**MINUTES**
**SELECT BOARD**
**HARWICH TOWN HALL**
**732 MAIN STREET, HARWICH MA**
**MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2025**
**5:00 P.M. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
**6:00 P.M. - REGULAR MEETING**

RELEASED
APPROVED

**SELECTMEN PARTICIPATING**: Chair Jeffrey Handler, Clerk Peter Piekarski, Member Donald Howell, Member Mark Kelleher & Member Anita Doucette

**ALSO PARTICIPATING**: Town Administrator Joseph Powers & Executive Assistant Jennifer Clarke

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Handler called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Mr. Piekarski moved that the Select Board enter into Executive Session to discuss the items as outlined below, 2nd by Mr. Howell. The vote was 5-0-0 with Mr. Handler, Mr. Piekarski, Mr. Howell, Mr. Kelleher and Ms. Doucette all voting aye by roll call.**

**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 G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel: Finance Director
C. 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 March 10, 2025, April 7, 2025, April 14, 2025, April 28, 2025 & May 19, 2025

Mr. Handler called the meeting back to order at 6:05 p.m. and commented that the Select Board took action on executive session item c where they voted to approve the minutes.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**SELECT BOARD REORGANIZATION**

**Ms. Doucette moved nominate Mr. Howell as Chair of the Select Board, 2nd by Mr. Kelleher and approved 4-1-0 (Handler opposed).**

Mr. Piekarski asked what Mr. Howell's thought process is about conducting communication between the Administration Office and the Select Board and how he sees that taking place. Mr. Howell responded that he has been the Chair before and does not view this as a pyramid. The job of the Chair is to facilitate and gather what the Select Board members want and make sure that they get advanced. He wants to make sure that all members have access to the Administration Office and added that no one should be shut out. Additionally, Mr. Howell would like to make sure that everything runs smoothly as to the wishes of the Select Board members.

**Ms. Doucette moved to nominate Mr. Piekarski as Vice Chair of the Select Board, 2nd by Mr. Howell and approved 5-0-0.**

**Ms. Doucette moved to nominate Mr. Kelleher as Clerk of the Select Board, 2nd by Mr. Howell and approved 5-0-0.**

Mr. Howell asked to confirm with Mr. Handler that he is not interested in the chair, vice chair or clerk positions but asked if he would have interest in being on the interview committee. Mr. Handler responded that he would look forward to being on the interview committee.

**Mr. Howell moved to nominate Mr. Handler and Ms. Doucette to the interview committee, 2nd by Mr. Piekarski and approved 5-0-0.**

**STAFF COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Kara Mewhinney, Director of Cultural Affairs was present and presented one of the 28 seals that will be part of the 2025 Seals in the Park event. Seals in the Park is a fundraiser for The Children's Center, in collaboration with Harwich Cultural Districts, that features wooden seals decorated by local artists placed throughout Harwich for the community to silently bid on. All proceeds from this auction will go directly to The Children's Center. Bidding will run through the end of August, and this is the 2nd year that the proceeds will go to the center.

Ms. Mewhinney said that the Seaside Marketplace will start on July 2nd. Lists will be available at the 204, online and at the Harwich Chamber of Commerce.

Cranfest in the Courtyard will start on July 10th. Ms. Mewhinney outlined the various musicians that will be playing.

Summer concerts will kick off on June 30th at Brooks Park. All of the performances are free, and Cape Cones LLC will be providing food and refreshments.

Mr. Howell thanked Ms. Mewhinney for her efforts yesterday during the 32nd birthday event for the Harwich Children's Center.

Mr. Powers reported that the Select Board is being asked to sign the updated liquor license for Dive, Dine and Drink. The license was approved by the Alcoholic Beverages Commission.

Jamie Thornton, Reference Librarian from Brooks Free Library was present and reported that they have completed their meeting room upgrades which includes a new assisted listening system. Ms. Thornton outlined the upgrades that have been made and added that the project was funded in part through gifts of the James and Helen Athens Fund as well as existing line items. The staff are still working to learn the new system but would be happy to sit down ahead of the programs and help library visitors. For more information, please email brooksfreelibrary@clamsnet.org or call Brooks Free Library.

