24, 2025, and March 3, 2025

Mr. Handler noted that while in Executive Session the Board voted to approve meeting Minutes but not release.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Handler invited all, attendees to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. STAFF COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Emily Mitchell, Town Clerk gave information regarding the 2025 Annual Town Election for anyone interested in running. She described the process and noted the deadline to get papers. She also noted what positions are open. All information is on the Town's website.

Kara Mewhinney, Director of Cultural Affairs noted and described April shows, exhibits, programs and events. All the information and details are on the website.

V. WEEKLY BRIEFING

Ms. Eldridge noted that the Phase 3 Sewer Project is still underway, the present location and next week's location.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Chorey referred to the Budget information he has heard, totaled the amounts and read his conclusions to the Board. He explained how he divided the Budgets into 3 categories and what was included in each. Mr. Chorey noted the total of the first category and that if divided by 365, the amount was $268,000 per day. He noted the second category, the total and that if divided by 365, the amount was $5,685 per day. The third category included 3 debt exclusions and he questioned what the interest will be and when they will start paying that debt. He noted that if all is approved, the total of the three categories will be $145,527,695. Mr. Chorey noted existing funding sources.

Linda Cebula of the Traffic Safety Committee noted that the Cape Cod Commission is developing the Vision Zero Action Plan. She noted that it is an initiate to identify difficult and high incident intersections and what could be done about them. She noted and gave details on their four Public Hearings. She gave a flier to Ms. Eldredge to be put on the website.

Chris Roberts, a Harwich resident, was present on behalf of dozens of parents of fellow students affected by the mismanagement of the highly esteemed integrated Pre-K program at Harwich Elementary. He noted numerous unethical actions by student services and Special Education Director Melissa Maguire. He commented on an agenda to undermine and ultimately shutter the existing Pre-K Program in Harwich. Mr. Roberts noted how that is being done, the effects on the students, staff members and parents. He noted that in late November, Melissa Maguire enthusiastically announced the definitive decision to dissolve the Pre-K Program. He noted that it was presented as a done deal but had not yet been presented to the School Committee. Mr. Roberts noted that after parents spoke out against it, the proposal was voted down. He noted that since then, the Program has been stripped down which he described in detail. He commented that the actions and misleading conduct of Melissa Maguire and Team Chair Erin Cronin has intentionally diminished enrollment in Harwich in favor of bolstering enrollment in Chatham. He commented that Ms. Maguire's intent is to move the Harwich students to Chatham for the 25/26 school year. He noted that dozens of parents have repeatedly requested clarification, transparency and simple answers to their questions regarding the welfare of their children. He noted that they have been met with continued deferment, evasion, intentional misinformation and otherwise been ignored. He commented on how dozens of parents feel and that they have no recourse towards a Department of a Regional School District that is expressing blatant favoritism towards one town over another. He requested of the Select Board, that any current or future Budget proposals regarding the Monomoy School District be held to the highest ethical level of mitigation and accountability regarding the immediate and long term effects on all students, especially the toddlers and students with special needs, on staff retention and on Harwich taxpayers, with special attention paid to the aforementioned issues regarding the integrated Pre-K Program at Harwich Elementary this past school year.

Ann Frechette of the Great Sand Lakes Association commented on misinformation that her neighbors are "seasonal people". She noted what the Association has done over the years to keep the ponds clean. She noted specific neighbors and what they do to protect the ponds. She commented that instead of slandering the neighbors, the Board help them by placing the Great Sand Lakes Sewer Article on tonight's Agenda.

Todd Telesmanick of Gilbert Lane Harwich and parent of twins in the Pre-K Program at Harwich Elementary was present. He noted that he was to speak at a School Committee meeting two weeks ago and was approached by Dr. Carpenter to address his questions in lieu of speaking. He commented that he doesn't feel funding is being utilized properly and noted that moving classes to Chatham and funding a bilingual preschool program in Chatham should not be on Harwich. He noted cutting teachers to part time and combining age groups and how being with older children would affect his son with autism. He commented that they have a great program in Harwich and Harwich students should stay here and not be shipped to Chatham. Mr. Telesmanick noted that it is his understanding that with the removal of the 3 classes and 3 teachers, that the YMCA would be taking over and he asked for Mr. Carpenter's response.

Mr. Handler noted that no one can respond to a question during Public Comment.

Mr. Telesmanick commented that it has been brought to his attention that the YMCA is taking over the classes and grants will be given to the Town of Harwich to offset the classrooms. He also noted that it has been brought to his attention by Scott Carpenter that the only way that the determination for the number of children needed for classrooms done is by early intervention. He noted that he attended the open house and there were 27 new families in this town. He suggested that what is needed is that they come back to being Harwich and being active members of this town.

Patrick Otton participated remotely. He spoke in favor of Cape Cod Vision Zero. He noted the statistics of accidents on Cape Cod and he encouraged people to attend the meeting this Thursday at the Brooks Library regarding Vision Zero. He also noted that Cape Cod Community Rowing will start the youth rowing season next Monday and gave information to join.

Kathy Frazier of the Great Sand Lakes Association had a log from the Association dated 1962 that had Minutes regarding town water for the Great Sand Lakes, which she read. She commented that the Association has been around for decades and commented that they are hoping that the Select Board will support the Article and that they can make their point and be heard.

David Swords of Clearwater Drive participated remotely. He reiterated his support for the sewer project. He noted that his family has seen, particularly in the last 15 years, a serious degradation of the water quality. He commented that he is hopeful that the Board will agree with their feeling on this subject and support the Article at Town Meeting.

Charles Gruszka of Teaberry Ave. commented that when the Budget season started, the Town Departments were directed to develop their Budgets on level services and to come forward with any enhancements of services to explained and defend. He commented that he is supportive of their proposals. He requested that when the Board is at the point in the Agenda, when they discuss the Town Departments as part of the Warrant Articles, that they review the requests from the different Departments, the status of their requests and if they are not included in the Warrant, explain why not.

Courtney Wittenstein of Marybeth Lane and parent of two Monomoy students, encouraged the Select Board to support the Monomoy School Renovation Budget. She had previously expressed concern, at a Select Board meeting, about the air quality in the school. She noted that she is grateful for what has been done but if the building sits waterlogged, there will be more problems and it will not be safe. She commented that she understands concerns about the cost but would like to see the cost per year. Ms. Wittenstein emphasized that whatever the cost, they are talking about the health and wellbeing of the children and teachers, which is priceless.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Designate Jennifer Harrington Municipal Animal Control Officer for 2025
B. Approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes for March 10, 2025
C. Approve the Resignation of Mark Martello from the Golf Committee effective immediately

Mr. Piekarski moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Mr. Howell.

Mr. Handler thanked Mark Martello for serving on the Golf Committee.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried.

VIII. 2025 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

A. Draft 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant; Votes may be taken

Ms. Eldredge noted the Articles that the Board will need to take action on either tonight or next week at the latest. She noted that the first is Article 4 Town Departmental Budgets.

Mr. MacAskill referred to page 55 in the packet, Local Estimated Receipts and specific taxes which he questioned. He had requested information about the increases in three line items. That information could not be provided before tonight's meeting but will be available by next week. He would like to understand and also have a memo created so the public understands those increases better. He stated that those are the items he takes exception to in the Operating Budget.

