COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN OF FALMOUTH

ANNUAL SPRING TOWN MEETING

Lawrence School
Lakeview Avenue
Falmouth, Massachusetts

MODERATOR: David T. Vieira

Monday, April 4, 2011
7:00 p.m.

Carol P. Tinkham
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Carol P. Tinkham
(508) 759-9162
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THE MODERATOR: Okay, all Town Meeting Members present please come forward and take your seats. Okay, all Town Meeting Members present please come forward and take your seats.

Don’t forget to check in this evening. Attendance is being taken and will be published in the Falmouth Enterprise.

Okay, all Town Meeting Members present please come forward so that we can establish a quorum. Can we – I don’t know who’s controlling the sound tonight, but could we turn up the sound levels, please?

I’d like to make an announcement for the Falmouth Spring litter cleanup, April 16th to April 23rd. There’s a flyer with contact names and numbers; there’s one up in the lobby. I believe Ms. Abbott also has one. It tells you the neighborhood coordinators. Again, this is for the Falmouth spring litter clean up, April 16th to the 23rd.

At this point, we’d like to establish a quorum. All Town Meeting Members present please
rise for the establishment of a quorum. Our
tellers this evening in the first division will be Mrs. Tashiro; in the second division will be Mr. Dufresne; and in the third division will be Mr. Hampson.

[Pause.]

THE MODERATOR: In the third division, Mr. Hampson?

MR. HAMPSOON: 60.

THE MODERATOR: 60.

In the first division, Mrs. Tashiro?

MRS. TASHIRO: 52.

THE MODERATOR: 52.

In the second division, Mr. Dufresne?

MR. DUFRESNE: 85.

THE MODERATOR: 85.

By a counted vote of 197 we have a quorum and I call the Annual Town Meeting into session.

All rise for the presentation of the colors by Coastal Patrol 18 Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol.

Please follow me in the Pledge of Allegiance.
[Pledge of Allegiance taken.]

THE MODERATOR: At this time, the
Falmouth Band Brass Choir will do the National
Anthem.

[National Anthem played.]

THE MODERATOR: At this time, our
invocation will be by Mr. Lynch.

MR. LYNCH: Heavenly Father, may our
meeting this evening not only be an exercise of
care and concern for our community and its
residents but also an example of how a community
can agree and disagree and still be a community.
We ask you to watch over and protect our
families, our community, our nation, our deployed
soldiers and their families, and our world. May
your gift of peace become a reality for all.
Amen.

THE MODERATOR: At this time, we’ll
pause for a moment in silence of all those
Members who have passed since our last meeting,
and in particular I bring to memory Janet Hand, a
longtime Town Meeting member and former member of
our Planning Board.

[Moment of Silence.]
THE MODERATOR: Colors post.

[Pause.]

[Colors posted.]

THE MODERATOR: Civil Coastal Patrol 18 Squadron, you are dismissed.

[Applause.]

THE MODERATOR: Our Civil Air Patrol Unit, Coastal Patrol 18 Squadron that was here this evening, dedicated a plaque out behind the Nickelodeon Theater out at the old airfield about a week ago in honor of all of the civil air patrol volunteers who flew out of that airstrip during the second World War.

So, next time you have a chance and you’re down off of Route 151, if you go out back beyond the Nickelodeon Theater all the way down to the field, you can see the dedicated plaque out there that talks a little bit about our civil air patrol history here in Falmouth.

At this time, I’d like to start with the dispensing of the reading of the warrant. Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN PUTNAM: Mr. Moderator, I move to dispense with the reading of the warrant
except for the Officer’s Return.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, you’ve all heard the main motion to dispense with the reading of the warrant. All those in favor, signify by saying “Aye”.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed, “No.”

[None opposed.]

THE MODERATOR: The Ayes have it; we’ll dispense with the reading of the warrant.

I’ll now read the Officer’s Return of the Warrant. By virtue of this warrant, I have this day notified and summoned the inhabitants of the Town of Falmouth qualified to vote on town affairs, as said warrant directs, by posting an attested copy thereof in Town Hall and in every precinct in the town. Signed Constable Jim Crossen.

Mr. Clerk, I ask that the warrant become an official part of the record for the meeting.

At this time, the Chair would entertain a motion for non-town meeting members to sit up front with their respective boards and
committees.

FROM THE FLOOR: So moved.

THE MODERATOR: So moved. All those in favor, signify by saying Aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed, No.

[None opposed.]

THE MODERATOR: The Ayes have it.

At this time, the Chair would entertain a motion for Town employees who are not residents of the Town to speak - the right to speak on any issue before this Town Meeting.

FROM THE FLOOR: Moved.

THE MODERATOR: So moved. All those in favor, signify by saying Aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed, No.

[None opposed.]

THE MODERATOR: The Ayes have it.

At this time, I’ll recognize the Planning Board for notification of Public Hearing.

MR. VOLOSEVICH: Mr. Moderator, in accordance with Chapter 40A, Section 5,
Massachusetts General Law, and Article 43 of the Falmouth Zoning Bylaw, public hearings were held on February 8th, 2011 on Articles 8, 9 and 10 for Annual Spring Town Meeting, and all those who wished to speak were heard.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, at this time, we’ll briefly review the Rules of Town Meeting. If you open up the back cover of your warrant booklet.

Town Meeting Rules. Speaking and Voting. Registered voters, residents and taxpayers of the town may speak on any article in the warrant. Persons who are not voters, residents or taxpayers of the town may address the Meeting only with the consent of a majority of those present.

Only Town Meeting members may vote.

Motions and Amendments. Motions and Amendments may be made only by Town Meeting members.

Two amendments will be accepted on any article.

Long or complicated motions, and other motions which he shall so request, shall be
presented to the Moderator in writing.

Reconsideration. Reconsideration will be allowed at any time during the meeting if the article does **not** involve the appropriation of money.

If the article involves the appropriation of money, notice of reconsideration must be given within 30 minutes of the vote on the article. Reconsideration may then be allowed at any future time.

The Moderator shall determine if the motion to reconsider is in order. Motions for reconsideration must be based on substantially new information not available to the Meeting at the time of the original debate. The motion to reconsider is not debatable.

Our Hours of Operation: seven o’clock tonight; each subsequent night seven o’clock, and we’ll leave at 11:00 unless Mr. Hampson makes a motion to go after and we approve it by a two-thirds vote.

We also have a new rule that the Rules Committee announced at the last Town Meeting during their committee report, that any
presentations, whether they be under the Committee Report article or presentations on a warrant article, are limited to a maximum of 15 minutes. The Clerk will notify me when we’ve hit the 15 minute mark and the speaker will be shut off. If the speaker believes that they really need more than that 15 minutes, they can request a specific amount of time and that additional allotment of time will require a two-thirds vote of Town Meeting members to extend the time for their presentation.

I ask that Town Meeting Members please identify yourselves each time by name and precinct when you get up to speak for our sign language interpreters and for our stenographer for the record.

At this time, we’ll begin with the blanket vote. For the blanket vote, I will go through each article, call your attention to the recommendation. If you’d like to hold the article to have it amended or if you’d like to debate the article, just stand up and yell, “Hold”, the Clerk will make a note of it. At the end of going through with a brief description
all of the articles, I’ll run through the warrant quickly a second time just by number, and then I’ll entertain a motion to accept all articles that were not held as recommended as the official action of the Town Meeting, and then we’ll serve notice of reconsideration.

Article 1, to choose all necessary Town Officers, is a hold. Article 2, to hear reports, is a hold.

Article 3, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to settle claims and suits. Article 4, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and accept state or federal grants. Article 5, to assume liability for work to be performed by the Department of Public Works of Massachusetts. Article 6, to fix the salaries of elected officials.

MR. ALVES: Hold.

THE MODERATOR: Who’s holding? Mr. Alves.

Article 7, to authorize the continued use of revolving funds.

Article 8, to amend the Zoning Bylaw, deleting Article II, building permit limitation,
and insert the following: Article II - Building Permit Moratorium - Windmills.

Article 9 -

CHAIRMAN KERFOOT: Hold.

THE MODERATOR: Hold by the Planning Board.

Article 10, vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw, Section 240-72.1.D, Water Resource Protection Zoning Districts, Coastal Pond Overlay, District Zone II’s, the recommendation of the Planning Board is indefinite postponement.

Article 11, to amend the Town’s Classification Plan.

MS. KOZENS-LONG: Hold.

THE MODERATOR: Where are we at for the hold? Ms. Kozens-Long.

Article 12 is a hold by the Finance Committee; that’s the Annual Budget.

Article 13, vote to amend the Local Room Occupancy Excise Tax to a rate of six percent. The recommendation is indefinite postponement.

Article 14, to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money to be allocated to supplement the Fiscal Year ‘12 Falmouth School
Department budget. The recommendation is indefinite postponement.

Article 15 –
CHAIRMAN PUTNAM: Hold.
THE MODERATOR: That’s a hold by the Board of Selectmen.

Article 16, to raise and appropriate the sum of $25,498 for funding the deficit of the Main Street Phase II Project.

Article 17.
THE MODERATOR: A hold.

Article 18, vote to appropriate $1,500,000 for the engineer, design, and construct repairs, modifications and improvements to the Town’s sewer system and to authorize borrowing.

Article 19, to appropriate a sum of money to complete the remaining Massachusetts Estuary Project studies. The recommendation is indefinite postponement.

Article 20. I’m going to hold Article 20 because we have – for those of you that attended precinct meetings, we have an Article 6
in the Special Town Meeting that addresses the same issue, and what we’re going to do here is we’re going to hold Article 20 and pass it over until we make a decision tomorrow night whether or not to move forward with Article 6 of the Special Town Meeting, and then we’ll come back into the Annual Town Meeting at the end of the Special and take the necessary action on Article 20. So Article 20 is a hold.

Article 21, to appropriate a sum of money to replace or install water mains and necessary things to required the improved reliability, hydraulics and water quality on Old Barnstable Road; indefinite postponement.

Article 22 –

CHAIRMAN PUTNAM: Hold.

THE MODERATOR: – is a hold by the Board of Selectmen. I’ve got a new main motion – a positive main motion for that.

Article 23, to vote to –

MS. JOHNSON: Hold.

THE MODERATOR: Ms. Johnson. This is the Shining Sea Bikeway.

Article 24.
MR. WAASDORP: Hold please.

THE MODERATOR: Hold by Mr. Waasdorp.

Article 25 -

FROM THE FLOOR: Hold.

THE MODERATOR: Article 26, vote to modify the membership of the Bikeways Committee by changing the police safety officer's role from ex officio member to consultant, and directing the Selectmen to appoint a regular member to fill the seat made vacant by this change.

Article 27 -

CHAIRMAN PUTNAM: Hold.

THE MODERATOR: It's a hold by the Board of Selectmen.

Article 28 is a hold by the Finance Committee.

Okay, we'll run through one more time.

Article 1 is a hold. Article 2 is a hold.

Article 3. Article 4. Article 5. Article 6 is a hold.

Article 7. Article 8.

FROM THE FLOOR: Hold.

MR. MODERATOR: Who's holding?
Article 9 is a hold. Article 10.

Article 11 is a hold. Article 12 is a hold. Article 13. Article 14.

Article 15 is a hold. Article 16.

Article 17 is a hold. Article 18. Article 19.

Article 20 is a hold. Article 21.

Article 22 is a hold. Article 23 is a hold. Article 24 is a hold. Article 25 is a hold.

Mr. Chairman for the main motion.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Moderator, I move that all articles that have been passed and not held be and hereby are adopted as recommended as the official action of this meeting, and that the necessary monies for the same shall be raised and appropriated or as otherwise specified.
THE MODERATOR: Okay, you’ve all heard the main motion on the blanket as recommended. All those in favor, signify by saying Aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed, no.

[None opposed.]

THE MODERATOR: The Ayes have it unanimous.

Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Moderator, I hereby serve notice of reconsideration of all articles passed under the blanket vote.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, notice of reconsideration has been served.

Okay, Article 1, to choose necessary officers, this is the selection of the Finance Committee. I have before me the names of five current members of the Finance Committee that would like to be submitted for renomination.

They’re Charles Eastman, three year term; Judith Magnani, three year term; Deborah Maguire, three year term; Robert Ripley, three year term; and Daniel Shearer, three year term.

Are there any further nominations for
the Finance Committee? Hearing none, the Chair would entertain a motion to close nominations. So moved. All those in favor, signify by saying Aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: Opposed no.

[None opposed.]

THE MODERATOR: The Ayes have it. The nominations are closed.

All those in favor of the slate as presented, signify by saying Aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: Opposed, no.

[None opposed.]

THE MODERATOR: The ayes have it unanimous.

Congratulations to our five members of the Finance Committee, welcome back.

**Article 2**, to hear reports of Committees and town officers. I’ve got five groups. I’ve got the Town Manager Selection Committee, the CPC, the Falmouth High School Building Committee, the Selectmen and the Finance Committee.

Any other committees that want to make a
report this evening? Okay, Mr. Chairman for the main motion.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Moderator, I move that the Town vote Article 2 as printed.

THE MODERATOR: Article 2 as printed.

Okay, the Town Manager Selection Committee.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDER: Mr. Moderator and Town Meeting Members, good evening.

All I would like is if you could put that one slide up for me, please.

The Town Manager Screening Committee is hard at work and we would like all of you to know that there will be several opportunities for you to come and express your wishes and your hopes for qualities and experience that the Town Manager should have, the new Town Manager.

First, coming up on the 19th from 4:30 to 5:30, the entire committee and consultant Tom Groux will meet in the Selectmen’s Meeting Room with any employees that would like to stop in and talk with us. And then that evening, from 7:00 to 8:30 in Morse Pond School auditorium we will be available to the public. And additionally Mr. Groux would like to share his email address so
That if somebody isn’t available to come at that
time, that they would – anyone can feel free to
e-mail tgroux@comcast.net and share some thoughts
you might have on that selection process.

So, thank you very much for that and we
look forward to working – to hopefully by the
turn of the season from spring to summer we
should – we’re hoping to have some names to
present to the Selectmen. Thank you for your
assistance in that.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, any questions for
the Town Manager Selection committee?

Barbara, while you’re up, why don’t we
do the Community Preservation Committee.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDER: Well, I said to
you all when we voted on Glen Rogers working with
some film that he came across that I’d love to be
able to have popcorn and a showing. And Glen
worked diligently over the last month to take
some clips from his films and we’re going to show
them to you tonight. And thanks to the Falmouth
Cinema Pub we have popcorn out in the lobby,
which I hope you did take on your way in. And
thank you to my husband for handing that out
while I was in a meeting.

I also would like to tell everybody that this Thursday at 4:30 in the Selectmen’s Meeting Room we will run a session for anyone who is thinking of applying for Community Preservation Funds for the November Town Meeting. Those applications will be due on June 3rd and so please come and talk with us this Thursday at 4:30 if you have any questions. The warrant will close on September 2nd.