**WEEKLY BRIEFING**

Mr. Powers gave the Phase 3 sewer extension update, and a two week look ahead, highlighting the areas of work.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Susan Cyr from 118 Headwaters Drive was present. She stated that she is part of the 2025 Community Leadership Institute. She feels that the town needs a more robust communication strategy and hopes to have a topic on a future agenda. The institute is encouraged about Mr. Kelleher's comments about wanting more transparent information and the want for a newsletter. She feels that a communication strategy should be a multi-pronged approach and hopes to be on an upcoming agenda.

Patrick Otton was present and stated that he is happy to see a re-seating of the Select Board. He suggested the idea of having the Select Board Chair position rotate every 6 months and that way everyone would get the chance to lead, direct and organize.

Marjorie Paist from 1188 Orleans Road was present and thanked the Select Board for changing the date that beach stickers were available. She feels that there needs to be better signage to direct people and that more signs are needed at the Community Center. Ms. Paist added that she received information from a friend in Connecticut that said they know someone who named Bank Street Beach one of the best on the Cape.

Bernadette Waystack, Chair of the Harwich Cultural Council was present and invited all members of the Select Board and the public to the Council's reception which will be held on June 12th from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at 204 Sisson Road. The reception will be to celebrate and honor the recipients of the 2025 grants.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes from May 27, 2025

Mr. Handler noted an amendment needed on page 6 of the minutes to clarify that he was not in support of bringing someone back before the Select Board.

**Mr. Kelleher moved to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes from May 27, 2025, as amended, 2nd by Mr. Handler and approved 5-0-0.**

B. Vote to approve a Memorial Bench at Herring Run Conservation Lands in memory of Phread Ayers

**Mr. Kelleher moved to approve a Memorial Bench at Herring Run Conservation Lands in memory of Phread Ayers, 2nd by Mr. Handler and approved 5-0-0.**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

A. Public Hearing – Discussion and vote on the proposed Harbor Management Plan revisions as recommended by the Harbormaster

Mr. Piekarski read the public hearing notice.

**Mr. Handler moved to open the public hearing, 2nd by Mr. Piekarski and approved 5-0-0.**

John Harker, Harbormaster was present. The request is for the permitting of four additional special purpose moorings by the Harbormaster for Pleasant Bay Community Boating (PBCB). PBCB is a non-profit organization with a mission of boating and marine education, and therefore qualifies for the assignment of special purpose moorings. The 4 moorings will provide for additions to their catboat fleet and all moorings will be in front of properties owned by PBCB. Suzanne Leahy went before the Waterways Committee on April 16, 2025, on behalf of PBCB and received unanimous support. Mr. Harker added that this was an easy yes from him as well.

No public comment was heard.

**Mr. Piekarski moved to close the public hearing, 2nd by Mr. Handler and approved 5-0-0.**

**Mr. Handler moved to approve the proposed harbor management plan revisions as recommended by the Harbormaster and presented in the packet, 2nd by Mr. Piekarski and approved 5-0-0.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. Discussion and vote on the Select Board summer meeting schedule

Mr. Howell said that from his perspective, it seems to him that the Select Board takes the summer off and then talks about in March how far they are behind. He added that Mr. Kelleher would like to have the non-resident taxpayer meeting in August as well. If there is a week where there are no agenda items, he could see cutting a meeting out. Mr. Howell added that he wants to use Mr. Powers while he is here to hold weekly meetings.

Mr. Kelleher agreed with Mr. Howell and said that looking forward, if the Board reaches a point where they can go to a bi-weekly meeting, then it can be considered. He would be in favor of meeting weekly until there is a clear sense of where the Board is going.

Mr. Handler and Ms. Doucette agreed with Mr. Howell and Mr. Kelleher.

Mr. Piekarski noted that it is understood that there will be some meetings that members cannot attend because it is summer, but that he would be fine with keeping the weekly meetings.

Mr. Howell said that he would like to be able to have a section in the Board's drop box that would be for upcoming agendas. This would allow members time to digest information that is coming ahead for future agendas.

Mr. Howell said that the schedule would remain as weekly meetings at last for the next few weeks.

