Present: D. Sampson, M. Miller, B. George, S. Hoctor, C. Holden
G. Dunham, Town Manager
Others Present: Dave DeConto, Director of Natural Resources.

Mr. Miller opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Sampson moved to approve the March 3, 2022 minutes. Seconded by Mr. George. Approved by all present.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

1. Meetings: The Finance Committee will meet next Tuesday for a general discussion about the presentations for operating and capital requests. Next Thursday’s Board meeting begins with four liquor license hearings and the school presentation of capital. If approved, we need a ballot question vote by 4/1.
2. KP Law Atty. Matt Sirigu participated in the Cape Managers meeting this afternoon highlighting ARPA funds eligibility & what the federal government’s “Final Rule” means for towns; Barnstable County officials also touched on their plans to distribute County ARPA funds.
3. Department of Housing and Community Development has approved our housing production plan. A technical assistance grant through the Commission will help with other parts of the LCP.
4. Sandwich participated with Barnstable in a 911 grant Barnstable submitted to review the future potential for regional public safety dispatch services; even if recommended it would be many years before this could be considered or implemented.
5. Earlier this week a MEPA scoping public meeting was held to get feedback from state regulators on our Boardwalk project and submissions; our engineering consultants will submit responses back based on the comments over the next 2 weeks; key concerns were not enough height over the marsh and designing for sustainability over aesthetics.

Mr. Miller said that two major concerns about the Boardwalk are the height and the width. Mr. Dunham reported that they asked why the 10-foot height was approved and not 12 feet or higher given climate change. They were also concerned about letting sunlight through the
planks, as they are so close together. Those types of questions are not uncommon. Federal permits, Chapter 91 and ACOE, are going to be submitted shortly. There will be an opportunity for public comment. Mr. Dunham reported that there was an internal meeting trying to strategize how to return the planks from the recovered sections of Boardwalk. They are looking to remove the planks but there are some questions about which ones get returned; some are illegible. They did find some old databases from the last time the planks were sold and will try to match them up. We need to be careful about limiting action at the marina so as not to interfere with activities there. Mr. Sampson asked if the State is going to do a site visit. Mr. Dunham said there will be public hearings but no site visit. The hearing on the rails by the State will occur on March 22. State and federal agencies can ask for some conditions to be included in the permitting. MEPA is a joint review to get as much done as possible.

CORRESPONDENCE/STATEMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Miller asked about drainage at Upper and Lower Shawme Pond. Mr. Dunham responded that they are getting ready to bid it. They need to scope where pipes should be located. We are also working on the Oakridge to high school wastewater connection. We probably won’t get a quarter of what funds are needed from the County. Mr. Miller and Mr. George attended a meeting on Bay Beach Lane; the DEP sent someone down. There were homeowners, lawyer, engineers, and the conservation officer attending. It was an interesting meeting. It is in the hands of the DEP whether the beach is considered to be a dune or barrier; what can be done there differs according to the definition. The owners want a barrier because they can do more. Mr. Miller told them about the Section 111 issues. The canal might be dredged in the next two years.

Mr. Holden reported that the trustees of Sandwich beaches sent a detailed study of their concerns asking if this can be an ongoing process; the study has a bit more ambitious scope. Mr. Holden would like to see some comments. The Superintendent search committee is having ongoing meetings and there is progress. He wants to compliment Lady Knights hockey team; the boys’ team will be in States tomorrow night. The herring are back; counting begins April 1.

Mr. Hoctor read in the paper that Mashpee had its first year’s payment from recreational marijuana, and it was less than expected. Mr. Miller is concerned about black market activity influence. Mr. Sampson said the petition article refers to a windfall if Sandwich takes this on. People need to understand the money will not affect the bottom-line tax bills; this is misleading. There is also no way to check whether drivers are impaired and that is a problem.

STAFF MEETING

*Relevant Town Staff – Town Beaches and 2022 Season*

Mr. Dunham said that this discussion is focused on the parking lots. Mr. Boucher sent an email saying that last year the access to the freshwater beaches was limited to residents only. There is difficulty getting staff for the parking lots. Ryder brings in very small revenue. Mr. Boucher is recommending that Snake Pond and Ryder should be for residents only; open Oak Crest for access to water and disc golf. We should also think about putting a gate at Ryder for night. Mr. DeConto agrees with Mr. Boucher’s recommendations. It is also recommended to keep saltwater beaches as they are. It is the saltwater beaches that bring in the majority of revenue
from stickers and daily parking. The Boardwalk beach lot mostly brings income from transient parking – not all-day use. We might lose some revenue because of the condition of the Boardwalk, but there might be more interest due to curiosity. We need signage that people cannot get to the beach that way. Parking has doubled in the last six years. Snake Pond would be available to people living on the Base. The ban on personal watercraft at Peters Pond has not yet been approved by the State. If approval is granted, the plan is to expand the weekend patrol through the week. An educational blitz and targeted enforcement at entry is the approach. Mr. DeConto said that the interesting thing about the proposed petition article is that if passed it would need to go through the same process with the State for approval. Mr. Sampson asked about whether the Peters Pond RV park can launch boats into the Pond. Mr. DeConto said they are going to do an upgrade to their dock and pull out the boat ramp. Mr. Sampson said that this is a big part of the problem, and they should be cooperating with the Town as part of the solution. Mr. Hoctor asked about patrol boats. Mr. DeConto responded that everyone would help with the patrol – police, harbor master, environmental control, and natural resources department. They all will be authorized to write citations for violations. 