So, please enjoy the films. I’m guessing that Andy Dufresne will recognize every vehicle and every building and every person.

[Laughter.]

[Whereupon, film clips played.]

[Applause.]

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDER: Glen, will you stand up so we can all acknowledge you, please?

Thank you so much. Glenn’s here with us tonight.

Thank you, Glen.

[Applause.]

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDER: And just so you know: these will be available on You Tube; they’ll be in the libraries. We’re going to give
them to FCTV, so there will be lots of
opportunities to see these in better lighting and
they’re lots of fun to watch when you start
seeing some of the longer segments. Thank you
again.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. Our next
committee report, the Falmouth High School
Building Committee. Mr. Johnson.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Mr. Moderator,
Donald Johnson, Precinct 4, Chairman of the
Falmouth High School Building Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Town Meeting
members. Our report this evening is composed of
a two page handout, a brief opening statement,
some 25 pictures and a closing statement.

This night has been long in coming. We
hope that this is our final report. The project
has been one of the most complicated ones in the
Town’s history and problems arose which none of
us could have foreseen.

On the other hand, when they did, it was
the collective wisdom of the energies put forth
by all the Town officials, including all of you,
to ensure this completion.
We are now at that point. Students and staff have been enjoying the school this academic year and reaping the benefits of an educational facility second to none. Despite a few remaining items, this project is substantially complete.

I am pleased to report to you tonight that an agreement has been reached, and signed this evening, with the general contractor that establishes the final closeout procedures and costs of this project. The project is well within the current budget appropriations and the current financial status is shown on the second page of our handout.

Let us get started with the pictures.

Next slide, please. The main entrance to the high school.

Next slide, please. This is a student-prepared and designed mural in the main entrance.

Next slide. This is our trophy display case in the main entrance area.

Next slide, please. The Memorial Garden area. The view also shows the wind turbine in the background and the photovoltaic panels that are mounted on the auditorium wall.
There are additional panels on the main school roof.

Next slide, please. Entrance to the field house.

Next slide, please. New facility: the east wall and main entrance of the new gymnasium. This is a community as well as an instructional facility, with separate locker room facilities.

Next slide, please. This is the north entrance to the new gym area.

Next slide, please. The main gym, new gym facility, with bleachers that are on both sides of the gym. You actually are looking at the field house side, here.

Next slide, please. Our newly renovated library facility.

Next slide. This in the main entrance, the main stairway to the lower level. Note the graphics done by students in the display area at the top of this picture.

Next slide. This is one of our three dining facilities.

Next slide, please. Light-well area.

There are three of these in the building letting
light in from up above to all three floors.
This area is an art display area.

Next slide, please. Our auditorium facility with a totally renovated stage facility and seating for 500.

Next slide, please. A T.V. studio control room, with all its up-to-date technology.

Next slide, please. Another light well area that’s used as a small group instruction facility.

Next slide, please. This is the main guidance office area and student work area. The counselor’s offices are to your right on this picture.

Next slide, please. This is a typical classroom. Please note the smart board on the wall and the projector on the ceiling in the center of the room. All classrooms contain appropriate modern technology.

Next slide, please. A 40 seat language laboratory.

Next slide, please. One of our ten science lab facilities in the building.

Next slide, please. Graphic art
technology area. Traditional art facilities with kilns and other drawing areas are located in adjacent rooms to this facility.

On the lower level is our wood shop area.

The next slide is again a picture of the wind turbine, a 10 KW demonstration and educational tool that is up and working.

The next slide is a south elevation; I’ll call your attention to the center of the picture which has our early childhood education play area.

Next slide. The northwest side of the building includes our loading dock and three cafeteria patio areas.

And finally, in conclusion, I would like to thank the members of our Building Committee for the many, many hours of service in seeing this project to conclusion.

As a Committee, we thank all the students, past and present; the faculty, parents and the community for their understanding and patience and support.

I can find no better way of recognizing
this community’s accomplishment than the article from the Cape Cod Times: “Falmouth Builds A School For the Students”, by Sarah Bouchie, that is attached to your report.

And on the back of your report is our current financial statement.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Any questions for the Falmouth High School Building Committee?

CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Thank you.

[Applause].

THE MODERATOR: Okay. Thank you.

The Board of Selectmen.

CHAIRMAN PUTNAM: Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen, Brent Putnam, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

Although it is not required by the Charter, I think it’s important that the executive branch of our Town government, the Selectmen and Town Manager’s Office, keep our legislative branch, Town Meeting, informed. And so tonight I present what I hope will become an annual State of the Town address.

You may recall that saying about the
glass, the water, that’s – whether it’s half full
or half empty depending on whether you’re a
pessimist or an optimist. So, is that glass half
full or is it half empty?

There are those that see it as half
empty. The Town is being sued over water
pressure and windmills. We’ve had hiring freezes
and staff reductions in many departments. Our
infrastructure is showing its age, from failing
sewer pipes and rusty tap water, to pothole-
covered streets. A decade ago, Falmouth had more
free cash than virtually every other community in
Massachusetts, yet today our reserves are
deprecated and our bond rating has slipped ever so
slightly.

There is the issue of nitrogen, and the
potential for a long, large, and expensive
cleanup project.

After all that, it may seem difficult to
be optimistic, but I am. Problems on Blacksmith
Shop Road are not new. Twenty years ago, it was
odor from a malfunctioning sewer plant. It took
some time and effort, but we resolved that
problem and we will resolve the issues
surrounding the wind turbines.

On the budget front we have come a long way. In my first year as Selectman, we spent just 30 minutes in one meeting discussing the budget. After starting with a budget workshop this past August, the Board and Town Manager’s Office have devoted many hours and many meetings over many months to the Operating Budget. Last fall the Board issued, for the first time, a budget policy statement that established a limit on spending. Where Falmouth had been increasing spending by three or four percent per year over the past decade, this year the spending increase was held to just 1.5 percent.

As Finance Committee Chairman Gary Anderson has pointed out, our Capital Plan needs some attention. In November, the Board recommended and Town Meeting approved the Local Meals Tax. So that we can begin to make progress on stabilizing our finances and financing our Capital Projects, the Board specifically earmarked 25 percent of the Meals Tax for Capital projects and 25 percent for Stabilization.

As part of our efforts to improve
transparency and accountability, the Board implemented a fraud policy earlier this year. This policy not only protects our public resources, but it protects those Town employees who look out for the public by speaking out.

If this isn’t reason enough to be optimistic, the Board is looking ahead and taking action on many items. Last year, the Board held a workshop to update the Coastal Resources section of the Five Year Strategic Plan and begin the process of preserving and enhancing our coastal resources: fishing, aquaculture, beaches, harbors.

Tonight, we ask you to join us and invest in our beaches. The Finance Committee has recommended against financing the redesign of the Ellen Mitchell Bath House at Surf Drive Beach. Although we respect their opinion, we disagree with the suggestion that this is a want. Our beaches are a profit center, returning approximately a million dollars to the Town’s General Fund every two years. If the beaches or beach facilities are substandard, we put that revenue in jeopardy.
Article 17 will provide the funds needed to begin addressing the nitrogen problem. The wastewater management plan accepted by the Board earlier this year includes not only a provision to begin sewering where it’s absolutely needed, but also to explore and test alternatives that hold the promise of cleaning up our ponds and estuaries more quickly and less expensively. And the Board is committed to fully exploring those alternatives. You may recall that just a week ago we held a workshop to determine the next steps that are needed on that front.

Also on the warrant is a petitioner’s article endorsed by both the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health, which would utilize the existing Title V inspection process to gather data on nitrogen. This article will close the gap between what we think and what we know. There’s been a lot of criticism of the MEP model that establishes those TMDL’s we’ve all heard about. With the hard data that this article would help us obtain, we will be able to prove or disprove the accuracy of that model.

There’s a lot here. But there’s a lot
of work to be done, too.

Not long ago, Selectman Braga shared
with me his thoughts on the difference between
interests and commitment. "If you’re
interested," he said, "You do it when it’s
convenient. If you’re committed, you only accept
results." As we look beyond this Town Meeting,
we must remember this, we must remain committed
to getting results.

The upcoming election in May will bring
change to the Board. There will be one, if not
two selectmen -- new selectmen. Within the next
few months the Board will be selecting a new Town
Manager, and if what I’m hearing is true, there
is still a move, an effort afoot, to create a
Charter Commission to consider changing our form
of government. These changes will have long-
lasting effects, but it should not deter us from
getting the job done.

For this budget year, the Acting Town
Manager introduced Program Budgeting. Now we
need to take it one step further and implement
full costing of services. Although we’ve begun
to address the issues with our Capital Budget, we
will need to improve the plan and how that plan
is managed and implemented.

Behind the scenes, the Acting Town
Manager has been working with department heads to
combine redundant departments and improve the
delivery of services. Basically, to do more
with less. This process must continue in earnest
throughout Town government. Economically,
Falmouth has fared better than some Massachusetts
communities, but as I said at a recent joint
meeting of the Planning Board, EDIC and Board of
Selectmen, we must strive to make Falmouth one of
our nation’s best places to live and to work.

A week from tomorrow, a subcommittee of
members of the Planning Board, the EDIC and the
Board of Selectmen, will be meeting to discuss
Falmouth’s economic future. And, in case you
haven’t heard, the Board is still seeking
applicants for the Bylaw Review Committee and the
Charter Review Committee. These two committees
are temporary, formed every five and seven years
respectively, to review our bylaws and the
Charter and to make recommendations to keep Town
government efficient and up to date.
After hearing all this, you might think that the glass is overflowing. We’ve accomplished a lot, but there’s still a lot of work left to be done. And so I’ll leave you with this thought this evening, that tomorrow the sun will rise and it will shine on Falmouth. That glass is half full.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, any questions for the Board of Selectmen?

[Applause.]


CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Good evening. I’m Gary Anderson from the Finance Committee. Tonight I’m going to spend a few minutes talking about a road map to financial stability for Falmouth. One of the interesting things about a road map is it’s only useful if you know where you’re going. And sometimes, even with a map, it’s easy to get off course by taking a side trip or a detour. This annual town meeting and our special town meeting have several such side trips and potential detours on our way to financial stability.

Over the next couple nights, we must pay
close attention to the articles, think through
the ramifications of each decision and make sure
we stay on course.

This past month, there have been several
reports giving hopeful information about an
economic recovery. We’ve seen a slight
improvement in the unemployment rate and the
stock market has begun an uncertain but steady
rise. I, too, am of the belief that recovery is
underway.

But the truth is, is that it’s a very
fragile recovery. There are many global risks
still awaiting resolution. Unrest in the Middle
East is driving speculation in the oil market.
The horrendous earthquake/tsunami and the
subsequent nuclear disaster in Japan have shaken
world markets and affected consumer buying
behavior. And the frighteningly large deficits
and our rapidly growing national debt raise fear
of inflation and rising taxes in the U.S.

For Falmouth, the news is mixed.
Although we continue to see reductions in state
aid, our local receipts revenue appears to be
stabilizing. Even though the overall property
values in the Town of Falmouth have gone down, real estate collections continue to rise modestly due to Proposition 2 ½. The optimists among us may see all this as reason to relax. Whenever you go through a bad experience, it's natural to feel some relief when you take a turn for the better.

However, this may be the most dangerous period for Falmouth. The reality is that our town is entering a very critical phase on our road to recovery. We’ve done some of the hard work to get the worst of the Town’s immediate fiscal problems under control. The challenge that we have before us now is to choose only those actions which will be a catalyst in speeding Falmouth to financial recovery.

How do we do that? By continued spending restraint, spending only what is necessary.

There are several warrant articles requesting to add to budgets, buy new things, and undertake projects which may improve the cosmetic appeal of the Town. It’s not easy to say, “No, not now”. But if we want to continue making
progress toward our destination of financial
stability, we must stay focused.

Beyond fiscal restraint, there are other
actions that we must take to strengthen our
financial position. One key opportunity to
reduce costs is to streamline the Town’s
organization structure. We need to consolidate
redundant functions and improve the flow of
communication. Reorganizing before a new Town
Manager is hired would allow him or her to focus
on the key problems which continue to plague the
Town.

The Finance Committee has suggested to
Town leaders that acting now could pay immediate
dividends and cost savings. To date, our
observation is that they hear our words, but we
don’t see their actions.

You might be asking, “What does the
future hold and what else should be done?” Last
fall, Dr. Antonucci asked the Town Manager and
the Finance Committee to do a projection of
revenues, operating expenses and Capital Plan
needs for the next five years. Without putting
a spreadsheet of numbers up on the screen up
here, here’s an overview of what we see for the near future. After Fiscal Year 12, State Aid is likely to slow its downward trajectory and flatten out. Or, if we’re lucky, perhaps even begin a slight upward trend. Absent another economic downturn, our local receipts should continue their current moderate increase.

For example, the average age of an automobile in Falmouth is over ten years. At some point our residents will need to begin to replace them -- like me. That should have a positive impact on car excise tax revenues.

After Fiscal Year ’12, we’ll also have a better picture of the magnitude of the Meals revenue which was passed last fall. Property taxes, which are our most stable revenue source, will continue to increase at a slow but steady rate. This revenue outlook appears slightly favorable, but the five year expense forecast for our Operating Budget raises concern.

We anticipate that some level of wage increases will be expected by employees. Some departments insist they need more staff to deliver their services. With limited ability to
make changes in our health care plans, we see
continued upward pressure on costs in the range
of 7 to 10 percent or more annually.

These issues, along with a huge dilemma
of our $50 million pension unfunded liability and
the $110 million health care unfunded liability,
continue to plague us as intractable structural
problems.

Another fly in the ointment is the
annual snow and ice deficit. Hopefully we’re not
going to experience what we just saw in the
movie, there. But it just seems to continue to
defy climate change predictions.

Since a balanced operating budget is
required each year, future years will likely
necessitate more cost or service reductions,
greater efficiencies, or new fees and tax
increases. Not a sunny forecast, but we believe
it’s a realistic one.

The issues with our Capital Budget seem
even more difficult. Other than a nominal
$125,000 from the Meals Tax, there are currently
no ongoing dependable sources of revenue
identified for our capital needs. Since Free
Cash has become an unreliable funding source,

Town leaders have crossed their fingers, hoping

that voters will volunteer to increase their

property taxes to fund the Capital Budget. So

far, these hopes haven’t always been fulfilled.

We’ve estimated the Town needs between
two to three million dollars to fund ongoing

annual Capital necessities such as building and

road maintenance, sewer and water main repairs

and police cruisers. Beyond these ongoing annual

needs are large, critical, one-time budget

projects dealing with water and wastewater

treatment. Tonight and tomorrow night we will

debate possible solutions in funding to resolve

this resource and the risks which are essential
to our financial and physical health of the Town.