B. Vote to approve the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Holiday schedule

**Mr. Handler moved to approve the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 holiday schedule as presented, 2nd by Mr. Kelleher and approved 5-0-0.**

C. Review and approval of Conservation Restrictions at Cape Cod Rail Trail Overlook and the Red River Valley Preserve

Michael Lach, Executive Director of the Harwich Conservation Trust was present along with Thomas Evans. They are seeking the Select Board's approval of the outlined conservation restrictions that will preserve the land for conservation and water quality protection purposes.

The Cape Cod Rail Trail Overlook is located at 379 Main Street and would protect nearly 50 acres adjacent to the Cape Cod Rail Trail and protect scenic views from both the bike trail and Great Western Road. This property is owned by Raymond Thacher Jr., who is nearing retirement and has agreed to sell the property to Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT). He will continue to farm the cranberry bogs through 2026. HCT has begun the ecological restoration planning process. The protection of this property in perpetuity will provide future walking trail opportunities and will protect the water quality within the Herring River watershed. After design and permitting, the proposed future ecological restoration of the site will provide new and improved freshwater wetlands, offering valuable habitat for a diverse array of wildlife species. The property is being acquired by HCT utilizing, in part, assistance from the State's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Cranberry Bog Acquisition for Restoration grant program and the Town Community Preservation Act funds.

Mr. Kelleher asked if this would preclude in the future, in the unlikely thought that cranberry farming comes back, someone returning to the property for cranberry growing. Mr. Lach responded that it would. He added that of the public funding sources is a grant through the state and that one of the purposes of the grant program is to acquire bog properties for restoration. Mr. Howell followed up by asking if it would be physically capable of cranberry growing. Mr. Lach responded that it would not be under the conservation restriction because of the funding source.

**Mr. Handler moved to approve the conservation restrictions for Cape Cod Rail Trail Overlook and Red River Valley Preserve, 2nd by Mr. Piekarski and approved 5-0-0.**

D. Presentation by Mike Lach of the Harwich Conservation Trust; Eco-Restoration Design Evaluation at 374 Main Street

Michael Lach, Executive Director of the Harwich Conservation Trust was present. This project focuses on properties located at Harwich Conservation Trust's (HCT) 2 Deacons Folly Road, HCT's 379 Main Street (Kelley Street), and the easterly portion of the town-owned 374 Main Street (Kelley Street). The goals of the project are to complete a feasibility study and preliminary design for the ecological restoration of hydraulically connected cranberry bog properties within the Herring River watershed, to restore the retired cranberry bogs to naturally functioning wetlands and re-establish the historic stream channel connections to bring multiple ecological and water quality benefits and to explore the potential for nitrogen attenuation through eco-restoration to reduce the need for sewer infrastructure within the watershed. Mr. Lach reviewed the location in the herring river watershed of the three sites for the eco-restoration feasibility study and preliminary design.

Eco-restoration design services will be paid for by a $150,000 grant from The Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration. There will be no cost to the Town for the eco-restoration design services on the easterly portion of 374 Main Street that will be completed during this project, which will conclude by June 30, 2026. Mr. Lach informed the Board that HCT has consulted with Bob Sanborn at the Cape Cod Regional Technical High School and that Mr. Sanborn is in favor of the request.

Mr. Kelleher referred to the 6-million-dollar savings comment that was made and asked if that would mean that properties adjacent to the property would not need to have sewer brought to them. Mr. Lach responded that the 2016 Cold Brook study that was authored by CDM Smith and the School for Marine Science and Technology at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth had estimated up to a 6-million-dollar savings to taxpayers through the reduced need for wastewater infrastructure within the Saquatucket Harbor watershed. The study focused on the watershed and the developed areas within the watershed that would not otherwise need sewer because of the aspects of the eco-restoration project.

Mr. Kelleher asked about the Red River discussion and if that was the area where Chase Plumbing was located. There was mention of an education center, offices and event space, and Mr. Kelleher wanted to know what that would look like. Mr. Lach responded that Mr. Kelleher is referencing the previously approved conservation restriction property. The 3 owners of that property sold it and HCT was able to acquire it. On that property sits a 2,000 square foot home. HCT has been studying renovating that house or otherwise rebuilding an office at that location. The current HCT office is about ½ a mile down the road, and they are at their space limit.