Board members discussed placing the Article and decided to wait until next week.

Ms. Eldredge noted that next is Article 5 Monomoy Regional School District Budget with an estimated cost of $31,451,157 for the Harwich Assessment. She commented that Monomoy staff is present.

Scott Carpenter, Superintendent of Monomoy Schools and Michael MacMillan, Business Manager presented the Monomoy Regional School Budget as it currently stands and as voted by the School Committee. Mr. MacMillen noted that since the interaction between the Boards, there has not been an opportunity for the School Committee to take any further action.

Mr. Piekarski clarified that there was conversation between Board members. This Select Board was not conversing with the School Board. It was a conversation between a member of this Board and a member of the School Board.

Mr. MacAskill asked if there was a reason they would be going through the same presentation they already had. He suggested going over specific questions from the Board and noted that the Board has a problem with the size of Budget and the Assessment.

Mr. Handler suggested that they present the changes from what they had already been presented.

Dr. Carpenter noted that there are changes. If the Board is referring to changes post the conversation the Select Board had last Monday and Ms. Kavanagh's suggest of .5%-1%, the School Committee has not met since then to have a conversation. He noted that there is some want on the Committee's part to understand what the Select Board's wants are, to help them at their meeting this Wednesday.

Mr. Handler suggested that if there are no substantial changes, they wait until next Monday when everybody has had a chance to meet.

Mr. Piekarski commented that he is not looking to micromanage the Monomoy School Budget but noted that Harwich is faced with a tough Budget. They are not in a financial crisis today but the Board's job is to make sure they don't get there. He explained that since Harwich is so close to the levy limit and the Budget is tight, they are not looking to put the entire onus on the School

Board but they are asking for cooperation and participation to help the Town of Harwich minimize the impacts to the residents of Harwich with a reasonable number that they can all agree upon and the Board can support at Town Meeting.

Mr. MacAskill referred to the Capital Project and wanting to know how much that is going to cost Harwich and when. He commented that he supports a clean, safe environment for students and teachers but also commented that they can't keep adding in the percentages every year which to Harwich equals $1.65 million, without ultimately ending up at an override at Town Meeting. He suggested that looking at the administrative and support costs would be a worthwhile exercise and not looking at cutting the programs. Mr. MacAskill commented that the Board had received many emails related to the Integrated Pre-K and he asked that when Mr. Carpenter and MacMillen come back, that can be on the Agenda and the Board can get an explanation. He noted an email from taxpayer Ryan Edwards that included questions sent to the School and the answers, some of which were related to the Budget. He asked the Chair to have the emails in the packet for next week for the conversation. Mr. MacAskill noted that Harwich simply cannot afford the Assessment. One of the proponents of the School Budget had commented that Mr. MacAskill was wrong when he misspoke about Dr. Carpenter stating that this will level out and the increases won't be as high once we get to this point. He noted that for many years they have asked for the proverbial sharpening of the pencil and it hasn't happened. He stated that he cannot support the Budget as written. He noted that year after year Harwich is telling their unions and employees that this is as high they can go and yet year after year the School Budget is approved at a very high percentage in comparison. He asked Dr. Carpenter and Mr. MacMillen to look at every line but not the instructional, not the teachers.

Ms. Kavanagh noted that she had written the email that Dr. Carpenter referred to because she was not in attendance Monday night but also because the Select Board chose to send a letter. The spirit of that letter was about the discussion that will be happening April 8th. She feels that at this point, with union obligations and looking at student needs, she is trying to find a way that there is good faith sent to Harwich to try and figure out what can wait. Ms. Kavanagh commented that she understands the importance of the Middle School Project and the number is staggering but the health and welfare of the students and teachers is important. She asked that when they do come back, they give the Select Board a breakdown on what exactly is going on in the Integrated Pre-K Program so the Board can understand the changes, why they are happening and any impact on cost. She commented that the discussions are late to the table but possibly, through those discussions, they can figure some kind of reduction if possible. She commented that the Select Board can support or not support but does not control the Monomoy School Budget.

Mr. Howell commented that every year he has asked what the relationship is in terms of who is in a classroom, standing in front of kids and teaching them, as opposed to what part of the Budget he would consider to be overhead. He referred to the statistics Mr. Handler noted about the proportions of students to support staff being almost one to one. He suggested that maybe they need to be redirected in that discussion. He stated that his and every parents' major concern is what value their kids are getting in the classroom with somebody standing in front of them or somebody intervening at the desk. He commented that he doesn't care about what goes on in the central office and he is concerned about that trend. Mr. Howell commented that one thing to be careful of in a Budget is not using short term money and predicting everything in the future on something that will go away in a year or two. He noted that there are some in this Budget that make next year that much worse for Harwich. By their own projections, Mr. Howell noted that next year will be even tougher for the Town. He stated that if you're standing in the middle of Harwichport in July, you can see that there is no serious room for growth in either meals taxes or rooms taxes. He noted that if there is a recession, it's likely that that won't be sustainable at the current level. Mr. Howell commented that he does not see that this is a sustainable Budget proposal. He noted that in the past Mr. MacMillan and Dr. Carpenter have mistaken that he has articulated things, and that it was just him. He emphasized that there is a real concern amongst all the Board members about how they can afford the Assessment and do all the other things necessary. He noted that through the years they have had a discussion about this plateauing somehow but it hasn't done that. He suggested that the towns all have to reach some sort of agreement and consensus. What Monomoy represents relative to what is spent in the entire Town Government is at a much larger percentage now.

Mr. Handler stated that the Regional Agreement is putting so much compression on every single aspect of Harwich's Town Budget and the taxpayers wallets that for him, that is without question, the biggest driver here. He does not see relief in the next several years, he sees Chatham's enrollment going down and Harwich's enrollment staying the same or going up. He noted that that translates into more dollars being spent by Harwich's taxpayers and less dollars being spent by Chatham's taxpayers. He commented that this is a mutually shared problem by neighboring towns and he is hopeful that through the next several months of discussion between Chatham and Harwich, they are honest and thoughtful and bring some relief to the Town of Harwich. Mr. Handler stated that he respects and wants to thank Tina Games for multiple conversations. He had told her that if they did better with communication, they would not be here right now. More communication is the only way this community will fix this issue. Mr. Handler noted that the School Committee has voted the ceiling, it's only going to come down between now and Town Meeting. He commented that if it comes down 1%, it would be a great place to start. Mr. Handler commented on the topnotch system and the teaching staff that is second to none. He commented that they all want to be the employer of choice and that this regional agreement prevents that. He also commented that he doesn't want to see cuts in the front lines, to the people who are providing the incredible services to the kids. Mr. Handler noted that he had questions and thanked Mr. MacMillan for getting back to him so quickly. He noted the numbers of 212 non instructional and 176 instructional employees. He asked that Mr. MacMillan break that down and if any of the 212 are in front of the kids.