We can’t afford any lack of action on

these key issues which are threatening.

To paraphrase what author Henry Miller

has said, rather than bludgeon one another will

theories gleaned from cursory readings of

newspapers and sound bytes from T.V., I hope

we’ll talk. We must have an open and honest

discussion and approve actions to begin resolving
the critical issue of water quality.

The Finance Committee is attempting to find solutions by taking two new steps. The first is creating a Capital Planning Advisory Group. This group will develop recommendations to the Finance Committee which include a definition of Capital assets and project, an evaluation of the Town’s inventory of its physical assets, identifying capital needs and priorities and generating ideas for funding sources.

The Finance Committee’s second initiative is to recommend the Town create a committee to study ideas for regionalization. Selectman Pat Flynn, who also serves as a Barnstable County Commissioner, might be a logical choice to participate and lead this group. Each town throughout the Commonwealth performs many of the same functions as those performed within our community. We can no longer afford to ignore the enormous potential for saving taxpayer dollars that could result from consolidating these functions and services with neighboring towns. We’re not saying it’ll be
easy, and there might be some hiccups along the way, but we no longer accept the worn out excuse of it won’t work here.

I might sound like a bit of broken record, but this road map can help us get to our desired destination of financial stability. It won’t come quickly, but Town Meeting, by exercising spending restraint and urging decisive action on reorganization, consolidation and regionalization, will show it is accountable and take seriously the fiscal responsibility entrusted to us by the public. We owe it to our taxpayers, citizens and visitors to be good stewards of all the resources of this wonderful Town. Thank you.

[Applause.]

THE MODERATOR: Any questions for the Finance Committee? Mr. Johnson.

MR. JOHNSON: Leonard Johnson, Precinct 5. I’d like to thank Mr. Anderson for his excellent report and for the outstanding articles, most of which I agree with, that have appeared in the Falmouth Enterprise.

I think we need a third group to study a
major obligation that the Town has that Mr. Anderson mentioned. We have a 53 million dollar - million dollar - unfunded pension liability and we have over a hundred million dollar obligation to pay future health care benefits for Town employees when they retire.

We’ve had talk about it; I think we need a group to come up with some action steps. There are clear things that we can do to address these issues and there are many options that could reduce the potential obligation that the Town faces. So I respectfully request the Finance Committee and the Selectmen form a group to look at the various options that the Town has for these very large obligations that we face in the future. Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, any further questions for the Finance Committee?

Hearing none, the - Mr. Latimer.

MR. LATIMER: Thank you, I’ll be brief. Seriously. We have to address -

THE MODERATOR: Come on, Folks.

MR. LATIMER: We have to address the question of being proactive in raising revenues.
Mr. Anderson gave lip service to revenues, talking about passive, passive ways of getting — increasing money, depending on outside sources. We have to do all the things he did mention, but it’s like trying to address a problem with one hand tied behind our back. Costs aren’t going to go down. Costs are going to go up. So if we don’t increase our revenues to keep pace with costs, we’re ultimately going to wind up with nothing. And I think the mandate that this meeting should give to the Finance Committee is to start looking pro-actively at ways to raise revenues. Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, any further discussion — or, questions?

The question will come on the main motion to accept all the reports we’ve heard tonight. All those in favor, signify by saying Aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed, no.

[None opposed.]

THE MODERATOR: The Ayes have it.

We’re on Article 6.
Article 6, Mr. Chairman, this is to fix
the salaries of elected officials.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Moderator, I
move Article 6 as recommended.

THE MODERATOR: This was held by Mr.
Alves. Microphone for Mr. Alves.

MR. ALVES: John Alves, Precinct 3.

Basing the financial needs of the community
presently in the layoff of some of the Town
employees and the changes in their duties, why
are the ones being laid off being basically not
changed to a job that would help them make up the
hours that they lose in their current position?
That’s all that I have.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Article 6 is to
fix the salaries of the Town’s elected officials.
Do you have a question on that?

MR. ALVES: No.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, any further
discussion on the salaries of elected officials?
Hearing none, the question will then
come on the main motion as recommended. All
those in favor, signify by saying Aye.

[Aye.]
THE MODERATOR: All those opposed, No.

[None opposed.]

THE MODERATOR: The Ayes have it.

Article 8. Madame Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KERFOOT: Mr. Moderator, I move Article 8 as printed. And I would be happy to entertain any questions that anyone has, through you.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. As printed. This is a moratorium on windmills. This was held somewhere in the center section.

FROM THE FLOOR: He’s gone. He left.

THE MODERATOR: He left? Okay, anyone want to speak on Article 8, the moratorium? Ms. Lowell.

MS. LOWELL: Vicki Lowell, Precinct 1. I just had a question. The Cape Cod Commission has developed, under their regional policy procedures, a plan for regulating wind turbines and I believe they have submitted some proposed regulations to the County Assembly of Delegates. If that should pass, how would that relate – would that relate to the moratorium, would our moratorium just be in place until we decided to
remove it, or how would that - would that have 
any ramifications for our moratorium? Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Madame Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KERFOOT: The Moratorium will 
be in place from May 1st of this year to the April 
30th of next year. We are asking for time for 
extactly the reason - one that you pointed out, 
Vicki, is that the Assembly of Delegates is 
looking at a set of regulations that have been 
proposed to them. There’s no guarantee that that 
will happen, as it’s written.

The state is looking at a siting law. 
The Board of Health in this town has asked for 
guidance from the state as to potential health 
effects of wind turbines. All of this will play 
into our potential bylaw. As a lot of you may 
know, we have put together a draft, which may or 
may not look anything like it when all of this 
information comes in.

So what we’re asking Town Meeting to do 
is to vote this moratorium to give us that space 
of one year to bring all this further information 
in to have impact and input on our potential 
bylaw. We do believe it has to be in sync with
other bylaws and laws.

THE MODERATOR: Ms. Flynn.

MS. FLYNN: Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

Pat Flynn, Precinct 6. I wanted to just comment on the proposed ordinance for wind turbines that the Cape Cod Commission submitted to the Assembly of Delegates. There was a previous ordinance that some of you may have attended those hearings back in the fall, and they were rejected by the Assembly because they were too lenient. They didn’t seem to be strong enough. So the Commission did a redo and came back with another set of regulations that are far more restrictive in terms of installing turbines. And those hearings are going to take place beginning a week from Wednesday, April 16th - April, whatever that is. Anyway, anyone who is really interested in hearing and in speaking or providing testimony to the Assembly during that time, I think that would be very helpful, particularly since we all know what the issues are here in town.

And those regulations are part - would make the implementation or the installation of wind turbines come under the Development of
Regional Impact Review Regulations of the Commission.

Then there is another companion ordinance that amends the Regional Policy Plan regarding wind turbines that would exempt municipalities from the DRI review if they have a zoning bylaw. So, those who are really interested, I would suggest you look on the Cape Cod Commission calendar and provide testimony if you’re so inclined.


MS. DRISCOLL: Kathy Driscoll, Precinct 7. I was just wondering what precedent, if any, that this moratorium on a bylaw is going to have. Has this been done before? I - I’m close to the speaker. I haven’t seen any. I was doing some research. And is this going to set a precedent for other mechanisms of bylaws being placed on a moratorium until a new bylaw has come up?

CHAIRMAN KERFOOT: Yeah, please. Brian could better answer the history of this; may he speak?

THE MODERATOR: Yes, Mr. Curry.

MR. CURRY: Town Meeting adopted some
moratoria back in 1986 for curb cuts on Nathan Ellis Highway; it lasted about two years. And back in the early ‘90's, I believe, there was a moratoria on certain business permits on West Falmouth Highway while the West Falmouth citizens got with the Planning Board to look at a new business, Business 4 District. And I don’t believe since 1992, ’93, ’94, there’s been other moratoria. This would be the first. But we have had moratoria in the past.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. Any further discussion on Article 8? Hearing none, the question will then come on the main motion as printed. All those in favor, signify by saying Aye.

[ Aye. ]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed, No.

[ No. ]

THE MODERATOR: The ayes have it by the two-thirds majority and I so declare.

Article 9, Floodplain Zone, Madame Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KERFOOT: The Planning Board asked to hold this article. Because of something
that happened at quarter of 2:00 today, the Planning Board met before your Meeting and changed its vote to indefinite postponement.

So, as of this point, I move that you vote indefinite postponement; the reason being that FEMA sent an email to us saying that they wished us to stop the process of adopting the new maps immediately, as the maps will not become effective until the Summer of 2012. If you look at your warrant article, it’s 2011, in there.

So, the Planning Board, as of their vote tonight, moves indefinite postponement.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. The Planning Board wants us to hold off. Is there anybody who wants to make a positive motion? Hearing none, the chair will entertain indefinite postponement as the main motion. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed no.

[None opposed.]

THE MODERATOR: The ayes have it unanimous.

Article 11, Mr. Chairman.
CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: I move Article 11 as printed.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, as printed. This is to delete Public Works Laborer with the DPW Waste Management and to add the Public Works Laborer with DPW Tree Department. Ms. Kozens-Long held this one.

MS. KOZENS-LONG: I probably got more calls and emails on this article than I did on 17 in my precinct. My suggestion on this, only because it stirred a lot of undercurrent speak-up, kind of a lack of seeing what direction the Waste Management Facility was going to go in, I would like to propose an amendment to strike the deletion of the Public Works Laborer and keep the addition to the Public Works Laborer to the Tree Department. And, considering we’re looking for revenues and a new Town Manager and a different direction, then maybe the dump facility, or the Solid Waste Management Facility may change, and then we’d have to come back to Town Meeting and create that position or wait to create that position.

I’m not looking to tell the Highway
Department or the Department of Public Works how to run that facility, now. I'm not asking for them to fill it. Just to consider keeping that position so that, if and when we start making money there, we can allow for that position to maintain it.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, there's an amendment here to strike the first part, which is the deletion of the Waste Management position, and that would leave the addition of the Tree Department position. Okay, Mr. Finneran.

MR. FINNERAN: As an addition to that, I'd like to mention that there is 180-plus thousand dollars available in the Waste Management Facility Budget that was put there, one of the reasons was to purchase a hook truck. So, therefore, we could cart our own recycling. Currently, we're taking recycled cardboard that's worth $165 a ton, with an average load of about three tons, making it worth about $500 to us, we're giving it away for nothing and paying $110 to an outside contractor to move this to the recycle facility.

If this person is removed from the Waste
Management Facility, we won’t have a driver to
drive that truck in order to save that money and
perhaps make the Town some money. So I’d like to
agree with Ms. Kozens-Long that that’s the proper
thing to do in this situation.

THE MODERATOR: Further discussion on
the amendment to remove the deletion. Mr.
Latimer?

MR. LATIMER: On the face of it, this
seems like an innocuous application of Mr.
Anderson’s reorganization, taking an employee
that’s not needed in one area, putting him in
another area where it’s needed. However, I am
not satisfied by the explanation: “The Department
of Public Works has determined that his position
is no longer needed at the Waste Management
Facility.” And I think before we take an action
such as this, I think we would want to know why
that is. I would like to hear from somebody in
responsibility in the Public Works Department to
tell us, well, why is this position no longer
needed? What is it about the position that’s
being paid for now that we don’t need anymore?

What has changed?
THE MODERATOR: Mr. Jack.

MR. JACK: The Town has been planning some reorganization at the Waste Management Facility now for a number of years, and a study was done by Weston and Sampson Engineering a couple of years ago and that was going to reset the layout for the facility. It was anticipating what the current and future needs were going to be. But most recent changes that we've made organizationally out there, especially with regard to a $2.50 a bag fee has resulted in a dramatic reduction in the amount of trash going into the facility. So, as a consequence of that, and in consideration of being able to move forward this next fiscal year with some of those changes that Mr. Finneran referred to on the $180,000, the amount of people currently needed out there is only three instead of the four that are present.

What I would say with regard to the position itself, whether it’s actually deleted or vacant and unfunded would be irrelevant at this point at least as far as we’re concerned, because we could work with it either way. If it was
vacant and unfunded, then the Town could make a
determination once the decision is made as to
what the facility is going to be for the future,
then they can fund the position in the future if
that would be the desire. Or, re-establish the
position at a future Town Meeting.

But I would remind everyone also that
there is currently a workshop that is going to be occurring with the Board of Selectmen for determination with how we’re going to handle all of the Town’s solid waste issues, and that’s going to be within the next couple of months. So there’s some big ticket items. The Waste Management Facility is one. And the goal there will be to determine what the future is going to be and how the facility is going to be operated, so.


MS. KOZENS-LONG: Mr. Jack’s last statement just re-affirms how I feel about that amendment; that if decisions haven’t been made, that deleting this position is premature and gives just an appearance of undercurrent in
something that’s going to happen that the public
doesn’t know about. And I just think that if
it’s not filled and not funded, it’s not going to
hurt anything. If we need that position to be
filled and we have to wait for a Town Meeting, it
just seems inappropriate. And again, I had more
calls on this than I did on Article 17.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, any further
discussion on the amendment to remove the
deletion? Hearing none, the question will then
come on the amendment. All those in favor of the
amendment, signify by saying Aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed, no.

[No.]

THE MODERATOR: All those in favor
signify by standing and the tellers will return a
count. All those in favor of removing the
deletion.

[Pause.]

THE MODERATOR: In the first division,

Mrs. Tashiro.

MRS. TASHIRO: 37.

THE MODERATOR: In the second division,
Mr. Dufresne.

MR. DUFRESNE: 46.

THE MODERATOR: 46.

In the third division, Mr. Hampson.

MR. HAMPSON: 46.

THE MODERATOR: 46 as well. All those opposed, signify by standing and the tellers will return a count.

[Pause.]

THE MODERATOR: In the first division, Mrs. Tashiro.

MRS. TASHIRO: 19.

THE MODERATOR: 19.

In the third division, Mr. Hampson.

MR. HAMPSON: 14.

THE MODERATOR: In the second division, Mr. Dufresne?

MR. DUFRESNE: 43.

THE MODERATOR: 43.

By a counted vote of 129 in favor and 76 opposed, the amendment passes and we delete the deletion of the Waste Management Laborer position.

The question will now come on the main
motion as amended. All those in favor of the main motion signify by saying Aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed, No.

[No.]

THE MODERATOR: The ayes have it by a majority.

Article 12 is the budget, in the center section, the grey pages in your warrant booklet.

Mr. Chairman for the main motion.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Moderator, I move Article 12 as recommended with the following changes. If you'd please go to the center section of your book where the grey pages are and turn to page 3, I would call your attention to line item 133; the new number there under the School Department Salary and wages is $32,173,055.

The line right below it, line 134, should read: $8,217,098.

If you would then go to page 6, under the Recreation budget, line 249, Other expenses, that line should read: $96,185.

Line 260, Figure skating, should read
zero.