Mr. Handler said that he would like to hear from Dan Pelletier. Mr. Pelletier was present and said that Mr. Lach had reached out to introduce the project and that he thinks it is a great opportunity for the town and that it is great that the data from Saquatucket is coming through.

Mr. Handler asked why the town would need to spend $20,000 if there is already good data from the Cold Brook project. Mr. Lach responded that the $20,000 is part of the states grant to create the 1st phase of the eco-restoration design across the three sites and would require funding from some source, if the town sees fit, to determine the nitrogen attenuation portion of the eco-restoration design. It would be up to the town if it would want to follow the approach that they did for the Cold Brook feasibility study or not. Mr. Pelletier added that it would prove to the regulatory agencies that sewer infrastructure would be reduced and that he wouldn't anticipate that HCT would be paying for the monitoring of the study.

Mr. Handler asked if it is too premature to ask about estimated cost savings. Mr. Pelletier responded that we are not there yet and there is not sufficient data to make an estimate. Mr. Lach added that cost savings would be one of the conclusions of a nitrogen attenuation feasibility study.

Mr. Piekarski asked if the project would have any impact on what the Cape Cod Regional Tech School is looking to do at the site. Mr. Lach responded that Mr. Sanborn is in favor of using the easterly portion.

Mr. Howell said that when you start doing these projects, they always look bad because you have to tear them apart to be able to put them back together. We are looking for alternative approaches as they make themselves available instead of sewering.

Matt Sutphin was present and stated that he had sent a letter back in January outlining his concerns of this property. Town Meeting had approved the Cape Cod Tech School to build a satellite campus at this property and Mr. Sutphin is not sure that anyone truly understood the scope. To him, this is the elephant in the room but added that he is excited that the trust wants to mitigate nitrogen loading. Mr. Sutphin is not sure that it would be a net plus if you are allowing a building to go up right next to the nitrogen attenuation. He does understand that the Cape Cod Tech School has a 3-year lease for the property to put their plan together and move forward, but Mr. Sutphin hopes that the 3-year lease will run out and that they will not be able to find the funding. He added that there may not be the need for a satellite school in the years to come. Mr. Sutphin would appreciate it if the 3-year lease ran out and the Select Board would find a way to give the entire 33 acres to the HCT to manage. Right now, the school leases the 33 acres for $1,000 a year.

Mr. Howell doesn't think that the attenuation program is designed to attenuate from that particular building. Thomas Evans confirmed that the projects are unrelated. The reason for contacting the Cape Cod Tech School was because they hold the lease on the property. This project will bring more information to bear and does not pose a cost to the town at this point. There will be more information to present 2 or 3 years down the road, and the Cape Cod Tech project is a bridge that can be crossed when we get there.

Mr. Howell suggested that the biggest part of the problem is that people feel that they have not been part of the process, but that he can assure that they will be a part of it going forward. That is the point of tonight's discussion.

Patrick Otton was present and asked about the Pine Oaks IV project and where that would be in relation to this project after it is built and developed. Mr. Howell said that responding to that question would be off topic, but roughly speaking, the flow of groundwater goes from North to South.

Mr. Otton asked what the 50% reference in the project title means. Mr. Lach responded that the town needs to consider if it wants to fund the study or not like it did for the 2016 Cold Brook study. The 50% design essentially means that it brings us to a certain point half-way through the design process because of the data collected. Once we have that level of design, we can then apply for other grants which will allow to move to the permitting process and then apply for funds for the actual construction.

Mr. Pelletier added that when the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan was developed, the amount of nitrogen needing to be removed included potential buildout. If Pine Oaks IV is outside of what would have been allowed within zoning, the town would need to consider the additional nitrogen loading and would need to accommodate and mitigate additional nitrogen removal. Mr. Howell noted that on a 40B application, you cannot bypass Title 5 septic requirements.