Mr. MacMillen commented that while they recognize the financial imperative to look at the Budget, there isn't a dime spent in the Budget that doesn't impact students. He noted that payroll pays teachers in front of students. Any reductions will impact what happens to students. He stated that they wouldn't propose anything that didn't improve the wellbeing of students in the classrooms. In answer to Mr. Handler's questions, Mr. MacMillan stated that those 212 are instructional assistants, counselors, cafeteria staff etc. He emphasized that it is a wide range of staff supporting students and that the office staff is necessary to run the organization. Mr. MacMillan also noted the changes over the years that have changed their workforce and he gave specific examples. He commented that they are always trying to make it as effective and efficient as possible.

Mr. Handler asked if there are unfilled positions that were budgeted for.

Mr. MacMillan replied that they have certain positions that they have to get creative to fill.

Mr. Handler asked if there is money that hasn't been spent because there are vacancies.

Mr. MacMillan replied, no.

Mr. Handler asked if the Restorative Justice Coordinator was a new position.

Mr. MacMillan replied that it was added last year and started this year.

Dr. Carpenter noted that there had been a presentation at a School Committee that showed how this position is really helping to decrease the number of referrals to the office, keeping kids in class and the suspension rates down. He noted that it also addresses funded mandates which he described.

Mr. MacMillan noted that the Restorative Justice Coordinator is funded by using the School Choice Funds.

Ms. Kavanagh referred to the housing crisis and how some of this fits into that discussion. She stated that she recalls Mr. MacMillan and Dr. Carpenter telling the Board that the professionals they are hiring are people who are more advanced in their careers because they are the people who can afford housing down here. She commented that, the same way our own kids can't stay here and work here, they can't get teachers at a cheaper rate because there is nowhere for these people to live. She noted that that adds to the complexity that Harwich and the whole school district faces. She noted other financial challenges that the Cape is facing, State mandates, Seasonal Communities, ADU's as examples. She commented that she feels that in the effort to create more housing, they are going backwards. Ms. Kavanagh noted this issue and that as they talk about numbers, they are forgetting about some of the complexities that fit into all the Budgets including Harwich's. She noted that the Town can't fill positions because they can't get people who can afford to live on Cape. They have to hire people at a higher rate. She noted that the Board is not implying that the Monomoy School District is misspending, there are a lot of pieces that go into all their Budgets and the difficulties they are facing, keep getting worse.

Dr. Carpenter referred to the question about unfilled positions and that just before the contract was renegotiated, instructional assistants were some of the lowest paid employees and they struggled to keep enough. While they didn't have positions that were unpaid for the year, they had instructional assistant positions that always seemed to be open. They went into negotiations making sure they had enough to cover those positions. They are now in a position to fill those positions this year which is the first time since Covid.

Mr. Howell commented that he doesn't want to suggest how to refine the school system. He noted that metaphorically there are similarities between what the Monomoy School District is being asked to do and raising a family, which he described. He noted that everything is important. The question asked is if they can find something more important than something else so they can tough this out and get passed where they are now. He commented that he understands all the positions are important but noted that the design has to operate within the context of a budget. He noted that the Town has what they have and a projection of the next few years and the numbers aren't matching up. Mr. Howell commented that the Select Board doesn't want to tell Mr. MacMillan and Dr. Carpenter how to run the School District but commented that they are the only ones who know how much each element costs and what in their minds they need or nothing else matters. He suggested that they need a serious discussion about where Harwich is, the money they have and anything that Monomony bills. He noted that the Monomoy School District sends a top line Budget bill and Harwich doesn't deliberate over it. Whatever is left after Harwich pays the bill is what the Town is run on. He commented that the Select Board is finding it difficult to piece together what they need to run the Town. He commented that this is not about disliking their actions or that they're not running the school right and he hopes Mr. MacMillan and Dr. Carpenter understand that.

Mr. MacMillen replied that they recognize that the Select Board has supported the schools. He noted that they look at their return on an investment and make sure that they are always getting the most for the money.

Mr. Handler noted that the Town's return on the investment is every classroom and every kid and commented that Monomoy has done a great job.

Mr. Piekarski commented on the new employees and that their purpose is making sure the school can retain them. He noted that historically the Town Administrator presents to the Board and Town Meeting, four categories related to the Monomoy District Budget. He noted that this year's presentation from Monomoy had greater than four and he asked that Mr. MacMillen and Dr. Carpenter work with the Town Administrator to break it down into the four categories he noted before the next Board meeting. He asked the Chair if there were any members of the School Board in attendance who may want to make a statement or speak to the Board.

Meredith Henderson of the Monomoy School Committee and Chair of the Finance Subcommittee noted that they had a meeting last Friday to think about ways for both Boards to come together . She noted that because of the process, the Subcommittee cannot change the

Budget without bringing it to the full Board. There is another Subcommittee meeting on Thursday to come to some possible changes that they can bring to the full Board and then to the Select Board. She commented that she will make sure that the conventions start earlier next year.

Mr. Handler commented that this should be a monthly, ongoing process between the School Committee and the Select Boards for both towns. This is critically important and to try and do it in a few meetings is suboptimal.

Mr. Piekarski noted that 6-8 weeks ago he asked Mr. MacMillen and Dr. Carpenter to consider sharpening their pencils. He commented that it didn't come up two weeks ago but even two months isn't enough for this to transpire and become what the Select Board needs it to be.

Mr. Handler noted that Mr. MacMillan and Dr. Carpenter will be back on Monday.

Ms. Eldredge noted that next is Article 9, the Middle School Project which is $9,007,030 debt authorized by the Monomoy Regional School District to pay the additional cost of renovating and reconstructing the siding and windows of the Monomoy Regional Middle School. Ms. Eldredge read the explanation of the Town of Harwich borrowing which is $6,918,300 based on foundation enrollment. It requires a ballot question for Debt Exclusion.

Mr. MacMillen noted that the total for the project is $11,507,030. He explained that this vote is to approve the District to incur that debt. The actual Assessment that Harwich pays is already in the Budget for $300,000 for the first part of paying that debt back which he described in detail. Approving this Article does not affect how much the Town is assessed. He noted that the debt will increase as they borrow the funds and that the High School's debt is slightly declining each year.

Dr. Carpenter referred to the conversation about the $6.3 million which is now over $11 million. He noted that when it was $6.3 million it was merely a siding project. He explained that the engineers assessed that more work had to be done which he described. The Building Committee felt that in order to do the project right, it should all be done at the same time. He noted what is now included in the project. He added that extensive testing has been done and there is no evidence that the moisture has made it through to the drywall side of the wall. Dr. Carpenter noted that there is a healthy contingency included in the number to cover any unknowns. He noted that they have been accepted into the Accelerated Repairs Project with the intent of coming back a year from now for the roof project. The rough estimate for the roof project is $8.5 million which the State reimburses for and will bring the number to $5.3 million.

Ms. Kavanagh noted that when they came to talk to the Board about being reassessed, there was also conversation about the drainage issue. She asked if that has been assessed and included in anything.

Mr. MacMillen noted the work they have done to address the drainage.

Mr. Piekarski requested that a debt schedule be sent to the Town Administrator. He noted that the $300,000 included in the Budget is the early low number that will increase. If the formula stays the same and Harwich is paying a significant amount of that $11 million, going to Town Meeting and being able to inform them that Harwich would be responsible for $5.5 million as opposed to $8.5 million changes some attitudes on Town Meeting floor, as far as approval or denial of this project. He commented that he understands the $300,00 but it is bigger than that to some on how it all plays out for Town Approval.