Line 268, Town Band, should read $2,391.

Skip back one page, please. Under Human Services line 215, Other expenses, that number should read: $33,957.

Line 218, Consumer Assistance, should be $1,072.

Line 229, Child Development, should read: $12,815.

Then please move to page 7, under Short Term Excluded Debt, line 292, Interest payment, the number should read: $393,981.

Line 293, the total, should read:

$1,488,981.

Under Short Term Unexcluded Debt, line 295, CPA Fund principal, should read: $500,000.

Line 297, CPA Fund interest, should read: $14,920.

Line 298, Interest payment, should read:

$41,508.

Line 299, the total, should read:

$556,428.

And then line 330, the total budget, should read: $108,898,656.
And if you would turn the page, then, to the funding page, the last of the grey sheets, I would call your attention to line item G., Appropriate from Road Betterment Account, the new number is: $108,372.

Item I., Appropriate from Community Preservation Fund Estimate Receipts, the number should be: $2,384,954.

If you would add a new “J.”, the new J reads: Appropriate from BAN premiums $190,175. Change the old “J”, Raise and appropriate under the estimated FY 2012 Levy limit and apply to all other remaining balances under Article 12, change that to letter K.

For a Total Operating Budget of $108,898,656. So moved.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Ms. Harper.

MS. HARPER: First of all, I want to thank you all for the opportunity to appear before you this evening. I very much appreciate having an opportunity to speak before the break.

Even after spending many, many hours with the road map and the glass half full or half empty, I still remain extremely positive and
pragmatic. I won’t say that I’m an optimist, but I’m very positive about this community and feel the very same way as those folks standing along the side of the road in those videos that we saw earlier, and I enjoyed watching Mr. Rogers enjoy his popcorn while he watched the show, and I know many of you feel the very same way about this community.

I want to talk a little bit about the budget process this year, and I won’t take too much time, but I do want to express my appreciation and gratitude to a few folks and groups. First of all, to the Board of Selectmen for their confidence and support in putting this years’s Operating Budget together.

To our Department Managers, and I’m not going to mention any particular one, but many and all have been extremely helpful and I hope that every single one of them is shaking their head and knowing that it’s them that I’m speaking of, because, really, to an individual, those department managers have worked extremely well and I’ve enjoyed working with them over the last several months on this budget process.
I want to recognize our employees and labor groups over the last year and a half who’ve worked collaboratively and with flexibility with their managers and the town to help work through what has been an obvious and extremely challenging time over the last really three years, and culminating in this operating budget.

I want to make a special thanks to our financial team, all of whom are here this evening. Every question that I’ve asked, I’ve had an answer to. I might not like the answer, but I get an answer. David Bailey, our Director of Assessing. Mary Ellen Alwardt, our Town Accountant. Susan Ripley, who as our Acting Town Treasurer is doing a great job, is here this evening. Patricia O’Connor, our Town Collector and Jill Irving-Bishop, whose strive for perfection is something I’m going to continue to strive for, so it’s great working with her, as well.

And finally I do want to thank the citizens and members of the community who’ve offered their guidance and support to me over the last several months and I have very much
appreciated it, so I wanted to make sure I recognize the community as well.

So, let me move right into the fun stuff.

I did want to acknowledge that as of this just a month ago, in March, the Town’s bond rating, which is a measure of our own community performance in the marketplace, was re-affirmed at the Standard & Poor’s double A-plus rating. I know you’ve all read reports about municipal bond ratings and some of our local agencies bond ratings just last week, the hospital challenged to sustain its bond rating. This bond rating is a source of pride for our community. I believe that the measures that we take over the next several years will put us in a position to continue to seek that triple A bond rating.

I wanted to give you a sense of what my practice is and my theory in putting the budget together isn’t just to make the numbers match. I have a theory that this town is resilient; that if we work together and that we’re flexible that we can build in a practice of resilience. That we support the structure, the employees that are
here and that we rebuild what’s left after we’ve made what have been some fairly significant reductions.

The reductions in this year’s budget are strategic and they include budget restoration. They are not across the board. We didn’t do a two percent across the board, a one percent across the Board. We made strategic choices in what our community services are in this budget.

The changes in the budget are permanent and there are no furloughs, there are no temporary measures. Any of the reductions would be sustained in perpetuity until we choose to move ahead with an additional source of revenue or a change in priority for our community.

We worked on cost training and team building in the budget process. We’ve had a work flow analysis and training program with Inspectional services, with Conservation, Building and Health. We’re working with the same kind of a program with our financial services departments. We have over 20 employees that work in our financial services and are working together and taking a look at our own work flow.
in anticipation of a new software system. We have an expectation that a software program is going to change our practices. We know that people change practices. So we’re taking a look at what we do on a day to day basis to determine what the right structure of a software system is to help us improve our management of our financial systems.

And then, again, we take a look at any of those opportunities that we may have to rebuild and reorganize. And some of those you’ll see later on. We did embark on a program budgeting process -- and if anyone’s interested, the program budget is about this thick -- and it’s the first step into that program budgeting. It is on the Town Manager’s website. And in order to do that, we broke our departments into teams for a training process. And those teams are: we are a finance team; a regulatory services team; community services/recreation: that’s veterans and senior center, Counsel On Aging, Human Resources. We had our coastal resources, which was harbor, beaches, conservation, DNR; community development and land use; public works;
public safety/police, public safety/fire; and library services. And so we had trainings with all of those groups on how to develop a program budget to cost out the services within the appropriation available.

I’ll just give you a quick sample. It’s not a fully allocated model. My view is that in order to do a fully allocated model that I believe our community would benefit from, we do need a modern software system in order to really plug those numbers in and reflect them back in a meaningful way.

This is the program budget for the Building Department. I hope many of you had an opportunity to hear our Building Commissioner Eladio Gore give his stirring program budget presentation. I appreciated his enthusiasm as well as the commitment of all the departments in pulling this together. It is a bottom-up exercise. It requires all the staff in the department to participate. And but if you take a look at the Building Department, their overall budget is $522,000. They’re able to distill their services into four different categories:
zoning enforcement, annual safety inspections, permit services, issue and maintenance, and administrative and staff support.

Zoning enforcement is 18 percent of their budget and $92,000 a year. Annual safety inspections is ten percent. Permit services and issue and maintenance is 48 percent; so there is the lion's share of that operation. And then the administrative and staff support is about 24 percent of the Building operation. This takes into account all of the different sources of funds that they have and the line items and builds them back into each of those separate categories. I don't have a full program budget presentation for you, but you can come to the workshop next year and you can hear all of them. I wanted to give you a flavor of what we've been working on.

Next slide. The budget police, again— if I can just move right on to the next slide. I do recognize the Board of Selectmen's effort in working before we went into the budget practice in November, in taking a look at the prior fiscal years and what our expectations are for this
fiscal year and moving forward. And they did establish a budget policy and it wasn’t just a budget growth policy, they had a policy of how labor would be related to the budget, what their goals were, what their priorities were, so it was a very much a guiding tool for myself and the department managers in putting together an overall budget for the year.

With that budget growth policy of five percent, that’s about $1.5 million to distribute across all Town and School operations. In addition, they had a local options policy, which focused on fiscal stability, and the Meals Tax, which we estimate will earn about $500,000 in a full fiscal year. $125,000 of that is appropriated for Stabilization Fund, and another $125,000 is appropriated to Capital programs, and again that is within the Stabilization Fund and both of those are towards fiscal stability.

Let’s move right into the meat of the process, here. And I’m not going to spend a lot of time. I know this is a busy slide, but I wanted to walk through what the different sources of revenue are and the expenses. Property taxes,
again, is a workhorse of the Town’s revenues.

State Aid, we carry about $6.7 million this year.

Exclusions, that’s all of the Property Tax

exclusions that you voted in the past, from water

mains to Public Works garages to fire trucks to

any of the large-scale high school projects and

such. That’s what our annual effort is this year

for exclusions.

Cape Cod Commission, receipts reserved,

I talk about that those are specific revenues

reserved for intended purposes. Local estimated

receipts, that’s that area that we’ve seen so

much pressure on in the last few years which is

driven by the local economy. And then the Land

Bank and CPC, that’s the effort of tax revenue

that’s raised through the Community Preservation

Act.

And finally on the expense side, our

Operating Budget as you saw is $108 million. In

addition to that, we have state and county

charges that come off the cherry sheet. We have

our budget overlay required by the Department of

Revenue, as well as a few other offsets, to have

a balanced budget of just a little over $112
million.

And we can move on to the next slide.
The composition of the revenue, this really just illustrates that that property tax revenue continues to be the strongest source of revenue for our community at 77 percent. And non-property tax revenue, that’s the combination of those Local Estimated Receipts and your recurring Receipts Reserved. State Aid you can see is narrowing in its share of the pie at just five percent this year.

Just a little bit of a lesson on how we derive these numbers. The property tax levy, last year we raised $70 million. We are able to raise 2 1/2 percent. Of that 2 1/2 percent is $1.7 million. And then new growth is just growth within the economy, added value of buildings and structures in our community. Now last year, in the third year of the triennial evaluation, even though we’re at full valuation, every year we raised over $740,000 in additional new growth. This year, we believe that $600,000 is what we should expect from the growth projected in this year. Bringing you to a grand total of $73
million in property tax revenue.

The second largest segment of our revenues is of course the local estimated receipts, and I wanted to draw you back two years in the revenue collection. In 2010, we collected just over $17.5 million. This year, in Fiscal 2011, after some significant fee increases in the prior fiscal year, we are confident that the estimated 2011 receipts of $18 million will come in. In fact, we just received our update for the March revenues today and they do look on target for revenues to exceed the $18 million projected.

And then proposed for Fiscal '12 you see is just an increase of $112,000. And remember we added $250,000 worth of Meals Tax revenue that we expect to earn and have appropriated in the Operating Budget from those Local Estimated Receipts. So this is a very conservative number. I think it puts us in very healthy shape moving into 2013.

Again, State Aid. We could be more optimistic and project that the state will come in at something more than a nine percent reduction. We know that the best estimates that
the governor has given us shows that we’ll see a
reduction of $122,000 below last year as the
rosiest picture, and we’re sticking with that
nine percent reduction. What that shows you is
the prior fiscal collections of cherry sheet aid
starting with a peak of 2008, which really wasn’t
a peak but it was a peak for this time period,
down to where we are today projecting aid of $5.6
million in local – in State Aid cherry sheet
projections.

And then what those receipts reserved
for appropriation are, those are on I think the
last page of your warrant book, it goes through
each of those lines and what they are: the
Waterways Fund; Golf Revenue is simply the golf
debt appropriated to that expense line.
Renewable Energy is renewable energy revenue
appropriated for debt to support that operation.
Wetlands Funds, Parking Revenue, Road
Betterments, Ferry Embarkation and a few others.
But those are distinct appropriations reserved
for a specific purpose.

Finally what does all that mean in terms
of expenses? In Fiscal 2012, some of our minimum
needs, these are just the big ticket items.

Retirement. Our Retirement growth this year is
$241,000. Health Insurance at a 9.5 percent
increase is $1 million. That’s a little over
$500,000 for the School and a little over 500 for
the Town. Full Payroll, no furlough, $740,000.
The Upper Cape Regional Vocational School,
$275,000. Grand total of $2.2 million. Even
with 1.5 percent growth, we started off this
budget with a $793,000 deficit.

So I’ll keep moving on. Ultimately the
Finance Committee did recommend a budget in
excess of the Board’s policy of 1.69 percent, a
little over a $1.6 million increase, recalling
that $250,000 is from the Meals Tax for
Stabilization and Capital.

How we were able to accomplish this is
through a continued belt-tightening, but as well
as some restoration. The reductions and the
reorganization of Fiscal ‘12 – and I’ll go fairly
quickly through these. The Personnel Department
has a position with a 20 percent cut funded at 80
percent. Town Manager’s Department has seen
reductions. The Town Clerk’s Department is being
reduced by one position. The Conservation Department has a position that’s been frozen for many years and is seeing some reduction this year in reorganization.

The Treasurer’s Office has a position that is going to be supporting another department as well. Town Planning has a 20 percent reduction in one position. Engineering has a 20 percent reduction in one position. Parks has reduced all of their temporary positions and eliminated two temporary positions and that allowed us to create that one full-time position that we talked about earlier.

Waste Management is reduced by one position.

And finally the Library – and this is just this year – the library has reduced two part-time positions. And the Police and Fire Departments are sustaining those cuts that were incurred in the reductions in 2011.

In addition to a lot of those reductions, there are some increases in the budget. The health insurance and retirement are those obvious ones. The Stabilization and
Capital we’ve been through. The no furlough, meaning there are no temporary reductions in personnel, all of the positions that are funded in the Fiscal Year ‘12 budget are funded for the full year. There is no COLA funded in this year on the Town’s side. The Upper Cape Regional Vocational School has seen some growth; they have 11 more students this year than they had last year, and that’s based on their calculations of per capita calculations as of October of this year.

The Veteran’s Benefits are up $25,000, and that’s really up to a realistic budgeting level. Vehicle gasoline is up based on the price of fuel.

And then we begin to see some modest return in our investment in Water and Wastewater Systems, and those sources of revenues are based on increases in the Water and Wastewater User Fee revenue.

And that is it. I’ll stay here for a minute, but I probably will need my papers for the questions. I do want to acknowledge the department heads who are here; they are ready to
answer questions and I want to thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, any general questions for Ms. Harper before we get into the line items? Mr. Smolowitz.

MR. SMOLOWITZ: Ron Smolowitz, Precinct 8. I sort of have a general question about the Capitalization Fund, and take an issue like Water. How come we don’t separate out and predict what our replacement costs are going to be for our water systems and the operating cost and maintenance cost, and come up with an annual amount of funds that need to be raised to cover the Capital Expenditures, and then increase our water bills accordingly to cover that cost? As opposed to taking the Capital cost out of a general fund.

MS. HARPER: That’s certainly one of the practices we’ll be taking a look at in the Capital Study Group with the Finance Committee, but the practice has been to collect those revenues as Local Estimated Receipts, allow them to come back in the form of free cash. If we can remember, for many, many years this Town funded a Capital program which is between two and four
million dollars out of free cash on an annual basis. When those estimated receipts really dipped well below what they were annually, we were no longer in that business.

MR. SMOLOWITZ: Right. But it just seems to me we should be paying the real costs, and the real costs are capital replacement. It would be a lot easier to have a citizen understand and support a higher cost and it might be four or five times higher to replace our water systems, but it’s a real cost.

MS. HARPER: Those are the balances: do we look at the property tax levy or do we look at user fees, and I think it’s a good question.

THE MODERATOR: Further general questions on the budget? Ms. Siegel.