**Mr. Piekarski moved that the Select Board supports the inclusion the easterly portion of the town owned 374 Main Street property as described in the presentation within the design scope, 2nd by Mr. Handler and approved 5-0-0.**

E. Approve a 2025 Junk Dealer license renewal for Windsong Antiques, Inc., 346 Route 28

**Mr. Kelleher moved to approve a 2025 Junk Dealer license renewal for Windsong Antiques, Inc., 346 Route 28, 2nd by Mr. Piekarski and approved 5-0-0.**

F. Vote to approve a Special Permit Application for an event for the American Lung Association, to be held on September 26, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., for a bicycle ride event through the Town of Harwich

**Mr. Kelleher moved to approve a Special Permit Application for an event for the American Lung Association, to be held on September 26, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., for a bicycle**

**ride event through the Town of Harwich, 2nd by Mr. Handler and approved 5-0-0.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

A. Discussion on Town Administrator Search; votes may be taken

Mr. Piekarski is aware that the Assistant Town Administrator had sent the Board a draft request for proposals, but that he has not had a chance to look through it in its entirety. He appreciates that the document went out as quickly as it did but would like another day or so to review it.

Mr. Howell suggested bringing it back for the June 9th meeting.

Mr. Powers recommended that the Select Board take the time to review the document this week and respond back to the Assistant Town Administrator with comments. Having vendors come before the Board to ask questions would be tied to the overall request for proposal. The vendor that spoke to staff about coming before the Board was under the impression that the request for proposal would be released this week.

B. Second Reading of the policy on the 204 Café Policy; Discussion and Vote to adopt

Kara Mewhinney, Director of Cultural Affairs was present.

Mr. Kelleher asked about utility charges for the building and if there is the ability to get the bills and get a sense of what the gas and electric usage will be. Ms. Mewhinney responded that the utilities are not separately metered, but that we would be able to see an increase in the bills paid, which are paid through the Administration office. It is something that we can keep an eye on.

Mr. Kelleher asked how exhaust from the kitchen facility is handled. Ms. Mewhinney responded that there is a hood system in place, which is in good working order. If anyone were to cook in the kitchen, it is vented properly.

Mr. Kelleher asked who locks up the building at night. Ms. Mewhinney responded that it would be herself or the part-time program aid.

Mr. Kelleher suggested having a restauranteur in town do a walkthrough of the kitchen facility. Ms. Mewhinney responded that all the culinary instructors have walked through and met with staff on site to make sure that the facility has what they are looking for. There have been some suggestions made about what equipment might be needed in the future. All potential users of the kitchen are told that the facility is the way it is right now, but there may be room for future expansion.

Mr. Piekarski asked for information on waste removal. Ms. Mewhinney responded that there is a dumpster on site. Pick up used to be on an on-call basis, but after the new procurement took place, pick up has been changed to every other week, which was been sufficient for use over the past year. Ms. Mewhinney did provide draft language for the policy which states "Renters will be responsible for their own waste removal after each program and or use of the kitchen space. This will include all items related to food waste, scraps, materials, and other items used that would be required for disposal. All items should be bagged and properly disposed of to minimize any potential hazards and or other related risks."

Mr. Powers recommended that the Board hold off on the policy to make sure that all the correct language is encompassed. Mr. Howell noted that this would be put on another agenda for a final read.

Mr. Kelleher asked about pest control. Ms. Mewhinney responded that they will continue to monitor for any increased pest activity, and that there is already a pest management in place for the property.

C. Discussion on the contracted Wastewater Management Consultant, Waterworks LLC-Presentation by Dan Pelletier; update and next steps; votes may be taken

Dan Pelletier was present to provide an update to the Board. Since his contract has been signed, he has been trying to catch up with GHD. He was able to meet with the team a few weeks ago and had an additional discussion with Marc Drainville late last week. With regards to Great Sand Lakes, they are still waiting on a few decisions, including having the plans sent over to see what needs to be done. Mr. Pelletier briefly reviewed easement rights that will need to be taken prior to when construction would start and that he anticipates that within the next year or so. Mr. Pelletier recommended that the Select Board engage the Town of Chatham regarding them taking flow from Great Sand Lakes. He also suggested that the Board meet in Executive Session prior to the discussions with Chatham.

Mr. Howell asked if Mr. Pelletier knows the layout of what area they are planning to address from the approved warrant article. Mr. Pelletier responded that the area is North of the ponds and that he would try and get a GIS map to see the proposed sewer area. Mr. Pelletier added that he also spoke with GHD about effluent recharge and that he is aware there were discussions with Shawn Fernandes at Cranberry Valley Golf Course about using part of their area, but that part of the area is in a Zone II. It is possible to discuss some other effluent recharge areas.