Mr. MacAskill asked if there is a projection of where the $300,000 will go over the next 10-12 years. He also asked if the $11 million was in the last presentation they gave the Board.

Mr. MacMillen replied that he will put the numbers together and send them. The last time they presented it was the $6.3 million.

Mr. MacAskill noted that those two things will make a big difference as to whether he supports or not supports. That and the meeting that is about to take place to gauge where the Chatham Select Board's position is going to be based on a possible 50/50 split.

Mr. Handler noted that when they take on debt there is no wiggle room or way to massage it, debt is debt. He wants the public to understand that when they vote authorizing the debt. Regarding the roof, Mr. Handler commented that he was under the impression by reading a report, that the roof is compromised.

Dr. Carpenter replied that sections of the roof are different ages and in different conditions. He commented that there are fewer holes in the roof than in the sides. They had initially looked at the roof to be the first project until it became clear that they had to move the siding forward to address the biggest source of moisture in the building.

Mr. MacMillen noted that their aim is to keep the cost as low as possible.

Dr.Carpenter described the process of the MSBA program to take care of 37% of the roof and noted that they would have to get one project done. The building will be poised and ready for the roof project.

Mr. Howell moved to place Article 9. Seconded by Ms. Kavanagh.

Mr MacAskill noted that he wants the information he requested before he makes a decision. He will not be voting in favor of it tonight but he is not saying that he is against it.

Mr. Howell noted that they have to place this Article, even if it is without a number.

Mr. MacAskill responded that the Board doesn't have to do anything.

Mr. Piekarski noted that the Article does have a number and that is what they are placing. He noted that he will be voting to place the Article but whether he votes yay or nay to the Article is a different story.

Mr. Howell noted that in putting it there with that number, the number won't go up. That would be outside the scope of the Article. It would be legal to have a number somewhat less.

Mr. MacMillen noted that they have no intention of coming back with a different number for the Middle School Project.

Vote: 4:1 in favor with Mr. MacAskill opposed.

Mr. Handler noted that he would like clarity on the Integrated Pre-K as well as the Harwich/ Chatham Elementary School an how it is being handled. He will include the topic on next week's Agenda.

Ms. Eldredge reviewed the five Enhancement of Services (EOS) requests from Departments for this year's Budget, giving a description and the amount of the request.

Mr. Handler noted that all five requests were strong and with merit. He stated that the Board is not contemplating any additional EOS at this time for this Budget. He thanked the Department heads for bringing their requests forward.

Ms. Eldredge noted that Articles 12-20 have not yet been supported.

Mr. Handler noted that next for discussion is Article 20 The Great Sand Lakes.

Mr. Howell noted that he and Mr. Handler have talked universally over the issue. He noted that supporting and placing the Article are two separate issues. There are several ways of dealing with a body of water like that. Mr. Howell noted that the Association tried to do what the Town was not capable of doing early on and they continue to do that. The other issue is what the Town is going to do with increasing development around ponds and that DCPC was adapted in 2000 to address that for the six ponds district. He noted that this sewering project is on the Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) and at some point the Town will be obligated to do something, whether its Phase 3 or Phase 8. It has been approved by the County and the State. He noted that if they do not avail themselves of the opportunity for funding that is there right now, they will be taken off the Intended Use Plan (IUP) without any guarantee that next year or the year after, the Town will be placed back on the IUP. He commented that the worst scenario is that the Town finds themselves in a position where they are footing the bill for a sewer that's twice as expensive years from now but they are still obligated to do it. He commented that he is prepared to make the motion to rescind the prior vote to clear the way to placing it on the Warrant.

Mr. MacAskill noted that the Board already rescinded the motion not to place.

Mr. Howell moved to place Article 20 The Great Sand Lakes. Seconded by Ms. Kavanagh.

Mr. MacAskill commented that he takes offense to an accusation that the Board is discounting and not paying attention to taxpayers. He stated that the Board focuses on every taxpayer in Town, not just the Great SanD Lakes Association. He noted that based on the debt, the Board has some challenges. He commented that he does not believe this project solves the problem but it does get them to the point where they're not putting anything else into the pond. He still hasn't gotten an answer to how much this is going to cost the taxpayers along with another $70 million and more that was noted tonight. He does not think the Town can afford this at this time and this gets the Town zero nitrogen credits. This project will have to be followed by another project to appease the State. He appreciates how enthusiastic the proponent is but the disparaging remarks and attack on character are pointless and don't change his vote. His vote is based on math, for every person in this room and every person in this town. He emphasized that they heard about the $140 million tonight and they still have nothing, per thousand, on what this project is going to cost. They also still don't have a real estimate. He reminded the public about Phase 2, going to Town Meeting with a number and that the Select Board was $10 million short. The Board at the time voted to absolutely never again put the cart before the horse and he will not do that, it is irresponsible and not representing the taxpayers well. He stated that he is an absolute no on this project.

Mr. Piekarski commented that he also takes exception to to some of the comments made this evening. He noted that there have been no disparaging remarks related to anyone in the Great Sand Lakes Association by any of the Board members. To State otherwise is an absolute misstatement of the truth. He also noted that he appreciates the passion that the Association brings for this project but that it's okay for some members of the Board to disagree. He commented that he is unsure this project actually stops the current issue that is being created because they won't be doing the properties that abut these ponds. He noted that there was no study done to say that this section of Phase 3A is going to prevent the issue that they are currently experiencing nor is it going to clear up what is currently there. Mr. Piekarski noted that there are a lot of unanswered questions. He referred to the letter from the Cape Delegation regarding the State Revolving Fund (SRF) and the proposed language to change some of the funding and the carry overs. He does not think they should assume that the money is going to be available and that the Towns people should go to the ballot assuming they will be reimbursed, whatever the percentage is. If it is approved, it is approved at the full amount and the Town has to be willing to take that on. He noted that the reimbursement is not free money, it's our tax money coming back from the State. He emphasized that they are unsure if those funds will be available. He stated that with this project being in excess of $35 million for 270 homes with the likelihood that it may not solve the problem, he cannot support it.

Ms. Kavanagh commented that by seconding the motion, she is not saying they should be approving the project but she does believe that it should be a discussion on Town Meeting floor.

Mr. Handler commented that his role is to vet this project. He has done a deep dive to get more information and spoken with Andrew Gottlieb, who is the head of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod. He noted that the comments from the proponent have been nothing more than background noise, completely unproductive and would not sway his vote. He noted that, with respect to the Project, one of the key points the proponent made was why doesn't the Town take advantage of what we have purchased for flow from Chatham. Mr. Handler asked Marc Drainville of GHD to come up to the table. Mr. Handler referred to Phase 2 and 3, noting the total homes in each and how many homes in phase 2 are hooked up or in the process of hooking up to the sewer. No homes in Phase 3 have hooked up. He noted that only 32% of the total homes are connected. The amount projected at 32% was 96,000 gallons and they are now running at 30,000 gallons per day. He noted that if all the homes were connected, they would only be at 100,000 gallons out of 300,000 gallons per day.

Mr. Drainville noted Phase 2 had a development or growth component to it.

Mr. Handler commented to Mr. Drainville that the Town is not topping off with Great Sand Lakes. He noted that the estimate for Great Sand Lakes is 36,000 but he thinks it will be closer to 15,000.