MR. SIEGEL: Deborah Siegel, Precinct 6. I would like to make a comment and I’d like to plant a seed in all of our heads. We’ve got about a year ahead of us to think about this. We can no longer keep taking money for maintenance out of the wrong places and trying to use that as a band-aid to fix all our problems.

Mr. Boyer wrote a wonderful piece in the
paper a few weeks ago, and even he suggested that
we may need to start thinking about a Proposition
2 ½ override. Even Mr. Anderson suggested that
that may be one of the things that we have to
start thinking about. And as we go into the
details of this budget, I ask you to keep this in
mind, to keep in mind that we can start thinking
about this in the next year and that we have to
stop thinking about the word "tax" as a four
letter word. It's only three letters. Thank
you.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. Anything else,
generally?

Okay, we're going to go in by the line
items. You don't have to hold it, we'll just go
into the department sections. So if you want to
speak, just stand up.

Town Meeting. Town Moderator.
Selectmen/Town Manager. Finance Committee.
Finance Committee Reserve fund. Town Accountant.
Assessing Department. Town Treasurer. Town
Collector. Legal Department. Personnel Office.
Information Technology. G. I. S. Affirmative

Microphone down here.

MR. DONAHUE: Robert Donahue, Precinct 3. I’d like to speak about the Police budget of $4,956,733. On Article 12 we’re asking for two hundred and some-odd thousand for police cars.

We asked for this I believe –

THE MODERATOR: Are you talking about the Capital Budget?

MR. DONAHUE: Yeah, two years ago we asked for the same thing in a capital improvement program and the voters voted this down. What makes the Selectmen or the Finance Committee think that the voters are going to approve it this time? Particularly with the pressing financial conditions that we’re all facing and have been facing.

Why wasn’t at least some of these cars put in the budget for the Police Department for this year? If you had put all the five cars that you’re looking for, it would have brought the Police budget up to $5,163,263. What I guess I’m
saying is that, in effect, by doing things budgetary like this, we are really listening to our constituents. We’re saying that the Police budget is $4,956,000. Well, it isn’t. They’re spending $5,163,000 and change. And we knew before that it wasn’t approved, that our citizens did not approve new cruisers two years ago, or whenever it was.

This is all I’m having to say, is that we seem to not want to admit and give real numbers to our budgets for our departments, and we always seem to be wanting to go to exclusions and what have you. And it gets voted down and then we’re right back to doing it again. Let’s put it all in the budget, thank you.

CHAIRMAN PUTNAM: Mr. Chairman. You’re absolutely correct. And quite frankly there’s a little bit of finger-crossing going on here with this one.

The article that we presented and that Town Meeting approved last year was denied at the polls. It was a significantly more complex article with a lot more individual items in it. This year, we’re coming back with just five
specific items – the Finance Committee would say four – but we’re hoping that in a simplified fashion that we’re focusing on the immediate needs and dispensing with the unnecessary wants.

With respect to how we fund the budget, the first priority of the Board this year was to get our arms around the Operating Budget, this annual budget that we’re discussing here, and focus on wringing the efficiencies out of government. The next step, as Mr. Anderson has discussed, as has been discussed already, is that we have to look at the annual cost of maintaining our infrastructure and the cost of the capital improvements. These things such as police cruisers, roofs, etcetera, they really do belong in the Operating Budget. These are operations and maintenance items. But many years ago, I think it was perhaps the last recession, it was before I was even a Town Meeting Member, let alone on this Board, a decision was made to separate those particular items from the budget in order to make it easier. Well, obviously it’s not a sustainable way of doing business. That will be a priority over the next year for
this Board.

Now that the Operating Budget has been grappled with, now that we’re starting to get the efficiencies that we expect, the next step is to look at the capital and how are we going to fund that, how are we going to deal with the regular maintenance of our infrastructure so that we don’t have to worry about brown tap water and other issues.

THE MODERATOR: Yes, Mr. Stumcke.

MR. STUMCKE: Brad Stumcke, Precinct 4. The Educational Incentive, does that include full funding the policemen for the Quinn Bill?

THE MODERATOR: Chief, you want to answer that one? Chief Riello.

CHIEF RIELLO: Yes, the funding for the Educational Incentive is - that represents the Town half; we all know what happened to the State half last year and again this year. The number also reflects, though, a settlement that was, if you recall last Town Meeting, for the Sergeants. The Superior Officers Association settled and part of that was the Educational Incentive.
There was also an agreement last year with the Captains, and the same thing happened. So, that number represents half for the Police Federation, and as you know we’re currently trying to negotiate a new agreement with them. But it also covers the Sergeants, Captains.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, further discussion on the Police Department budget? Mr. Volosevich.

MR. VOLOSEVICH: Robert Volosevich, Precinct 2. Mr. Moderator, as a freshman Town Meeting Member, only my second Town Meeting as a Town Meeting Member, I want to thank the Board of Selectmen for – or their out of state travel, for reducing it. Or the FinCom’s recommendation, and their recommendation of going down $700.

But the Police Department is still at $4500, and as we look further into our warrant booklet, we see that the line item under the Human Services, line item 228, we see that the Substance Abuse Commission went down $336. And I believe and if we read the Falmouth Enterprise, we see that our substance abuse in the Town is going up, and on a rise on the Cape and the...
Islands.

I would like to make a motion that we reduce the out of state travel and with Mr. Riello’s recommendation if he can, if we could down $4,000 for next year, reduce it by $500 so we can fund the Substance Abuse Commission from - bring it to the $3,336.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, this is an amendment to remove $500 from the out of state travel line 101. Discussion on the amendment.

And, I guess, Robert, part of that amendment is to and then to transfer it over to that Substance Abuse Commission line item, which is 228. 228.

Okay, discussion on the amendment.

Yeah. Ms. Williams.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. Cheryl Williams, Precinct 3. This question inevitably comes up the past couple Town Meetings. Specifically with the Police Department I recall we had the discussion before. Oftentimes they have training out of state. Oftentimes I think there might be some extradition issues where they might have to
travel out of state to pick up a prisoner.

I just can’t support any type of an amendment.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Mr. Putnam and Mr. Latimer.

CHAIRMAN PUTNAM: You’re absolutely correct, and I’ll take responsibility for this one, because it’s got legs, that’s for sure.

Of all the line items where we have out of state travel, I would not recommend cutting this one. Chief Riello could probably elaborate on it better than I could, but my understanding is that there are often training required by the Police Department in other states, and unfortunately, even if we’re just going to Rhode Island and New Hampshire, which is where some of this training occurs, it’s considered out of state travel and so it’s listed as such in our budget.

This is training. These are not junkets, these are not trips off to other countries or other cities for a week to do something that could be done at one’s desk. This is real training that the Police Department
actually needs. I would not recommend approving this amendment.

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Latimer.

MR. LATIMER: Yes, thank you. These last two speakers addressed that very question, and I would go along with that very reason. I was going to ask the Chief to explain what that money was for, even though I understood what it was for, but I think these past two speakers said it very well, that this amendment should not pass. Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Any further discussion the amendment? Hearing none, the question will then come on the amendment to reduce $500 from the Police Department Out of state travel and the transfer to line 228.

All those in favor of the amendment signify by saying Aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed, no.

[No.]

THE MODERATOR: It is the opinion of the Chair that the no’s have it by a majority.

Any further discussion on the Police
Department budget?

MR. ELLIOTT: Thank you, Mr. Moderator,

John Elliott, Precinct 5, through you to the
Police Chief, just a question in regards to the
agreement to the two contracts that he alluded
to. My warrant booklet says that there has been
no agreement made with the Superior Officers or
the Captains, as far as I know, unless something
has changed since the warrant book was printed.

THE MODERATOR: No, no agreement has
been made on the contract, the full contract.

MR. ELLIOTT: But my understanding is
that part of this line item was to fund the
education incentive for the Superior Officers and
the Captains?

THE MODERATOR: Chief, do you want to
explain the settlement.

CHIEF RIELLO: Yes, when that issue
came up last November at Town Meeting, if you
recall, there was - it was on the warrant for an
appropriation. An appropriation was not needed
for either of those settlements, and it was
included in this year’s budget and then when I
prepared the 2012 budget, it was included in that
number.

We did end up reducing in different areas, but that was included in the 2012 number. We did not need the appropriation last year.

THE MODERATOR: Further discussion on the Police Department budget?


Ms. Putnam.

MS. PUTNAM: Rebecca Putnam, Precinct 9. I would like to try to do what Mr. Volosevich was trying to do and I would like to take $300 from line item 16 of out of state travel for the Selectmen/Town Manager and move that to – 300 to
line up 228.

[Laughter.]

THE MODERATOR:  Okay, this is an amendment to reduce by $300 line 16 and transfer it over to line 228.

Discussion on the amendment.  Mr. Volosevich.

MR. VOLOSEVICH:  I would like to amend that and go $36 more and go $336 to make it the same as last year.  Robert Volosevich, Precinct 2.

THE MODERATOR:  Okay, the amendment in the second degree is $336, that is amending the first amendment to add $36, so the new total would be $336.  Let’s dispense with the first amendment to add $36 to the requested transfer.  All those in favor of adding the $36 signify by saying Aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR:  All those opposed, No.

[No.]

THE MODERATOR:  It’s the opinion of the chair that the no’s have it by a majority. Any further discussion on the underlying
amendment to reduce line 16 by 300 and transfer to line 228? Ms. Lowell.

MS. LOWELL: Vicky Lowell, Precinct 1. I just - this relates to the amendment, it’s not just to the amendment. But the Human Services budget for these appropriations for agencies that aren’t part of the Town, these service organizations, have been pretty steady over the years, the same amounts going to each agency, and now this year there’s been obviously some thinking about it and some of the amounts have changed significantly. And so I thought it would be helpful to know how these new numbers were arrived at, what the process was, and when I asked that question at my precinct meeting there wasn’t anybody really there to provide the answer.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Ms. Cordeiro.

MS. CORDEIRO: Good evening, I’m Karen Cordeiro; I’m the Director at Falmouth Human Services and I believe Ms. Lowell’s question is noticing that there are a number of changes in some line items, number 216 through 231 in your budget, and there are really three major reasons
for some of those changes. The first is very simple, that there are three very significant misprints. The line item number 213 should read $33,957, which is the same as last year. Line item number 218 should read $1,072, which is the same as last year. And line item 229 should read $12,815, which is a significant change, but not quite as much as what was here.

The second overall reason is that the Human Services budget has been cut significantly in the last two years, or in the last three years, really. Over 15 percent of our overall budget has been cut over that period of time. The salary and wages has been cut by 14 percent and the nonprofit agencies that Vicky was mentioning have been cut 17 percent. Seven percent in 2010 and ten percent in 2011.

As a result of those cuts over the years, what the Human Services Department and the Committee found in doing their evaluations of these nonprofit agencies is that the services have really changed significantly that the agencies are providing as a result of the budget cuts that they’re seeing from many places. Not
only the Town but from the state, they’re getting
less in the way of donations and their services
have been adjusted significantly.

So the Human Services Committee really
felt the need to set some criteria to help them
make the decisions about how to recommend the
budgets recommendations going forward.

So the types of issues that they are
looking at when they’re looking at these agencies
are: do the services provided by this agency
address an identified gap or need in the Falmouth
community? Does the agency take steps to insure
that they’re providing a high quality of service?
Do they do client satisfaction surveys, outcome
measurements? Do they collaborate with other
community organizations? And is continuing this
contract a good value for Falmouth residents.

They looked at year end statistics
provided by each agency, how many services were
provided to Falmouth residents. They looked at
the annual reports, they looked at quality data,
they did site visits of each of these agencies.

The Human Services Committee came up
with criteria to make this determination of how
they were going to recommend these fundings and the criteria are: that there is a documented community need, they looked at the number of residents served, the quality of the services delivered, the ability of the agency to raise funding elsewhere, the ability of the agency to continue the service if the Town’s funding was cut, and finally the availability of Town funding.

So, looking at all those things, they really made the decision, the Human Services Committee really made the decision that they had to adjust the funding all the way around. There were some agencies whose services were changed. There’s one agency that has moved out of Falmouth and was no longer servicing Falmouth residents at all. That’s Cape Cod Human Services, line item 224.

So they really – we really had to adjust all the recommendations this year. Some of them are small adjustments and some of them are quite large.

I can go through some of the large ones for you. Independence House is one of the large
ones. The number of Falmouth residents served by Independence House, which provides services for domestic violence victims, has steadily increased over the years. They do maintain a Falmouth office where they provide services. They also maintain a full time worker in the Falmouth District Court, and the Human Services Committee felt that because of the increased number and the extensive services that they provide in Falmouth, that that contract needed to be increased.

Legal Services, on the other hand, merged – Cape Cod Legal Services merged with some Southeastern Mass. legal agencies off-Cape and we’ve seen a steady decline in the services that they’ve been able to provide to Falmouth residents since that merger, and so that budget has been cut slightly.

Cape Abilities provides services to handicapped individuals and Cape Abilities has done some extremely creative fund-raising in recent years and recently contracted with Oprah to get some funding and so we felt that they would continue to provide the same level of service to Falmouth residents if we were able to
cut their Town funding a little. So that was done.

Cape Cod Human Services as I mentioned is an arm of Cape Cod Health Care. They chose to close their Falmouth office and did not apply for funding in 2012. Their 400 clients that they were serving, mental health clients that they were providing counseling and medication management to in Falmouth, the vast majority of those have gone to Gosnold, Incorporated, and as a result of that we, the Human Services Committee, felt it was advisable to take a chunk of that funding from Cape Cod Human Services and transfer that to Gosnold to help them defray some of the cost of that significant increase in case load.

Another major significant change is that some funding was transferred from Cape Cod Child Development which went down nearly $7700. Those funds were transferred to the Falmouth Service Center. The reason for that, that in the past, Cape Cod Child Development was serving as the fiscal agent for the Falmouth-based nonprofit organization called the Coalition for Children.
And the Coalition for Children has emergency child care funds from the Town of Falmouth in the amount of $7700 for needy families in emergencies.

This year, the Cape Cod Child Development organization asked us - told us that they would prefer not to be the fiscal agent anymore because it was a lot of paperwork for them and so we asked the Falmouth Service Center if they would be willing to take over this job and Falmouth Service Center, being what they are, they said, “Yes, of course.” So, that funding is still being used for the same purpose, for emergency child care, and the decisions about that funding are being made by the Coalition for Children and the Service Center is just acting as the fiscal agent for that.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, I think we’re ready to go on this amendment.

MS. CORDEIRO: All right.

THE MODERATOR: Are we ready to vote on this one?

FROM THE FLOOR: Did she request the 336?
THE MODERATOR: No, she didn’t.

They’re asking if you requested this amendment, the 336.

MS. CORDEIRO: No, I did not.

THE MODERATOR: No. Okay, and it’s actually down to 300. We knocked the 36 out, so the underlying amendment right now is the reduction of $300 from line 16 to transfer to line 228. All those in favor of the transfer, signify by saying Aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed, no.