Mr. Pelletier informed the Board that he has just received the proposed revisions to the sewer use regulations for the grinder pump policy.

Marc Drainville from GHD has asked Mr. Pelletier if he would be able to fill a temporary vacancy on the Pleasant Bay Alliance Steering Committee. The committee usually meets once or twice a month. Mr. Howell commented that he wants the public to understand that it is getting to the point where Harwich will not have any representation on the alliance, that it is slowly getting de-populated.

Mr. Powers said that technical resources and community representatives on the alliance still exist, and then we have GHD as well. If Mr. Pelletier is being asked to sit in for GHD, then it would not require a vote of the Board because it is a straight transaction between vendors. He added that staff is already working on additional appointments to the advisory board.

**Mr. Piekarski moved to approve expending the funds to have Mr. Pelletier represent GHD on the Pleasant Bay Alliance Steering Committee, 2nd by Mr. Kelleher and approved 5-0-0.**

Mr. Kelleher asked that if the Select Board decides to have a non-resident taxpayer meeting this summer, that Mr. Pelletier should be in attendance. Mr. Howell added that it would be valuable to have Mr. Pelletier there to answer questions. Mr. Handler voiced his support as well.

Mr. Kelleher asked that if we have so much under-utilized flow going to Chatham, why would we need to go back and negotiate with them about Great Sand Lakes flow. Mr. Pelletier responded that the intermunicipal agreement was drafted in support of cleaning up Pleasant Bay, which Harwich and Chatham mutually share. Great Sand Lakes does not go to Pleasant Bay, and should we want to send flow from outside of Pleasant Bay to Chatham, it would require an additional conversation.

Mr. Kelleher asked if there is a cost chart to show what Chatham charges Harwich for flow and if they could charge something that might not be reasonable. Mr. Pelletier responded that there are fixed expenses that are charged which reflect what Harwich has purchased for flow, and there are other flow variable expenses. The only way a big change could happen would be if one of the line items was arbitrarily fluffed, which would give Harwich the right to question Chatham.

Mr. Piekarski asked if Mr. Pelletier has identified an area for potential recharge. Mr. Pelletier responded that there is a site in East Harwich that he thinks would be viable, knowing that there would be limitations on the site, but in the grand scheme of the things, he feels that it should be open for discussion between the Select Board and the Water/Wastewater Department about potential future use of the parcel. Mr. Pelletier said that there is another potential parcel north of the highway behind Headwaters.

Mr. Piekarski said that when we talk about the Intermunicipal Agreement, his instincts tell him that if they wanted to address any of the changes when we engage Chatham for the 3A phase, that they could approach the subject if they were so inclined.

Mr. Piekarski asked how much area would be required for the recharge location. Mr. Pelletier responded that there are a lot of factors, including environmental ones, that can affect what can be discharged into the ground. There are very few areas in town that do not have water near them.

Mr. Piekarski asked how quickly and how frequently the recharged water can be tested to see what comes back. Mr. Pelletier responded that we have would the ability to sample as much as is required. When the effluent is being discharged from the treatment plan, bacterial samples are taken frequently. He added that this is a very well-regulated system, adding that if we wanted to test for things above what is state required, we would have to go out on our own for those.

Mr. Howell said that Chatham did test at certain points and found PFAS in their wells. Harwich's effluent and theirs gets combined and then put out. He wants to make sure that we are testing for emergency threats and see what might come back.

**CONTRACTS**

**Ms. Doucette recused herself and left the room at 7:38 p.m.**

A. Discussion and possible vote to approve a contract with RGB Architects for Owner's Project Management Services for Brooks Academy Museum in the amount not to exceed $100,000.

**Mr. Handler moved to approve a contract with RGB Architects for Owner's Project Management Services for Brooks Academy Museum in the amount not to exceed $100,000, 2nd by Mr. Kelleher and approved 4-0-0.**

B. Discussion and possible vote to approve a contract extension with Tighe and Bond for completion of the Local Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Handler asked if Christine Flynn, Director of Planning and Community Development could speak to this topic. Mr. Powers responded that what is being asked for is a time extension.