Mr. Drainville replied that initially that is correct but also the growth potential has to be worked in.

Mr. MacAskill noted that the Water/Wastewater Commissioners have talked about potentially hiring an engineering firm to do actual studies on flow. What Mr. Handler is referring to are projections.

Mr. Handler responded that those are figures, given to them at the flow meter.

Mr. MacAskill suggested that the Water/Wastewater Commissioners be at a meeting so the Board doesn't give misinformation.

Mr. Handler replied that he got his information from the Water Commissioners. He noted that he wants the public to understand that the Town is not topping off by sewering the Great Sand Lakes. He noted that the State pays through the entire construction period. Once the construction period is over then what ever the cost of the project was, turns into an actual loan.

Mr. Drainville noted that there is a 0.0% cost during construction. There is a 2% max on the loan after construction.

Mr. Handler noted that if he chooses to support putting the Article on the Warrant, it would be because he feels the voters should be able to vote on projects and he wants to make sure they protect the public's interest. He noted that there is an expiration date to the borrowing potential.

He commented that the biggest factor for him is that there is an off ramp. The Town is authorizing the Board to borrow but if necessary, they can back out of this at any point in time.

Mr. Drainville agreed with that statement.

Mr. Handler commented that a lot of time can then be sent evaluating the project.

Mr. Drainville clarified that the Town needs appropriation by June 30th and then submit an application in October. He noted that once it gets to spring and the Town has bids in, things begin to finalize.

Mr. Howell referred to Phase 2 and noted that he was the only one who voted against the contract. He noted that the project bid out at a higher amount than the appropriation. Mr. Howell stated that unless the money is already there as an appropriation, there is no way he will go forward because in the past it felt like extortion. He commented that it was duplicitous of the Board and they should have never done that. He will not do that again now and he doesn't expect anyone here, now that they've seen it occur, do that again. Mr. Howell commented that that it is a promise that everyone has to hear. If the bids come in substantially above what was appropriated at Town Meeting, there is no way the Select Board is going to start it and see if they can pick up the slack down the road.

Mr. Drainville stated that he was not here for that situation and Phase 3 went a lot better.

Mr. Piekarski read an excerpt from the Delegation's letter.

Martha Donovan of East Harwich and the Capital Outlay Committee (COC) noted that the COC met last Thursday. Mr. Powers had asked the COC to vote on putting the $35 million into the Capital Plan and they voted unanimously to add it to the Capital Plan. She noted that they then had a discussion on the merits of the Plan. Of the 5 members, 4 thought it made sense to take advantage of the funding, low interest rate and potential loan forgiveness. Of those 4, 1 or 2 also felt that the Town should Sewer for pond water quality. She noted that she's was the 1 vote against the project. She explained that she doesn't believe in making a financial decisions based on the fact that a low interest rate loan is available and some loan forgiveness. She feels it has to be done on the merits of the project. Ms. Donovan noted that this project is 2-3 times more expensive per household than Phases 2 and 3. She does not think it makes financial sense and commented that they haven't explored other options. She noted that she has argued against the debt capacity and she estimated $100 million debt just for sewer. She noted that to service that debt over 30 years is roughly $3 million a year and roughly $.07 on every dollar they have available in the Operating Budget. She added that if they have to add phases or a treatment plan, it will severely limit the Town. She noted that she also voted against it because the original objective of the project was nitrogen mitigation. She feels that they are caving on that objective and she thinks they should stay on track for what they originally planned for. Regarding the effluent, Ms. Donovan commented that if they have to go back to Chatham, they're still dealing with the schools and she asked if they'd want to be dealing with two issues at the same time.

Vote: 3:2 in favor by roll call vote with Mr. Piekarski and Mr. MacAskill voting against.

Mr. MacAskill asked if Mr. Handler's intention was to try and get a support, not support, indefinitely postpone or leave it blank.

Mr. Handler responded that he would accept a motion.

Mr. Howell commented that he thinks they should get Mr. Gottlieb to a meeting as an Agenda item to allow the Board to ask him questions. He feels they could go to Town Meeting without creating a position.

Mr. MacAskill moved to indefinitely postpone. Seconded by Mr. Piekarski.

Vote: 3:2 in favor by roll call vote with Mr. Howell and Ms. Kavanagh voting against.

Ms. Eldredge noted that Article 12 is a Petitioned Article $125,000 for the Charter Commission which she read and noted that it has been placed.

Linda Cebula was present and representing Sandra Hall who had sent a letter to the Select Board. She noted that the letter explained the detail of the process if the Article is passed. Ms. Cebula commented that the key thing is the money to do the job. She explained the reasons for hiring a consultant and other expenses including publishing the Charter. She noted that at a previous Town Meeting, there was $75,000 authorized by Town Meeting for purposes of Charter Review. She noted that none of that money was spent because the Charter Review Committee couldn't get the money from the Select Board. Ms. Cebula suggested that the Select Board could authorize the $125,000 and repurpose the $75,000 old Article. They would then be asking the public for $50,000.

Mr. Handler commented that he had spoken with legal counsel regarding who has control over the money. Counsel's opinion is that the money would be under the care and jurisdiction of the Select Board because Commissions are not allowed to execute contracts. He wanted to clarify that as the Petitioner had stated that it would be under jurisdiction of the Committee.

Ms. Cebula requested that Counsel put that in writing. She responded that if the Article passed and the money is available, if it is a reasonable ask, she hopes that the Select Board won't be fighting it.

Mr. Handler commented that he feels the Select Board should give this Commission a fair opportunity to succeed. Mr. Handler asked Emily Mitchell, Town Clerk, to explain the State mandate on this.

Emily Mitchell noted that Chapter 43B section 8 or 9 requires the Town to give $5,000 with or without appropriation.

Ms. Kavanagh commented that the Board could rescind the $75,000 and the Article would be changed to reflect an additional $50,000. With the information Ms. Mitchell just gave them regarding $5,000, the Article could be rewritten for $45,000. After discussion she noted that she understands the $50,000 ask.

Ms. Cebula replied that they are looking for $125,000. The funding mechanism is the $75,000 repurposed from the old Article plus the $50,000.

Mr. MacAskill commented that he would be more comfortable is the Commission was formed. He also noted that the Petition cannot be changed. The Article before them is one person's request, not an elected Commission, for $125,000. Regarding Ms. Cebula's point about the Charter Review Committee not getting the money from the Select Board, the Board had a profession in who said the charter wasn't that bad. He noted that Town Meeting would have to vote to rescind the Article for $75,000 and then reappropriate that. He commented that he thinks it's greedy for this person to ask for $120,000 with no plan and without input from 8 other elected people. He noted that 16-18 months is two Town Meetings and asked why they need to go out of the gate with $125,000 when the State thinks it's only worth $5,000. He noted that he might support to rescind the $75,000 but he would make a motion to indefinitely postpone the $125,000. He thinks it's a tall ask without even one meeting of an elected body.

Mr. Piekarski commented that he would support the $75,000 and come back for additional funds when necessary.