[No.]

THE MODERATOR: It’s the opinion of the chair that the no’s have it by a majority.

Any further discussion on the Human Services budget? Ms. Murphy.

MS. MURPHY: Thank you, Mr. Moderator, Carol Murphy, precinct 9, through you to Ms. Cordeiro. On the salaries, I noticed there’s almost a $7,000 increase in the salaries and everything else seems to be being cut; so could you explain that, please? Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Ms. Cordeiro.
MS. CORDEIRO: The salary increase, our department took a – three furlough days in 2011 that were not included in the 2011 budget, so those three furlough days are being put back into the 2012 budget. So that’s a significant portion of the increase that you’re seeing.

There are also three employees who are eligible for step raises. There are no cost of living raises at all in this budget, in this line item.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, further discussion on Human Services.


MS. PETERSON: Thank you, Mr. Moderator, Laura Peterson, Precinct 3. The first thing that struck out to me was Girl’s Hockey Club being reduced from 960 to nothing, Figure Skating from 960 to nothing, and Youth Hockey from 5200 to nothing. Also the Lacrosse – but I think you could do that with a fund raiser. And then the Little League and Babe Ruth is 2100
each. But the hockey, the ice arena stuff, struck out because, as most of you know — and if you don’t, we’ll do an ad for it — the rink is doing a major capital campaign right now trying to fund raise for a new rink. And to have this money taken away is definitely going to have an impact on the programs, the families who are in the programs, but also as a — I don’t have children who skate, but as a business owner, I’m hit pretty hard with requests for donations, and we do the best that we can to see them, so I wanted to talk about that. But then the things that strikes out and I wanted to know from other Town Meeting members if it hits anybody else: Adult men’s basketball gets $6,350. Men, playing basketball. I’m all for my husband leaving and going to play basketball at night, but I would much rather support the kids. So I just wanted to put that out there and just get other people’s feelings on that, thank you.

[Applause.]


MS. CUNY: Sandra Cuny, Chairman of the
Falmouth Recreation Committee. I would like to speak on this. I have had a couple people ask me questions, so I would like to clarify.

There were a number of cuts and, as most of you know, about three years ago the Town Administrator started asking department heads to please cut their budgets. The Recreation Committee worked with our director and the only fair way to cut the budget was to cut the programs that were private clubs. And the ones that have been cut totally started about three years ago, we went twenty percent across the board, we went ten percent, and then this year they were eliminated because the Town needed the money.

These programs are not the Falmouth Recreation Committee Department’s programs. They are private programs. Lacrosse, Babe Ruth, they have their own committees, they have their own non-profits, they charge a fee. Men’s Basketball happens to be a Falmouth Recreation Department program, and the way that they line item out so that you can see what our programs cost, this is what they pay the department to run their
program; that money is used to pay their
referees, their t-shirts, their equipment, and
it’s done through our department. So all of
these that are still funded are our own.

We, on the other hand, we support all of
these youth programs. We are so sorry we have
had to cut them, that the Town has had to cut
them. We still let them use our land; they
practice, they play their games. We have three
beautiful new fields for Pop Warner, lacrosse,
and baseball coming up for a grand opening this
spring, so the Town is still helping them in the
ways that we can and we are sorry that we’ve had
to cut them. Thank you.

MR. YOUNG: Bob Young, Precinct 5. Mr.
Moderator, Town Meeting members, as the lady
said, I was, too, distressed to see these cuts in
the Recreation Department and Ms. Cuny’s right,
the other programs are somewhat privately
operated but under the auspices, the Little
League I know that we had to report to the Town
and I was a treasurer of Little League and Babe
Ruth for a period of about eight years and I know
that those programs each year come in very close
and the Town appropriation was greatly received and was important to these programs.

I noticed under the Selectmen’s budget that we spend $2300 on green head flies yet we wouldn’t spend a couple thousand dollars on the Little League. Everybody in this room has had somebody go through that Little League or Babe Ruth program, and I’d like to see those funds restored, at least a couple thousand dollars, and I’d like to make an amendment. Not to take it from somebody else’s budget but to add $2,000 back to Little League and $2,000 back to Babe Ruth, thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, so the revenue source is going to be raise and appropriate, we’re going to add that to the bottom of the revenue source, on the last page of the budget, Section K, raise and appropriate an additional $4,000?

MR. YOUNG: If that’s acceptable to Mr. Anderson.

THE MODERATOR: And it was going to - what were the two numbers again, the line items?

Babe Ruth -
MR. YOUNG: 250 and 251.

THE MODERATOR: 250 and 251. $2,000 for each, total of $4,000 to be raised and appropriated. Discussion on the amendment. Ms. Peterson.

MS. PETERSON: Well, I’d also like to add, then, anything — well, yeah, I mean, I’d like to add anything that has to do with the rink into that, as well. So all the hockey, but I wanted to make —

THE MODERATOR: Can we just do this amendment first?

MS. PETERSON: Sure, and then I’ll wait.

THE MODERATOR: And then if you want to make that amendment, we can do that. Let’s discuss the amendment of $4,000 raised and appropriated. Mr. Latimer. And then we can go and add another if you want to do that.

MR. LATIMER: Thank you, Richard Latimer, Precinct 2. I’m supporting the amendment. My son was a Babe Ruth player and Little League player. I’ve always supported youth sports in this town, but I also remember
when $4,000 would have purchased two state of the art police cruisers instead of spending $40,000 for one cruiser. And that was back in the days when we didn’t have any artificial restraints on our ability to raise revenues with arbitrary limits on tax - property tax increases. It was back in the days when under good Republican President Dwight Eisenhower the highest income tax rate was over 90 percent on the highest incomes.

We have to be looking seriously at how we can raise revenues in this Town so that we don’t have to argue over taking $300 away from the Selectmen to give it to the Human Services committee. That is pathetic. But I would support this article if we can find a way to raise those funds.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, the question is going to come on the amendment. Mr. Pinto.

MR. PINTO: Greg Pinto, Precinct 3. You know, I played Little League baseball in this town. It was great, it was fun. And I appreciate Mr. Young and everyone, my coaches, the kids I played with. It was fantastic. It
was great. I remember it very fondly, even though we didn’t have a very good team. But, really, there’s a reason these things have been zeroed out. We don’t have the money. If we want to give them a couple thousand dollars for Babe Ruth, for Little League, a couple hundred dollars here and there for the rink, we can do that out of our own back pocket as individuals. I don’t think that we should be trying to do this in this budget right now. Maybe next year, maybe the year after, we’ll be able to put the money back. Right now, we don’t have it.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, the question will come on the first amendment here, $4,000 for line item 250 - 2,000 to 250 and 2,000 to line item 251. All those in favor, signify by saying Aye. [Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed, no. [No.]

THE MODERATOR: It’s the opinion of the chair is that the no’s have it by a majority. Further discussion on the Recreation Department?

MS. PETERSON: Laura Peterson, Precinct 3. Mrs. Cuny made the distinction that that,
even though these are private clubs, we still let them use our fields. And, these are Falmouth kids, you know, so it’s not — and I get that there’s a whole Recreation Department, but even though these are private clubs, they’re using fields that belong to their families and to their parents who pay taxes in town. So, it’s not — I just take issue with that distinction because, by right, those fields are for them, as well, regardless of whether someone’s taken the time to organize them as a private club, the fields belong to them, too.

THE MODERATOR: Further discussion on the Recreation Department?

MR. VOLOSEVICH: Robert Volosevich, Precinct 2. Line item 269 of the Rec Department, why are we spending $640 on the Commodores?

THE MODERATOR: But we’re not, we’re zeroing it out.

MR. VOLOSEVICH: Oh, I’m sorry. I’m sorry.

THE MODERATOR: We’re zeroing it out.

MR. VOLOSEVICH: And then does the concession stand pay our electric bill? I wonder
if somebody is here that could answer that question. The concession stand that’s on our property, do they pay the Town to use our power?

THE MODERATOR: The concession stand?

Yes, go ahead, Ms. Kennedy.

MS. KENNEDY: Helen Kennedy, Recreation Director. The Falmouth Commodores pay for the expenses for the electricity during the Commodore season.


MS. HARPER: I just wanted to add in this discussion, and I appreciate it fully, I have two young boys that play Babe Ruth Baseball. They have a wonderful time; I pay the bills for them to play, and I look forward to many years of doing that. But what we were able to do by making these reductions is to sustain the employment in the Parks Department, and we were able to make some very modest increases in supplies and materials that we use to sustain those fields for the operation of all of those groups. So it wasn’t a one or the other discussion, it was how do we sustain the level of
service and the expectation level of those service groups, which in some cases we’re not meeting. But how do we maintain the level of service that we have an expectation for from those private groups at the same time support the Parks Department in carrying out that effort.

So, it was a discussion that was had between the Parks Department and the Recreation Department weighing both of those options.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Mr. Latimer.

MR. LATIMER: Richard Latimer, Precinct 2. There’s a very simple answer to Ms. Harper’s question: we raise revenues. That’s how we maintain services. We – and the Planning Board –

THE MODERATOR: Okay.

MR. LATIMER: We just heard this past week a request from the Rec Department that they be excused from erecting a fence, or a gate to keep people from parking at night in the new athletic fields that we spent vast sums of money to develop for our athletic programs out on Sandwich Road. The reason that gate was to be in there is because neighbors had valid concerns about vandalism and other activities late at
night. But Ms. Kennedy came to us and said, “Well, we can’t start the programs without these gates and these teams are waiting to play there; can we have some relief from that?” Well, we got some temporary relief. We – okay, they’re going to put up some chairs –

THE MODERATOR: Okay, let’s focus on the line items in the budget.

MR. LATIMER: Well, this is the line item. We’re talking about the fields and we’re talking about Ms. Harper’s question, “Well, how can we maintain these services?”

THE MODERATOR: Which line item are you talking about?

MR. LATIMER: The answer is: we raise revenues. Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Line items in the budget. Go ahead, right there.

MS. MAROTTA: Heidi Marotta, Precinct 5. I see us really micro managing on this budget and I’d like to know why the Finance Committee or whoever printed this budget separated all the Human Services line items out and all the Recreation Department line items out because we
could go through this budget exactly the same way for all these other departments and really start talking about numbers, or we just let the Finance Committee change the Recreation Department and change the Human Services and not break it down like this, because otherwise it’s not really fair for us to pick apart these budgets and not do it to all the other departments.

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: The line items that have a double plus sign on them are restricted line items. In other words, the dollars that are in those are voted separately and they must be spent on those particular programs.

In the other Department budgets, they are grouped into the specific line item. So these are restricted line items which can only be spent there.

THE MODERATOR: Ms. Asendorf.

MS. ASENDORF: Lisa Asendorf, Precinct 8. I just wonder if the adult men realize that they’re having all this support while the youth in our community are not.

THE MODERATOR: I think Ms. Cuny
already said that they actually pay that and this
is their line item? Is that what you said, Ms.
Cuny? I thought that’s what you said.

MS. ASENDORF: Oh –

THE MODERATOR: So they’re paying it
and this goes back to them. They pay their fees.

MS. ASENDORF: Oh, sorry.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. Mr. Donahue?

No. Anybody else on the Recreation Department?

Beach Department. Bikeways Committee.

Long Term Excluded Debt. Long Term Unexcluded
Debt.

Mr. Donahue. You want to go back to the
Beach Department, okay.

MR. DONAHUE: I didn’t hear you say it.

THE MODERATOR: I thought I said Beach
Department, Mr. Donahue.

MR. DONAHUE: Bob Donahue, Precinct 3.

I’m back to the same thing that I said about the
Police Department on the Beach Department, except
the Police Department isn’t a profit center for
the Town. It’s an expense to run the Police
Department. But they’re looking for I believe
it’s Article – let’s see.
THE MODERATOR: In the Capital Budget?

MR. DONAHUE: Right, Article 15, they're looking for Old Silver Beach and Surf Drive for the replacement of those - the septic system and the Ellen Mitchell Bath House. Now, they come up with plenty of money for this Town; why isn't this in their budget and they pay for it? Here again, it's if you say, "What's your Beach Department budget?" you're saying one number, but that's not really what the number is because you finance everything else kind of around through the back door, or the side door, at least. I object to that. I wish we would stop doing it. Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN PUTNAM: Same answer applies, and in this case the funds that are received through the beaches go into the General Fund to support the Operating Budget. But again, this is a discussion that needs to be had and over the coming year we're going to have to figure out how to do this.

THE MODERATOR: Short Term Excluded Debt. Short Term Unexcluded Debt.
Health insurance. Life Insurance. Medicare
Benefits. Other Employees Benefits. And Court
Judgments.

The question will come on the budget as
recommended with the changes that were presented
by the Finance Committee at the opening of the
discussion. All those in favor of the budget,
signify by saying Aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed, No.

[No.]

THE MODERATOR: The Ayes have it by a
two-thirds majority and I so declare.

We’ll stand in recess for 15 minutes.

[Whereupon, recess was taken.]

THE MODERATOR: Okay, let’s re-
establish the quorum. All Town Meeting Members
please come forward so the tellers can establish
the quorum. We’re going to come back here on
Article 15. Article 15 is our Capital
Improvement Plan. Okay.

Our tellers ready? All Town Meeting
Members present please rise for the establishment
of the quorum and the tellers return a count.

[Pause.]

THE MODERATOR: In the first division, Mrs. Tashiro.

MRS. TASHIRO: 59.

THE MODERATOR: 59.

In the third division, Mr. Hampson.

MR. HAMPSON: 57.

THE MODERATOR: 57.

In the second division, Mr. Dufresne.

MR. DUFRESNE: 84.

THE MODERATOR: 84.

By a counted vote of 200, we have more than we started with, we have a quorum and we’re back in session.

Mr. Chairman for Article 15.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Moderator, I move -

THE MODERATOR: Okay, folks, here we go, Article 15.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Mr. Moderator, I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $361,530 for the purposes of Article 15, including costs incidental and related
thereto, provided, however, that no money shall be raised hereunder by assessing taxes in excess of levy limitations unless the Town shall have voted to exclude this amount from provisions of Proposition 2 ½, so-called, under Mass. General Law Chapter 59, Section 21C (I ½) as a Capital Exclusion and only after passing a town-wide referendum vote on the ballot of the May, 2011 Annual Town Election. Said sum to be expended under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, that’s our main motion from the Finance Committee. Mr. Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

CHAIRMAN PUTNAM: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. I move to amend Article 15 by adding to line 5, $70,000 for the purpose of design for the Surf Drive Bath House and thereby increase the total Capital Budget to $431,530.

The Ellen T. Mitchell Bathhouse serves as the seasonal Administrative Headquarters for the Beach Department and is an important waterfront amenity for our residents and seasonal guests. It is in disrepair. The design work is needed to plan the full scope of repairs and to
develop construction drawings. The Beach Department will use the design as a catalyst to seek funding sources and to develop a work plan.