**Mr. Hoctor moved to accept the recommendations that Ryder and Snake Pond be for residents only and JBCC and Oak Crest be open to all. Mr. Sampson seconded. Approved unanimously.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**FY ’23 Budget Update**

Mr. Dunham referred to the one-page summary. Every number is strong except property and liability insurance. He talked about putting money in important spots and not to over-tax. There is a $175,000 balance in the snow and ice account, so no deficit funding is needed. He thinks with added building square footage he should increase property and liability insurance by $55,000. He would like to increase OPEB to $250,000. If the capital projects are approved expenses can be rolled into a larger bond, but we should use a BAN because of favorable interest rates; this item is increased to $150,000. On the revenue side he is trying to fund appropriately within the limit. He has added money to the overlay relief for abatements and other programs; these are released by the Board of Assessors. The estimated budget balance is ~$200,000. This is a very judicious and affordable budget that addresses several problems. He is confident that the numbers make sense and are fundable. Excess levy will remain as is. In FY’ 21 we bought 100 Rte. 6A outright without using excess levy. We are in good financial shape. Mr. Dunham said that OPEB is a contrived number based on everyone dying on the same day; it is a legal requirement to have it. Mr. Dunham said that the charter provides for a budget hearing, but that information has been provided publicly every week; votes should occur by the end of March. The numbers are pretty firm. Mr. Sampson wanted to know if we get data about which charter school the assessment money goes to; Mr. Dunham said, no, that it just comes off the budget. Mr. Sampson would like to send a letter from the Board to charter schools to find out what they are doing with the money. Mr. Dunham said there are four charter schools to which Sandwich students are sent. Mr. Sampson moved to send each of the four schools a letter to request they come meet with town officials to explain how they are using our money. Seconded by Mr. Holden. Approved unanimously. Bud can email the letter to the Board. There are three meetings left for voting on the budget.
Annual Town Meeting May 2, 2022
Mr. Dunham reviewed and specifically commented on some articles in the proposed list:

- #1 Report of officials. Ms. Harper updated the Long-Range Plan
- #5 Capital Budget – as of now, just the $250,000 for the School and Town facilities; $125,000 from Golf Enterprise Fund for equipment and supplies.
- #12 The beach renourishment is 20% of the prior year parking revenue.
- #13 Sandwich Promotions Fund Appropriations – these will be divided into three appropriations - $25,000 to the Visitor Services Board and Sandwich Chamber and $12,500 to the Canal Chamber.
- #16 can probably be incorporated into Article #15, the debt motion
- #17 Easements – the ACOE has recommended we wait until fall for these

Mr. George asked about the petition article on the bottle ban – why would it go into effect on 9/12/22 when the last one was effective as of the beginning of the year. Mr. Dunham responded that it takes time for approval by the State before it can go into effect. Mr. Dunham then talked about Finance Committee comments about using town hall for the school administration. He said it is too small for the numbers and there is a need to retain some space for files. There is no parking outside and also there are some deed restrictions to changing the interior. Mr. Sampson wants more detail about the cost as $2 million seems high; a standard square footage cost was used for estimates. The Human Services building is in good condition except for the bathrooms. The timing goal is to leave Wing only once. Mr. Sampson also believes that the timing for the school capital is rushed. Mr. Miller said that it is time to put it before the public. Mr. Dunham said that the estimated project cost escalation and contingency in the school capital plan over five years is very high, but increases in costs are what is happening right now. With possible sale of buildings before the end of the calendar year, there could be more funding not coming from taxes (e.g. sinking fund).

Update on Current Building Projects
Joanne Lamothe is delighted that the lighting in the library is working. There was an onsite meeting for CAL and everything is looking good. One set of stairs is in and the next is coming; there could be a tour after that. Tomorrow there will be a video tour of 100 Rte. 6A being filmed, which will be available to the public. There was a project meeting on 100 Rte. 6A with the main operating person of the subcontractor; if everything follows through, they should be moving along. There is a couple of months more of work. The new heating units on the first floor will be finishing sooner. The basement has to wait for full work and dehumidification. They will be meeting with the subcontractor in two weeks.

Selectmen Meeting Schedule
We need to decide about what to do on March 24. We could do votes on the 17th. If anything needs to be added to the warrant, let Mr. Dunham know.

Other Matters Not Reasonably Anticipated for Old Business
Mr. George asked about the police station roof; the donation of roofing material is being stored securely. The Town is waiting to hear back about the license agreement. Mr. Holden gave a presentation at the library on Saturday for Stu Parson’s retirement

NEW BUSINESS

Recommended Visitor Services Board Appointment – Heather Mead
Her letter is in the packet. She is a designee from the Canal Region Chamber. Mr. Holden moved to recommend the appointment of Heather Mead to the Visitor Services Board. Seconded by Mr. Hoctor. Approved unanimously.

Other Matters Not Reasonably Anticipated for New Business
None.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None.

CLOSING REMARKS
The school capital budget will be presented next Thursday. Mr. Holden mentioned the conflict in the Ukraine.

ADJOURNMENT
Mr. George moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hoctor seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Note: Board of Selectmen meetings are recorded and available for viewing in their entirety on the Sandwich Community Television website: https://sandwichcommunitytv.org

Respectfully submitted,

Susan James

Supporting Documents:
Beaches (2)
Budget (6 pages)
Draft Warrant (1 page)
Long Range Plan (7 pages)
Petitions (13 pages)
Meeting Schedule (1 page)
Appointment (2 pages)