Mr Howell commented that he believes that the Article that was passed before authorized $75,000 for the purpose of examining the Charter and he is fairly certain that the funds are already there. It doesn't have to be rescinded and reallocated because the purpose of the money is the same purpose as is being done now. He noted that it's a different entity but it's still the same purpose. He suggested that if this gets off the ground, they already have $75,000. He noted the reasons they will be having a fall Town Meeting so an additional request would not be a year away.

Ms. Cebula responded that while Town Meeting did pass that $75,000, the purse strings didn't seem to be opened. She noted the reasons the money will be needed. She commented that she hopes the Board will either fund this or allow the use of the $75,000 that is still there.

Mr. MacAskill moved to indefinitely postpone Article 12 Funds for anticipated expenses for the Harwich Home Charter Commission in the amount of $125,000. Seconded by Mr. Piekarski.

Vote: 4:1 in favor with Mr. Howell voting against. Motion carried.

Mr. MacAskill moved to accept and adopt Article 13 the Capital Outlay Plan. Seconded by Mr. Howell.

Martha Donovan, Chair of the COC noted the three items the Board had asked the COC to come back with. The first was the Saquatucket bulkhead replacement and noted that they unanimously agreed to leave the cost in the Budget as stated currently and she explained the reasons. Regarding the Harwich Elementary School, the Town Administrator added $40,000 for the replacement of smoke alarms and the COC unanimously approved those. She noted their discussions and suggested that they figure out the Capital limit for the Elementary School. Ms. Donovan noted that according to the Town Administrator and regarding the schools, they don't start planning until January and the COC has to submit their plan to the Select Board in December. She requested that they start the process in October or November to avoid last minute changes. Ms. Donovan noted that the COC had a discussion on the Monomoy Middle School Siding Project. She asked Mr. MacMillen to confirm that Chatham will be writing their Article the same as Harwich. She noted that they did not weigh in otherwise because they don't have the information.

Mr. Piekarski noted that the Draft that is in the packet does not include the $40,000 for smoke alarms or the $35 million on the Phase 3A Sewer Extension.

Ms. Donovan noted that Mr. Powers put them on the Warrant and the COC agreed wth him.

Mr. MacAskill moved to approve Article 13 as amended and presented by the Chair of the COC. Seconded by Mr. Howell.

Mr. Howell commented that of the next few Articles, the one peculiarity seems to be Brooks Academy. Mr. Powers had wanted to fund that through the Sinking Fund. He asked if that is still the intention.

Mr. MacAskill replied that that is what their conversation was.

Mr. Piekarski noted that Article 15 has it funded by Free Cash.

Mr. MacAskill noted that they voted as presented and can change it next week.

Mr. Handler asked, in the Phase 3A is a CWMP and not a Watershed.

Ms. Eldredge replied that they have been calling it the Watershed Management Plan (WMP) instead of the CWMP.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. MacAskill moved to accept and adopt Article 14 Fund Capital from various sources as presented. Seconded by Mr. Howell.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. MacAskill moved to accept and adopt Article 15 Fund Capital from Free Cash as amended and as presented. Seconded by Ms. Kavanagh.

Mr. Piekarski asked if there was more specific information on the Police Cruiser Replacements. He asked how many cruisers they get for $210,000.

Officer Hutton replied, 3 cruisers including outfitting.

Mr. Piekarski referred to the DPW and that there are vehicles with low miles that are rusting out.

Ms. Eldredge replied that the vehicle with 45,000 miles is an off road excavator vehicle. The other vehicle was used for plowing.

Mr. MacAskill asked that the DPW Director be asked to put it in memo form for the Board next week.

Mr. Piekarski noted that the explanation talks about a balance of Free Cash $1,945,000 after this Article and he asked if that is a true number.

Ms. Eldredge replied that there is an amendment to Article 15 in the amount of $700,000. The Article is updated to total $4,341,149 and the updated certified Free Cash balance is $1,480,000.

Mr. Piekarski pointed out a possible discrepancy in the total amount of Free Cash.

Ms. Eldredge agreed with Mr. Piekarski that the total Free Cash is $1,245,290 and will update the number.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. MacAskill moved to accept and adopt Article 16 Fund Capital from Golf Improvement Fund as presented. Seconded by Mr. Howell.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried

Mr. MacAskill moved to accept and adopt Article 17 Fund Capital from Water Retained Earnings as presented. Seconded by Mr. Howell.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. MacAskill moved to accept and adopt Article 18 Fund Capital from Wastewater Retained Earnings as presented. Seconded by Mr. Howell.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. MacAskill moved to accept and adopt Article 19 Fund Capital with Borrowing and Debt Exclusion for the Fire Department as presented.

Mr. Piekarski asked if the Board would consider purchasing the ambulance with the remaining Free Cash of $1,245,290 rather than borrowing another $1.1 million.

Mr. MacAskill commented the he would agree with Mr. Piekarski and suggested they move forward with the vote and change the funding source at the next meeting.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. MacAskill moved to accept and adopt Article 54 Annual Departmental Revolving Fund Authorizations as presented. Seconded by Ms. Kavanagh.

Mr. MacAskill commented that he recognizes that other Board members want to see some things changed but he does not see anything being changed at this tine. He agreed that they need to take a deep dive in to Revolving Funds after Town Meeting.

Mr. Howell commented that this has been ignored every year for the last 5-6 years and that the Board should have this discussion in mid-May or June.

Mr. Handler commented that it is clear to him that at least four Board members are in favor of looking at the Revolving Funds. The Board has asked Administration to evaluate what it would take to make changes.

Ms. Eldredge noted the process to changing the Revolving Accounts if it is done prior to Town Meeting and the effects of that. Administration acknowledges what the Select Board has said and suggested the discussion take place in May or June to allow time for the process.

Mr. Handler replied that he would move that forward as soon they have room on the Agenda.

Mr. Piekarski commented that he wants to know if this exercise could be completed, they discussed it last week and Mr. Powers eluded to the fact that it did't seem like a heavy lift. He understands line items will be affected but that the calculations are straight forward. His reference is to see if they can incorporate the changes into the Budget and bring it back next week.

Ms. Eldredge noted that the 204 Sisson Road Revolving Fund covers a part time Program Aid and she asked if the Board is looking to dissolve that fund or just take out building expenses.

Mr. Piekarski noted that he does not want to dissolve the Fund.

Ms. Kavanagh commented that she is fine with reviewing the Revolving Accounts but feels the Board is pressed for time. Her preference would be to move this forward but she is fine with having a discussion with Mr. Powers next Monday.

Mr. Piekarski noted that he would be more concerned if the Board had placed and approved the Budget but that has not been done yet.

Ms. Kavanagh removed her second.

Mr. MacAskill removed his motion. He noted that this would require more than one operational budget to be altered and from conversations he has had, he feels it would be more than a light lift. He hopes that if it is more of a lift, that the Board will have an open mind and move this forward.

Mr. Handler noted that the discussion will be moved to next week.

Christine Flynn, Planner and Director of Community Development noted that the Planning Board is scheduled to hold a Public Hearing on April 8th. She gave a brief recap of why they are requesting the By-law change, noting the changes at the State level.

Mr. MacAskill noted that since the meeting has not happened, it would be appropriate to place and a motion to indefinitely postpone which can be changed or they can withdraw the Article if the Board is not ready for it.