And, with your permission, Mr. Moderator, our Beach Superintendent Don Hoffer has a brief presentation.

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Hoffer.

MR. HOFFER: The word is "brief". Hi, I'm Don Hoffer, Precinct 4 and your Beach Superintendent.

You're probably saying why after all I've heard this evening I'm up here trying to get your support for item 5 on Article 15. You'll see our current beach house. People say to me, "Why did you wait until now to come before the Town Meeting?" The pictures you're looking at were made in 2001. I've had this on the Capital Plan all those years.

The other statement is that it's only used ten weeks of the year. This is a focal point for the town. We have thousands of people from all over the country and in fact all over the world that come to this building every summer for information, for stickers, for maps. And...
this is what we have to show them.

It’s a money-maker. That’s our
ccession window right there. Every year we
have a concessionaire who bids on that to make
money. The building is – the pictures are going
to show you: the building is in tough shape.
It’s not handicap – there’s no accessibility.
There’s odors in it. There’s no hot water.

You can go along a little faster, there.

It really is in tough shape.

You know, there’s a move afoot in some
of our minds is to make Surf Drive a major beach
for the Town. It’s close to Main Street, to all
the bed and breakfasts, and we’d like to – I know
it’s a long shot, but we’d like to have this
rival Old Silver. And with a modern building
here and some sand, we could probably do wonders
with that beach.

[Laughter.]

MR. HOFFER: We’ll take one thing at a
time.

Another question is raised: why get
drawings, contract drawings and specifications if
you’re not going to do anything with them? Well,
I’m going to try to do something with them, but I notice Mr. Gore is in the audience. He’s not going to allow me to do anything to that building unless I have drawings that are stamped by an architect.

Our Engineering Department could do the job but they’re up to their ears right now. I’ve said this at the Precinct meetings. Those guys are busy as can be. They have loads of items on their plate.

So I’m asking for your support. Other towns have not stood by for these past ten or eleven years. And the final slide you’re going to see is what Yarmouth chose to do at Seagull Beach. And I could take you on a tour of other towns on the Cape that have facilities equal to this.

And as the Town Manager of Dennis said, I don’t want people going to other towns when he authorized $800,000 for a new facility at Corporation Beach. So, I’d like to make people stay in Falmouth.

So please support item 5 if you will. Are there any questions?
THE MODERATOR: Okay. Yeah, questions versus continuing the debate. Questions. Mr. Stetcher. Microphone please, Mr. Stetcher.

MR. STETCHER: Bernie Stetcher, Precinct 3. What’s the total projected cost of this building?

MR. HOFFER: If we had a contractor do it, it’d be about $490,000.

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Nidositko.

MR. NIDOSITKO: Jim Nidositko, Precinct 6. Have you considered approaching Kevin Farr from the Upper Cape Regional Technical School about the youngsters? They built a very, very good building there themselves for their boat program that I think is second to none. But those youngsters are very talented and the price would be right.

MR. HOFFER: I have considered – if I can get the drawings and so on, I will consider either them or some other sources that could build this for materials only. I’d like to try to do that, which would save the Town quite a bit of money.

The Upper Cape Voc has saved us loads of
money. We’ve used them all the time. And in fact we’re using the Sheriff’s Office people to build some other things for us. So we try to use, where we can, other sources.

FROM THE FLOOR: [Inaudible.]

MR. HOFFER: No, we’re not leveling the beach house. That beach house is going to stay in the same footprint. It’s one of the requirements, it’ll have to stay in the same footprint. We’re going to renovate the inside.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, questions, Ms. Palmer.

MS. PALMER: Kathy Palmer, Precinct 3. There’s not as much parking at Surf Drive as there is at Old Silver and I know that Surf Drive’s a little more centrally located and traditionally with the Mitchell Beach House the stickers have always been sold there since I’ve lived here. Has the Beach Committee considered using Old Silver as our headline beach? I’m just concerned about the parking issue.

MR. HOFFER: If I understand you, Old Silver is our premier beach.

MS. PALMER: [No mic: Inaudible.]
MR. HOFFER: Oh, we’re a long way from matching Old Silver at Surf Drive, in funding brought in and in popularity and so on, so forth. If that’s what you mean.

MS. PALMER: Just to clarify, you said that you kind of wanted to make the Ellen T. Mitchell Beach House and Surf Drive kind of a premier beach because it’s proximity to Main Street. I’m just – have you thought about the parking? That’s all I’m asking.

MR. HOFFER: Well, between Mill Road and Surf Drive Beach you have quite a few – I mean, I’m going to estimate about probably 140 parking spaces. Which is pretty – pretty good. It doesn’t have as much parking as the public side of Old Silver. It has more parking than the resident side of Old Silver.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, I see a hand back there.

MR. SACCHETTI: Dick Sacchetti, Precinct 4. Can you give me some idea what the revenues are that that house generates?

MR. HOFFER: Oh a sticker year, we’ll gross about a million dollars, and at November
Town Meeting I had a four year spread where we netted about a million and a half dollars.

MR. SACCHETTI: Does that include the concession stand?

MR. HOFFER: It does.

MR. SACCHETTI: Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Finneran, then Mr. Netto.

MR. FINNERAN: First off, I’d like to say that I’m all for the beaches and they’re one of the few departments in this town that actually makes money. But we’re in a serious financial difficulty and, this article overall, I’d really like to see the Police finally get their cruisers.

And I’d just like to ask you: is there any way we could circumvent the $70,000 design by perhaps expanding on with the Upper Cape students and then maybe re-habbing this like 25 percent at a time over the course of four years?

And then also, Old Silver Beach. Would it be possible to use that in some of the test programs for alternatives, as opposed to replacing the septic and – I don’t know. I’d
like an answer of some description.

   MR. HOFFER: I don’t quite understand
what you mean about Old Silver. Are you talking
about the item, the septic –

   MR. FINNERAN: I’m talking about the
item, the 60,000. Instead of replacing the
septic, could we include it in the test for
alternatives, and use that as the location?

   MR. HOFFER: The system has failed at
Old Silver, and our DPW is going to do the work
there and is saving the Town a considerable
amount of money by doing that. That job was a
lot more complicated than you think, but the DPW
will do most of the work. The design has already
been done by our own in-house engineers. So
you’re getting a bargain on that septic system.

   And as far as the – as I said, or I
thought I said, you definitely need contract
plans and specifications. I can’t write – I’m an
engineer by trade, but I couldn’t write a sketch,
here. I don’t have the stamp, as they call it.
You need a certified stamp to allow any type of
building in that building.

   As far as doing the actual renovation,
that might be able to be done by other than a
commercial contractor.

MR. FINNERAN: But if you were to break
it up into smaller pieces, would you be able to
get around that design phase and just rehab it as
it – in its current state?

MR. HOFFER: You know, that’s one of
those things, once you get into it, you’d have to
start it right after the beach season and do the
whole – I believe you’d have to do the whole
inside at one time because of the disruption.

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Netto, then Mr.
Herbst then Mr. Wilbur.

MR. NETTO: Mike Netto, Precinct 9.
I’m curious, what’s the scope of work for the AE
services that we’re purchasing for $70,000?

MR. HOFFER: I’m sorry, I missed that.

MR. NETTO: What’s the scope of work
for the AE, architect and engineering services?

MR. HOFFER: Well, there’s significant
plumbing and electrical work that has to be done,
which would be included. All your permitting
would be included in that. You’d have your
drawings and so on.
MR. NETTO: And did I hear you say that it would be roughly 400, was it 450 –

MR. HOFFER: Almost 500,000 is the estimate. It’s been going up. I mean, in 2001, it was a little bit more palatable but –

MR. NETTO: Yeah, I think, I mean, in my opinion, I think that seems awful low, the $450–500,000 construction cost. And I just have to question that’s the most prudent, you know, use of funds for a facility that’s located, what, 35 yards from Vineyard Sound. So when the next hurricane comes in and knocks it down or does more than $500,000 worth of damage, I just really have to scratch my head on that one. And I think that if we’re going to expend $70,000 for design services and then turn around and have to drum up what I think would probably be close to $1 million for a thorough renovation, to comply with ADA and all the other requirements, I just think that we’re going down a slippery slope, here, and I would vote not to spend this money. Thanks.

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Herbst.

MR. HERBST: Ralph Herbst, Precinct 8.

Mr. Netto touched on my thoughts. If the acting
Town Manager could refresh our memories: is the Town self-insured on buildings such as this, or do we have to go out and get insurance for this, buildings like this?


MS. HARPER: We purchase insurance for this facility.

MR. HERBST: Okay, so there’s going to be significant ongoing costs for insurance once this building is renovated, thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Wilber.

MR. WILBER: Jude Wilber, Precinct 8. Now Mr. Netto and Mr. Herbst have mentioned some of the things that I have on my mind.

Now, first of all, I’d like to say I respect Don Hoffer immensely. He’s been fighting the good fight on the beaches for longer than anybody could possibly stand. So I have immense respect for him and his knowledge.

I do, too, have a concern about the ratio of design cost to final costs that Mr. Netto expressed. And I also have a concern, I mean, this building was in the V zone. I mean, it’s in the V, V, V, V zone. There’s very little
offshore sand to buffer any sort of significant storm surge or incoming wave impact. I’ve seen that beach house basically surrounded by water, both our salt and fresh water, which I’m sure is contributing to its degradation.

The beach house that you showed, which was in Dennis, I believe, was a very attractive structure and I noticed that it was elevated. It was on posts. And I do know that if you build on the same footprint, you don’t have to do that. Which seems very disingenuous to me, to ask the Town to build a hurricane target and not put it up above like every other new structure in a V zone is required.

I could envision a number of different ways of rearranging the parking and the beach house on – on that beach stretch, which would include moving the beach house back from the immediate waterfront, doing some landscaping and rearranging of the parking, which I think would make it all much more attractive.

And of course there are ways of releasing sand to that stretch of beach, too.

But I am concerned about the ratio of
costs and I really can’t support rebuilding that
structure on the same footprint at the same
elevation.

THE MODERATOR: Ms. Driscoll. No,
okay. Mr. Putnam.

MR. PUTNAM: Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

I’d like to clarify before we start talking about
the expense of building or rebuilding the
Mitchell bath house. The $70,000 that’s being
requested here is for the design. There are a
number of grants that we may be able to apply
for, but they require shovel-ready projects,
which means we have to have the plans in hand and
say, “Look, we’re ready to do this. We just need
the money to actually get it done.”

So the plans are the first step. And,
as Mr. Hoffer noted, he is looking at other
avenues. But again, if we don’t have the plans,
we can’t go anywhere without it.

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Anderson.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
Moderator. In different economic times the
Finance Committee might support this amendment.

However, given the uncertain financial times that
remain ahead of us and the significant challenges of spending for necessities, we believe this request should be postponed.

Now, although Mr. Hoffer is a hardworking and creative employee, which we all appreciate, until we have a greater certainty of the actual costs, the timing and how construction of such a renovation would be funded, the Finance Committee recommends that Town Meeting vote no on this amendment.

In addition, the Finance Committee also has a concern that putting items into the Capital Improvement Program which some may question as to whether they really are urgent Capital needs, it might just jeopardize the entire Capital Improvement Program if the Board of Selectmen decides to put all items on the ballot as one question. Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Dufresne and then Mr. Duffany.

MR. DUFRESNE: Adrien Dufresne speaking as a member of the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee weighed very carefully most of the items requested under Article 15 and, in the
discussion for the plan, if this $70,000 was for the improvements of paint, repair, or to replace the current toilet facilities on Surf Drive, we felt it would be money well spent.

However, we’re buying a piece of paper. And in these very difficult times to my knowledge over the last ten years, I can’t remember a request to make any improvements to the Surf Drive coming before this body. This is the legislative body of the Town of Falmouth, and we would make the decisions based on the income over the last ten years so we would not be faced with such a deteriorated-looking building. I call it planned obsolescence: if you let look bad enough long enough, we’ll want to replace it.

If the request was to replace, repair or lease the facilities at Menauhant, that this body voted several years ago at a considerable sum and was allowed to deteriorate behind the DPW building, I think that would be a good investment. Evidently the people in East Falmouth don’t have the same considerations by the committee as the people living in town. So, I also look at that kind of thing.
I heard the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen discuss the importance of beach facilities and the Finance Committee agrees. And before you are the very necessities of a septic repair, roof repairs and vehicles needed for public safety. Let’s weigh carefully our spending in this Capital request. The Finance Committee – know, it would be nice if we could build a brand new building, and I doubt if it could be built for $490,000. I have a basic knowledge of construction; in a high velocity zone I think this is almost an impossibility. And once you exceed 50 percent of a value of a building, you’ve got to bring it up to full conformity.

So a lot of these things have to be discussed. If we can delay this plan, if our own Engineering Department could engineer some improvements to the current facility, because evidently we’re going to keep the building that’s been there since I was a kid growing up in Falmouth, I think this Town – this body, right now, has to look very carefully at how we get through this budget year. That our requests
going before the citizens of the town are those
that are absolutely necessary for us to maintain
the current level of services.

I would hope that you would support the
Finance Committee’s recommendation and approve
the sum of $361,530. Thank you for listening.
Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Duffany.

MR. DUFFANY: Michael Duffany, Precinct
6. As Andy said, this building’s been there a
long time. It’s been there since he was a kid
and it’s been through an awful lot of storms. I
know that I learned how to swim there and it’s
been, you know, in the early ’60’s. I mean, it’s
gone through a number of hurricanes and big
storms. It’s still standing. I’d hope that the
Selectmen, if this were to pass, and it sounds
like it’s going to have a tough time, but that
the Selectmen would make sure that these are
parceled out so that one of them doesn’t drag the
rest down if people don’t like it, and let the
voters have the final say.

I know how I feel about the beaches in
Falmouth: without them, we don’t have Falmouth.
And this is a major attraction and you know, and sometimes you have to spend money to make money and I think we should leave it up to the voters to decide whether or not they want to spend the money to do this.

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Hoffer and then Ms. Szuplat.

MR. HOFER: Yeah, just a couple of points. The Facilities people in the town, under the DPW, the Facility Director, they have done improvements to this building. I think that’s what you were alluding to. But we have tried and our neighborhood association, there, has bought for the Town window boxes and filled them every – to try to beautify this building as much as you can. It isn’t like we haven’t tried to do something there.

And the other thing, in closing, I had a lot of faith in the capital improvement plan of the town and that’s why I didn’t come before Town Meeting before now. This thing has been just bouncing all over that Capital Plan for ten years.

And my final statement is I don’t want
this item, this Article 15, to go down based on what I’m saying. So, there are a lot of important things there. So, if you can support me, that’s fine, but I’d recommend you vote 15 up even if you don’t vote this particular point.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Mr. Szuplat.