Ms. Flynn stated that the reason for the time extension request is to allow town staff and the Local Planning Committee additional time to conduct community outreach on the draft Local Comprehensive Plan (LCP) over the summer and early fall 2025 in the anticipation of a fall 2025 Special Town Meeting approval. In the event that a Special Town Meeting is hold held, the contractor, Tighe & Bond requests the time be further extended to June 30, 2026, to allow approval at the 2026 Annual Town Meeting. After that the LCP would need to be submitted and approved by the Cape Cod Commission.

Mr. Piekarski asked if there would be a future agenda item for additional compensation. Ms. Flynn responded that no additional compensation is anticipated at this time. Mr. Piekarski asked how close the contract is to hitting their budget at this point. Ms. Flynn responded that she did not have that exact number but could follow up tomorrow. Sharon Rooney from Tighe and Bond was present remotely and said that they have used about 90% of their budget. They are trying to retain some funds in the budget to accommodate for additional minor revisions needed over the summer by the committee or town staff. Mr. Piekarski asked Ms. Rooney if they anticipate exceeding their budget. Ms. Rooney responded that she does not. At this point, they are only asking for a time extension. Mr. Piekarski said that he was opposed to an additional funding request from 6 months ago and that he would be unlikely to support any additional funding requests in the future.

Mr. Handler feels that the Select Board should be updated with any new draft documents that have been produced. He can only imagine that there have been revisions made. Ms. Rooney responded that there have been substantial changes and that the document has progressed quite a way, adding that the information is available and can be easily shared.

Mr. Powers clarified that what is being asked of the Select Board tonight is in support of the LPC and for the creation of the Local Comprehensive Plan. There was an original year and a half agreement with Tighe and Bond. He is recommending that the Select Board accept the proposal tonight, otherwise it ends on July 1, 2025. The time extension being requested would go until June 30, 2026.

Mr. Howell said that the LPC came to the Select Board in late March/early April, and was given information that the plan was close to a final vote. The LPC is a construct of the Select Board, and there have been no updates since then. Before he would support any request, Mr. Howell would like an update from the Chair of the LPC and Ms. Flynn about where they are and what is holding up the process. Mr. Powers said that he would try and take staff out of the direct line of questioning. Mr. Howell responded that he would like the Chair of the LPC to come in to provide an updated report.

**Mr. Handler moved to approve and authorize the Select Board Chair to sign a contract extension with Tighe and Bond for completion of the Local Comprehensive Plan, 2nd by Mr. Piekarski and approved 3-1-0 (Howell opposed).**

**Ms. Doucette returned.**

C. Discussion and possible vote to approve a contract with MJT Enterprises Inc. in the amount of $192,000 for the purchase and delivery of heating oil

Mr. Powers reported that this has been organized in the past by the Barnstable County procurement office. The low bidder for heating oil, ultra-low Sulphur diesel fuel was MJT Enterprises, Inc d/b/a Cape Cod Oil. The town estimates a usage of 8000 gallons of heating oil in FT26. MJT Enterprises bid price at $2.40 per gallon was the lowest price, bringing the estimated cost to $192,000. Funding for this contract is appropriated through the operating budget for bulk fuel.

**Mr. Kelleher moved to approve a contract with MJT Enterprises Inc. not to exceed the amount of $192,000 for the purchase and delivery of heating oil, 2nd by Mr. Handler and approved 5-0-0.**

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Powers announced a contract through the Police Department for Sigma Tactical Wellness. This contract provides members of the Harwich Police Department with cardiovascular screening, allowing them to proactively manage their cardiac health. This is the 2nd year of the program for the Police Department. The contract amount quote is $10,000.

Mr. Kelleher feels that this is a great offering. Mr. Powers responded that both the Police and Fire Departments have line items for wellness programs to help support the health of their staff.

## SELECT BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Mr. Piekarski said that he appreciates that a non-resident taxpayer meeting is in the works.

Mr. Handler said that a couple of weeks ago he had asked the Administration Office to reach out to Chatham about future Monomoy discussions. He would like to make sure that Mr. Howell can work through the Town Administrator to have that meeting scheduled. Mr. Powers responded that he spoke with his counterpart in Chatham last week and will have additional information.

## CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was discussed.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Mr. Piekarski moved to adjourn the meeting of the Select Board at 8:01 p.m., 2nd by Mr. Handler and approved 5-0-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Clarke
Executive Assistant