Mr. MacAskill moved to place Article 56 Amend Zoning By-law/ADU as presented on the Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Mr. Howell.

Vote: 4:1 in favor with Mr. Piekarski against. Motion carried.

Mr. MacAskill moved to indefinitely postpone Article 56 Amend Zoning By-law/ADU as presented. Seconded by Mr. Howell.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. MacAskill referred to the Local Comprehensive Plan (LCP) and that the Board is not moving forward with that. He noted that at last week's meeting the Board didn't determine that, because the Local Planning Committee (LPC) was going to meet and make a recommendation.

Ms. Flynn replied that the LPC did meet regarding the LCP and there was a recommendation to consider the idea of postponing the adoption of the LCP to the fall. She was unsure if a formal motion was made but she believes there was consensus among the LPC members to ensure a better working product for the Town.

Mr. MacAskill asked if that would be Ms. Flynn's recommendation and she responded, yes.

Mr. Handler noted that the Chair of the LPC was in favor of that recommendation.

Mr. Piekarski referred to the Petition Articles, commenting that the Board doesn't have to rescind their motions but make new motions to indefinitely postpone or lack of support on any Petition Article with the exception of one that was a positive motion.

Mr. MacAskill suggested that the Board hold the revotes to allow Mr. Drainville to make a presentation.

B. Vote to close the 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

IX. 2025 ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

A. Accept the 2025 Annual Town Election Warrant; votes may taken

Mr. MacAskill moved to accept the 2025 Annual Town Election Warrant as presented. Seconded by Mr. Howell.

Ms. Mitchell noted that the item before the Board is not ready to be accepted. There is a citizen petition for a ballot question and she asked if the Board would consider that and potentially vote to place. They will have to place the ballot question associated with Articles 19 and 20 tonight pending the future conversations. She encouraged the Board to consider the Petition and noted that the lead petitioner is present.

Mr. MacAskill removed his motion. Mr. Howell removed his second.

Ms. Mitchell noted that the Annual Town Elections Warrant includes 7 positions and 2 ballot questions which she described. She noted that before the Board closes out the Warrant, she will be looking to them to indicate whether the Debt Exclusion Articles associated potentially with the Fire equipment and with the Great Sand Lakes Sewering will be proceeding and if they would like the associated questions placed on the Warrant. Tonight's conversation was largely driven by a Citizen Petition to place a non-binding public policy advisory question on this warrant. She explained the process for a Citizen Petition and that the Select Board decides if they want to place it in their Warrant. They are not compelled to place it. She noted that if the Board declines to place it, there is a mechanism for the proponent to go for additional signatures which would then compel the placement of the question.

Diane Turco of Harwich and Director of Cape Downwinders noted that this is a non binding public advisory question based on a State Statute and noted that it has been on the ballot in a number of Cape Towns. She noted the purpose of the Petition.

Ms. Kavanagh moved to place the non-binding public advisory question regarding the Holtec Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth and discharging untreated radio contaminated industrial water into the atmosphere on the 2025 Annual Town Election Warrant . Seconded by Mr. Howell.

Mr. Howell commented that he would not want any kid exposed to radiation that wasn't there naturally.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried.

X. PRESENTATIONS

A. Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan update - progress report

Mr. Howell commented that what he was interested in knowing, in a combination of Mr. Drainville and the Town Administrator is what the Town is in for right now based on today's dollars. He wanted to know what the remaining amount would cost and what the total indebtedness will be. He noted that each of these projects is an additive to the taxes. He wants to be sure the public knows what they have already experienced on their tax bill and that there is money that hasn't happened yet on the tax rate, plus proposals on 3A through Phase 8.

Marc Drainville of GHD gave a presentation noting what he had mentioned last week and gave a progress report focusing on the west side of town. He noted the major changes to title 5 and the requirements for compliance, nitrogen removal for the first watershed permit and approximate sewering costs for first watershed permit less the cost of treatment and recharge in 2024 dollars.

Mr. Howell noted that this doesn't include the first three phases and the they have gone past the $300 million number.

Mr. MacAskill asked which phase includes the wastewater treatment facility.

Mr. Drainville replied that that would be the first line that they don't have yet. He noted that inflation in the construction industry is what is impacting this project and her expects it to go up

3.7%. He also noted that the task for the west side of town is finding a recharge site and treatment. He commented that he hopes that answers the Board's questions.

Mr. Howell responded that it had but the Town Administrator also has to weigh in on what the Town has spent that has already been borrowed, what has been approved but has not been borrowed and the time lines of those. He noted that he is in favor of an educated vote at Town Meeting. Mr. Howell noted that in Chatham's wells there has been evidence of PFAS. He does not understand how Harwich's effluent flow goes there and is separate so it Harwich's water that is brought back. He asked if the flow is owned by everybody.

Mr. Drainville replied that the flow is all mixed.

Mr. Howell commented that the nature of the treated water is not necessarily the same as what was sent out untreated, in terms of elements like PFAS. He noted that Harwich has not shown any evidence of PFAS in the system but there has been some going on in Chatham. The water comes in different pipes but once it's treated it gets sent out as recharge. He noted that they don't treat for PFAS.

Mr. Drainville confirmed that they don't treat for PFAS and he was unsure that what they are finding necessarily comes from the plant.

Mr Howell noted that it is another case of an emerging threat.

Mr. Drainville noted that PFAS is in just about everything and he does not know the source of what they are finding in Chatham.

Mr. Howell noted that Mr. Powers will have part 2 of the answer.

Board members thanked Mr. Drainville.

B. VHB, Inc to present Harwich Port Traffic Study

Matthew Duranleau, Senior Project Engineer with VHB was present to talk about the Harwichport Corridor Study. He noted the scope of the project, the Study Area and the intersections included. He talked about the Daily Traffic Volume (October 2024) Main Street, Intersection Crash Rates, Pedestrian Curb Ramp Accessibility and Weekday Morning Peak Hour Operations. Mr. Duranleau noted Potential Improvement Alternatives and Potential Corridor-Wide Pedestrian Improvements which he described. He noted Potential Corridor-Wide Bicycle Improvements, Potential Village Center Improvements, Potential Intersection Improvements including Main Street at Sisson Road and Main Street and Lower County Road Potential Alternatives. He ended with possible next steps.

Ms. Kavanagh asked how quickly Mr. Duranleau thought they could get the light up stop signs and what the undertaking is to get Mass DOT to put light up sidewalks in the center of town.

Mr. Duranleau replied that the light up stop signs would be on town roadways and the timeline would be up to the DPW. Anything on Route 28 would take more time. Mass DOT would want to review the design before construction could start.

Ms. Kavanagh noted that she was hoping to get somethings done before the summer and noted how dangerous it is crossing the street, especially at night.

Mr. Howell noted that there are 13 cross walks and many informal crosswalks and that the plans presuppose that people will be compliant with going to the spot with the lighted crosswalk. He noted that they have rejuvenated a section of town that was virtually dormant and they have yet to address how to safely get people from the parking lot to the businesses. He commented that there was nothing in the discussion about an Uber pick up area. He noted that they have avoided problems in the past but it's getting worse. He noted that he is trying to find something that would help at least one part of this and he doesn't see anything in this plan that addresses the safety of pedestrians being able to get onto the street and cross into a parking lot.