MS. SZUPLAT: Good evening, Peggy Szuplat, Precinct 7. Mr. Hoffer, I’m a little concerned about the septic over at Old Silver, if the replacement is on this Capital exclusion and the voters turn it down, what is going to happen to that beach and that bathhouse for the next summer?

MR. HOFFER: That’s a very good point. We’ll have to – if we’re going to have our concessions, which make a lot of money over there, we’re going to have to provide some type of certainly portable toilets, some way to wash hands. It’s a tricky business. That system has failed.

What we have done in the past as a stopgap is, instead of pumping it out once a summer, we pump it out every other week. So that’s a cost to the Town.
THE MODERATOR: Okay, Mr. Latimer. And then I think we’re ready to vote on the amendment.

MR. LATIMER: Richard Latimer, Precinct 2. I support this amendment. Personal history: my first summer job was in that concession stand working for Mr. Clifford Veary. So I know this building and it was not new then; that was 1959. And I’ve had occasion to go back there; it’s pretty much the same. It was remodeled a little bit since then.

But we’re talking about the main beach in our town. We’re talking about a building that’s been there a long time. It’s named after in honor of a woman who was very dedicated to this town as a member of the Beach Committee. And what we’re talking about here is something that actually helps this Town’s economy. People don’t stay away from Falmouth because there may be a little two percent more on the meals tax or three percent more on the rooms tax. They will stay away from Falmouth and go someplace else if there are better beach facilities.

And we saw the picture of the nice
facility in a competing town down Cape; that’s something that will attract people away from Falmouth. And so I think in order to remain competitive, we need to have this design. As Mr. Putnam said, we need the design. We can look for the money through grants, but we have to have a shovel ready plan. So I would vote for this amendment. Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Mr. Johnson, something new?

MR. JOHNSON: Leonard Johnson, Precinct 5. I’m a little concerned that this bathhouse is going to have to be up on stilts. The other buildings that have had problems down there on Surf Drive when they were rebuild are all up on stilts. I’m having trouble getting a picture of a bath house on stilts with elevators. Will it have to be up on stilts?

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Hoffer.

MR. HOFFER: It does not - under the current rules as I understand it, as long as we stay on the same footprint, we do not have to have it up on stilts. And we are planning to - we may gussy-up the outside a little, but the
main work here is on the inside of the building.

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Rhodes. Then Ms. Lichtenstein.

MR. RHODES: Scoba Rhodes, Precinct 8. To talk about the amendment. Could someone explain to this body exactly what’s going to go on the ballot? Because once the vote is taken for the amendment and then the main motion, then somebody’s got to design what’s going on the ballot to get the 2 ½ override. Are the individual items going to be able to be voted on separately or is it going to be a package deal that the Town is going to get an opportunity to vote on?

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Chairman, have the Selectmen decided how to place this on the ballot?

CHAIRMAN PUTNAM: This would be a package deal. It’s not a menu of items that the voters can pick and choose from, and that’s why this year, as was previously discussed, the Capital Improvement override that was the debt exclusion that was proposed last year, had a lot of items on it and a lot of people didn’t like
one thing or they didn’t like another. The purpose of this was to keep it very narrow, very specific, very focused.

THE MODERATOR: Ms. Lichtenstein.

MS. LICHTENSTEIN: Thank you. Leslie Lichtenstein, precinct 8. I think we all love our beaches and we all know that the bathhouse needs help. We also know we’re in a really tight predicament right now.

I have a question, because I’ve seen this done in other places. Our summer tourists love Falmouth and they love our beaches and I have a feeling if we started a “Help Our Beach House Fund” at the beach house, that people would contribute to it. The people that went to the beach.

I know it sounds silly, but I have seen it done in California. I’ve seen it done in La Hoya and other places. There’s only so much we can do at this particular Town Meeting. Is there – maybe there are some other ways we can help and get to this. Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Ms. Asendorf?

No. Ms. Palmer then Mr. Nidositko.
MS. PALMER: I’m sorry to belabor this point. The CPC money, can this be slated for the beach house renovation?

MR. HOFFER: About five years ago, I went through the CPC process and because I couldn’t prove that that exact building was an antique, it failed. As you know, the CPC rules, they will not work on a building unless the CPC funding paid for it. They may have changed that rule now, but at that time it did not pass the CPC rules.

MS. PALMER: Mr. Moderator through you, could someone from the CPC indicate whether this is possible or not because it could save the Town some money.

THE MODERATOR: The Chair’s saying no over there.

MS. SCHNEIDER: Let me just explain that as we deliberate this, there has been so much done to this building and what they’re asking to do, you have to remember our job is to make sure that this is not maintenance and that it’s restoration, and in no way is the intention to restore this to its original state.
So we can’t touch it. And so that’s why this has no way to go before a CPC at this time.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Mr. Nidositko.

MR. NIDOSITKO: Jim Nidositko, Precinct 6. Those beach cottages down the road apiece from the beach house were mandated to go up on stilts after that last major hurricane when they all floated across the road and into the pond.

Picking up on Mr. Wilber and Mr. Johnson’s point, I’m wondering if anybody checked with FEMA – it was FEMA that mandated that – on the beach house. If it has mold issues and all of that business, it’s because of the water infiltration. I have a suspicion that it’s going to be required to be on stilts like that attractive one down the Cape is.

THE MODERATOR: I think Mr. Hoffer said they weren’t going to tear it down completely. Isn’t that what you said, Mr. Hoffer?

MR. HOFFER: That’s correct.

THE MODERATOR: Okay.

MR. HOFFER: I already checked – I didn’t check with FEMA but I checked with our local officials and determined up front that as long as we stayed on the footprint we could
renovate the inside.

THE MODERATOR: But the ones on stilts were the ones that got moved off of their footprint. There are still beach houses down there that are originally where they were that didn’t get moved in that hurricane. So this beach house, they’re not going to tear it down completely so they’re going to stay on the footprint. I think that was clear.

Any further discussion on the amendment to add the 70,000? Because we’ve still got to go back and debate the whole article. On this amendment, adding the 70,000. Any discussion on the amendment?

The question will come on adding the $70,000 for the Surf Drive Ellen T. Mitchell Bath House design to the main motion. All those in favor, signify by saying Aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed?

[No.]

THE MODERATOR: All those in favor, signify by standing and the tellers will return a count. This is a majority vote to make the
amendment. When we complete this article, it
will be a two-thirds vote for the full article.

[Pause.]  

THE MODERATOR: First division?

MRS. TASHIRO: 17.


Second division, Mr. Dufresne.


Third division?

MR. HAMPSON: 28.

THE MODERATOR: 28.

All those opposed, signify by standing and the tellers will return a count.

[Pause.]  

THE MODERATOR: In the third division, Mr. Hampson.

MR. HAMPSON: 29.

THE MODERATOR: 29.

In the first division, Mrs. Tashiro.

MRS. TASHIRO: 39.
THE MODERATOR: 39.

And in the second division, Mr. Dufresne.

MR. DUFRESNE: 53.

THE MODERATOR: 53.

By a counted vote of 76 in favor and 121 opposed, the amendment does not pass.

Discussion on Article 15, the main motion as presented by the Finance Committee.

Any further discussion on the Capital Improvement Plan? Hearing none, the question – yes, Mr. Donahue. With a microphone, please.

MR. DONAHUE: Mr. Moderator, through you I’d like to ask if this could be broken up into five – four separate – or whatever it – yeah, four separate items on the ballot rather than having it all lumped together.

THE MODERATOR: That’s a decision that the Board of Selectmen have to make. I think the Chairman was clear the intent of the Board of Selectmen, but we can’t direct the ballot question; that’s the sole authority of the Board of Selectmen and their intention is to make it one ballot question.
MR. DONAHUE: Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Ms. Driscoll.

MS. DRISCOLL: Is it possible for the Chief of Police to give an explanation of the five vehicles, the type of vehicle, whether or not any equipment is going to be re-used, trade in values?

THE MODERATOR: Chief, do you want to –

MS. DRISCOLL: And where would they be coming from, is it a local purchase?

THE MODERATOR: Chief Riello.

CHIEF RIELLO: I’m sorry, sir?

THE MODERATOR: Yes, Chief Riello, you have the –

CHIEF RIELLO: Good to go.

THE MODERATOR: Yes.

CHIEF RIELLO: Thank you.

Yes, the $206,000, that should be enough to fund at least five marked police cruisers. As you know, we have a fleet of unmarked vehicles; we have a fleet of marked vehicles. We also have a couple of utility vehicles.

With the five replacements, we will be buying the new Ford Police Interceptor. The
Crown Victoria will be no more. Ford has spent the last couple of years redesigning a police vehicle, complete with a six cylinder motor, it’s all been redesigned. It’s very efficient, it gets great reviews. Better than the Dodge Charger and the Chevy Impala. We chose that because we believe that’s going to be state of the art.

It won’t be available until late summer or early fall, and if this passes, we will wait. I think it makes sense, rather than to get involved in the Crown Vics. They also are all wheel drive vehicles, which will certainly serve us well, here in Falmouth.

Will the equipment be able to be transferred over? Not all of it. It has been changed. The interiors have been redesigned, we understand. We do buy special rear seats in the cruisers, for those of you folks who we’ve given rides to, you know what I’m talk –

[Laughter.]

CHIEF RIELLO: Hah, hah, got you on the ride, yeah, yeah. No, no. Andy, not like the one in the film earlier, okay, Buddy? These are
a little different.

But they're all post formed and they're made for a Crown Vic, so it's the best way to go, it's the best way to restrain prisoners, as you know, and it's probably something that we're going to have to purchase separate.

I do believe, from talking with our expert Captain McManamon, who's been buying cars and taking care of the fleet for the last several years, that we should be able to do that. As you folks know, it's been three years.

You might have noticed the one out in East Falmouth, the one that's up on blocks. It doesn't run anymore, but we leave it out there, we put a cardboard police officer in there; it does kind of work.

[Laughter.]

CHIEF RIELLO: So, we're not going to trade that one in. We've been taking parts off ‘em. That's what happens when the fleet get old, you end up taking parts and, you know, kind of putting them on the other vehicles.

So, that's where we're at.

The - just so you know, the total miles
on the fleet right now is 1.3 million. One of
the problems that we’re having right now is the
repair and maintenance, the bill is going up
because once the cruisers get to about 85 to 90,
90,000, they recommend that you do all the fluid
replacements and the tune-up and that’s about 15
to 1800 dollars. Which is crazy. I remember –
you remember, Andy, we used to put spark plugs in
for 50 bucks, you know? But you can’t do that
anymore. So, that’s kind of where we’re at.

As far as the computer consoles and
those kind of things, we do believe we’ll be able
to transfer over, but we’ll know more as this car
is finalized.

I don’t know if that answered all your
questions, Ma’am.

THE MODERATOR: Are we good?

MS. DRISCOLL: [No mic:] Do these
cruisers have a trade-in value?

THE MODERATOR: The trade-in values?

CHIEF RIELLO: Trade-in values? Well,
the one in East Falmouth isn’t worth much. We
don’t get much, but you know we stopped selling
them and handed them down to other departments
because the Crown Vics weren’t efficient. We started trading them about three years ago, so we can do one-stop shopping with MHQ, which is a state contractor so we get the best price. I don’t know what they give us. I’m guessing probably in the neighborhood of two or three thousand dollars, if that. If that.

You know, these cars now, you know, we’ve got two with over 130,000 miles on them. Then you take into account that Ford tells us for every hour they idle, it’s another 33 miles. So, you know, there’s quite a bit of mileage on them. But it’s easier to just transfer them up there, trade, let them turn over what they can as far as equipment, and go from there.

So, we’re hopeful that – the unmarked fleet is fine. We can get more time out of that. We’re not going to buy any unmarked cruisers. We’ve cut down on the use of unmarked cruisers and take home vehicles and all of that over the last couple of years. So they’ll be marked, and actually with a new design that the men and women came up with. No, it doesn’t have a clown hat, Andy, come on.
THE MODERATOR: Further discussion on the Capital Budget. Mr. Donahue. Through the microphone, please.

MR. DONAHUE: Chief, where the price of gas is going up and all, have we looked into like a Prius? I notice that some cab companies are using them in cities and all and they get great gas mileage.

CHIEF RIELLO: Yes. We’ve – I know that was mentioned. One of the things that we did do with the marked fleet three years ago, we started to buy the new Taurus, which was a smaller motor and it was a great administrative car. All wheel drive, and they still make that vehicle, so we’ve been doing that.

The Prius’s, I have seen them in some downtown areas where they may use them for specialty functions. Quite frankly, I probably couldn’t fit half the midnight shift guys – and gals – well, not – gals, I could, but not the guys, in those cruisers, they’re just too big. And some of the people we lock up, we’d have to strap them to the hood to get them to the station. So.
CHIEF RIELLO: But the Prius is a great car, it really is. We’re wide open. No, and I’m dead serious. We’ve done that with the Taurus and, you know, when something comes up, you know, and we can do that, you know, we’re open to it. We’re open to it. So.

And, you know, they’re pretty pricy, too. If you get the – what’s the green one?

What do they call that? The –

FROM THE FLOOR: Hybrid.

CHIEF RIELLO: Thank you, the hybrid. You know, if we went that route, and I know they don’t make a hybrid police cruiser, but if we were to do the Prius, it would be, you know, pretty expensive. Outside of our budget, so.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, anything else on the Capital Budget? Okay, the question will come on approving the Capital Budget, subject to its being laid on the ballot in May. All those in favor of the Capital budget, signify by saying Aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed, no.
THE MODERATOR: It’s the opinion of the Chair that the Ayes have it by a two-thirds majority and I so declare.

Article 17.

MS. O’CONNELL: Mr. Moderator?

THE MODERATOR: Yes, Ms. O’Connell?

Microphone for Ms. O’Connell, please.

MS. O’CONNELL: Mr. Moderator, Maureen O’Connell, Precinct 4. I’m anticipating a lively and lengthy discussion on Article 17. I’d like to give it the time and what do I want to say awake-ness that it deserves. So I’d like to move adjournment and pick this up after the Special.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, we have a motion to adjourn this meeting and come back to the Annual Town Meeting tomorrow night after the Special. All those in favor of adjourning, signify by saying Aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed, no.

[No.]

THE MODERATOR: It is the opinion of the Chair that the ayes have it. We’ll see you
tomorrow night for the Special at 7:00.

[Whereupon, this night ended.]
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
COUNTY OF BARNSTABLE, SS

I, Carol P. Tinkham, a Professional Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate record of Falmouth Annual Town Meeting, taken by me on April 5, 2011. To the best of my ability the within transcript is a complete, true and accurate record of said Town Meeting.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and Notary Seal this 2nd day of June, 2011.

_____________________________
Carol P. Tinkham, Notary Public
My Commission Expires:
April 21, 2017

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