Mr. Duranleau replied that when dealing with human behavior, it's impossible to get everyone to align with one thing. The best they can do is come up with options and hopefully some of them will work.

Mr. Piekarski agreed that it does come down to human behavior but they can try and make improvements to a variety of road ways.

Mr. MacAskill thanked Mr. Duranleau and noted that he will send his questions through the Chair. He noted that the speed bumps in Barnstable Village work and that lighting will help. He requested that this be brought back after the Town Meeting Warrant, noting that several residents have reached out and want to be part of the process as stakeholders.

Linda Cebula, Harwich Traffic Safety Committee Chair agreed that the issue is human behavior and the only way to change that is giving tickets. She noted that they focused on Rte 28 but the Committee hears a lot of complaints about the parking and the traffic that has moved to the other streets. She commented that the plan didn't address parking in Harwichport. She noted that after listening to the DPW and MassDot, there is a process to get anything done on Route 28 and she noted her experience trying to get a project done. She noted that the town has not been strict about line of sight and cutting back bushes. There are places in town that would improve with branches being cut back. She offered that the Traffic Safety Committee could take a look at the plan and see what they could recommend.

Mr. Handler commented that he likes the idea of a stakeholder meeting, there is some low hanging fruit but also bigger things they need to look at. He will forward the report to the Committee to review.

Mr. MacAskill noted for the public that the report is on the website. He also noted that he had sent questions to the last presentation which are still unanswered and suggested that Mr. Handler will follow up with Mr. Duranleau.

Mr. MacAskill referred to the EOS that were previously noted and explained that it wasn't something he took lightly, to have the Department heads come before the Board and express their needs and wants. He referred to challenges of the School issues and the Budget and emphasized that he doesn't want the Department heads to think they were just dismissed or the public to think that the Board didn't think about it. He commented that the bottom line is that he doesn't think the Town has the money.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approve the following 2025 Seasonal on-premise liquor license renewals:

1. AJG Corp. d/b/a The Weatherdeck Restaurant, 168 Route 28
2. The Belmont Condominium Beach Club Corp. d/b/a The Beach, 1 Belmont Road
3. 554 Street Bar LLC d/b/a Three Monkeys, 554 Route 28
4. Mt Group LLC d/b/a Mad Minnow Bar & Kitchen, 554 Route 28

Mr. Piekarski moved to approve the 2025 Seasonal on-premise liquor license renewals as presented and including any restrictions previously placed on those licenses. Seconded by Mr. MacAskill.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried.

B. Approve the following 2025 Lodging House license renewals:

1. Stacia M. Kostecki d/b/a Gingerbread House, 141 Division Street

Mr. Piekarski moved to approve 2025 Lodging House license renewal as presented and including any restrictions previously placed on that license. Seconded by Mr. Howell.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried.

C. Approve the following 2025 Amusement license renewals:

1. AJG Corp. d/b/a Harbor Glen Mini Golf, 168 Route 28
2. Bud's Miniature Golf, 9 Sisson Road
3. Grand Slam Entertainment, Inc., 322 Route 28
4. Trampoline Center Inc. d/b/a Trampoline Center, 296 Route 28

Mr. Piekarski moved to approve the following 2025 Amusement license renewals wth any preexisting conditions. Seconded by Mr. Howell.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried.

D. Approve the following 2025 Seasonal Entertainment license renewals:

1. The Port Restaurant & Bar, Inc, 5431 Route 28
Weekday
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. inside
11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. outside
Jukebox, radio, TV, live/recorded music, amplification, dancing
Sunday
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. inside
11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. outside
Jukebox, radio, TV, Live/recorded music, amplification, dancing

Mr. MacAskill commented that he thinks a conversation on the 2025 Seasonal Entertainment license renewals would be more appropriate than a motion, stating his reasons. He noted what the Port has applied for additionally and noted that the Board has held them to acoustic, based on past experiences and their proximity to neighbors and complaints. They have not voted for amplification in years.

Ms. Kavanagh moved to approve the following 2025 Seasonal Entertainment license renewal:

1. The Port Restaurant & Bar, Inc, 5431 Route 28
Weekday
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. inside
11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. outside
Jukebox, radio, TV, live/recorded music, acoustic music, dancing
Sunday
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. inside
11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. outside
Jukebox, radio, TV, Live/recorded music, acoustic music, dancing

Ms. Eldredge will correct the error to read 11:00AM to 12:00AM

Seconded by Mr. MacAskill.

Vote: 5:00 in favor. Motion carried.

2. Lucky Labrador, Inc. d/b/a Perks, 545 Route 28
Weekday

12:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. inside
Jukebox, radio, TV, live/recorded music, amplification, dancing
11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. outside
Jukebox, radio, TV, live/recorded music, amplification, dancing
Sunday
1:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. inside
Ambient music, TV
3:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. inside
Jukebox, radio, TV, live/recorded music, amplification, dancing
6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. outside
Jukebox, radio, TV, Live/recorded music, amplification, dancing

Ms. Kavanagh moved to approve the following 2025 Seasonal Entertainment license renewal:

Lucky Labrador, Inc. d/b/a Perks, 545 Route 28
Weekday
12:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. inside
Jukebox, radio, TV, live/recorded music, amplification, dancing
11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. outside
Jukebox, radio, TV, live/recorded music, amplification, dancing
Sunday
1:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. inside
Ambient music, TV
3:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. inside
Jukebox, radio, TV, live/recorded music, amplification, dancing
6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. outside
Jukebox, radio, TV, Live/recorded music, amplification, dancing

Seconded by Mr. MacAskill.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried.

E. Approve the following 2025 Seasonal Common Victaullers license renewals:
1. AJG Corp. d/b/a Weatherdeck Restaurant, 168 Route 28
2. Port Restaurant & Bar, Inc., 541 Route 28
3. Lucky Labrador, Inc. d/b/a Perks, 545 Route 28

Ms. Kavanagh moved to approve the 2025 Seasonal Common Victaullers license renewals as presented. Seconded by Mr. MacAskill.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried.

F. Vote to approve a Special Permit Application for a one day wines & malt permit for Kim Gagne, event to be held on June 6, 2025, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at 204 Sisson Road

Ms. Kavanagh moved to to approve a Special Permit Application for a one day wines & malt permit for Kim Gagne, event to be held on June 6, 2025, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at 204 Sisson Road. Seconded by mr. MacAskill.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried.

XII. CONTRACTS

A. Vote to accept the Harwich Green Communities Grant Agreement in the amount of $135,388
B. Vote to approve a contract with Markings Inc., in the amount not to exceed $95,000 for road markings

Mr. MacAskill moved to vote to accept the Harwich Green Communities Grant Agreement in the amount of $135,388 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Howell.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. MacAskill moved to approve a contract with Markings Inc., in the amount not to exceed $95,000 for road markings as presented. Seconded by Mr. Howell.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried.

XIII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

None

XIV. SELECT BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Mr. Piekarski noted that election season leads to many signs around town, some on corners and near telephone poles. He wants the Administration team to know they have the Board's support to have their teams take care of those signs appropriately.

XV. CORRESPONDENCE

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Howell moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. MacAskill.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judi Moldstad
Board Secretary