

***Town Council  
Long Range Planning Committee Meeting  
Council Chambers, June 18, 2014 at 6:00 PM***

Present: Chairman Ed Harrington  
Councilor Brian McDonald  
Councilor Michael Smart

Absent: Councilor Jane Hackett  
Councilor Ken DiFazio

Recording Secretary: Diane T. Hachey

Chairman Harrington called the Long Range Planning Committee Meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**Review, Discuss and Formulate a Plan Outlining the Goals of Newly Formed Committee**

Chairman Harrington noted that he has no specific instructions from the Town Council President regarding plans for this newly formed committee. Mr. Chairman proposed that we have a long range plan long ago, as he feels that we are reacting and need to proactively have a plan in place. He suggests the committee identify its goals, go to the Town Council for endorsement, followed by the committee setting out to achieve said goals via a plan execution.

Councilor McDonald suggests the committee should have a plan to maximize revenue, reduce costs and address deficiencies. He cited renewable energy as an example, noting that many other towns are implementing this cost savings measure.

Chairman Harrington stated that he has bantered about police, fire, and OPEB in the past and wants to identify areas of concern with associated funding sources in order to correct staffing in police and fire, and funding of OPEB. He cited as an example, the Sithe contract--why not have citizens pay the full trash fee incurred, versus the town picking up a portion.

Councilor McDonald would like to investigate the GIC joining Mayflower Health Group Plan as there may be savings realized. He cited OPEB's strain on the town budget and suggests exploring, through legislation, a law that current liabilities are bonded out over say 40 years, then the town would start clean, with consistent payments going forward. He offered to investigate this possibility. Additionally, he offered see how the state handles their OPEB obligation.

Councilor McDonald further suggests a comprehensive energy management system review, noting swapping out old boilers for new, ballast lamps to be replaced by LED, and solar panels on school roofs.

Councilor Smart noted that changing to LED lighting only grants you a break on your electric bill and cautioned that technology changes so rapidly that you need to be cognizant of this when considering solar.

Chairman Harrington noted that he has previously crunched the numbers for 6 (six)) areas in town needing attention, he would like to take that list to administration to determine costs involved in funding. He further suggests increasing NSS (net school spending), investing more in the schools, and see if home values increase. This could be measured by other towns who have invested in schools to ascertain what the impact is on house values, there are probably studies that talk to this as well.

Councilor McDonald suggests that the South Shore Board of Realtors has such studies which would indicate the correlation between investment in schools and effects on home values. He spoke of the 1991 proposition 2/1/2 override—the interest group includes families with school aged children which is about 22% of the population who would be advocates of an override, the remaining population wouldn't probably support the effort.

Councilor Smart motioned that the committee request that the Mayor's Office define the needs and cost of the list of items from Chairman Harrington, through the Planning Department. Motion seconded by Councilor McDonald and voted favorably.

Audience member Gus Perez suggests to the committee to utilize data which has been gathered for the Starwood proposal.

Councilor McDonald stressed the importance of establishing both short and long terms goals and noted that if short term goals are addressed it will result in the solution towards long term goals.

Councilor Smart noted the Master Plan for the town, which can be found online, as a guide to be used by the committee, noting that many items have been completed, some have changed.

It was discussed whether the Town Council has the ability to raise the trash fee in order to increase the revenue stream. Chairman Harrington believes an ordinance change would be in order.

Councilor McDonald stated that the Council can make a recommendation to the Mayor, but the authority to implement lies with the Mayor. He further noted that Southfield is our opportunity to bring in revenue, it is the answer to address concerns and have a plan to move forward. He cited Braintree and Quincy partnering for the best medical corridor on the South Shore, given that Weymouth has South Shore Hospital, --who is partnering with Partners HealthCare??

His suggestion for investigating Mayflower Health Care is that they have not had a rate increase in 3 years. He spoke with management at Mayflower Health Care, and they are interested in investigating picking up Weymouth, noting the drawback is that there is a buy-in of \$3,500 per employee.

The committee agreed to the following:

- 1-define goals
- 2-define needs
- 3-define short and long term revenue projections

It is the committee's desire to meet over the summer a few times, and the Chairman asked that committee members think about a mission statement and bring their thoughts to the next meeting.

Audience member Gus Perez asked if public participation in the process would be allowed? Chairman Harrington agreed and would also like public hearings scheduled in order to have the public participate in the process.

Chairman Harrington noted that the Town Council cannot advise to effect overrides, the Mayor can place an override on the ballot or it can be accomplished by initiative petition. He would like to see studies that indicate proposition 2 ½ success via citizen or administration initiative.

Councilor McDonald cites that the majority of proposition 2 ½ overrides fail in general type towns.

Chairman Harrington reminded all committee members to bring their mission statements to the next Long Range Planning Committee Meeting.

With no further business to attend to, Councilor Smart motioned to adjourn at 7:10 PM, motion seconded by Councilor McDonald and voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by: Diane T. Hachey, as Recording Secretary

Approved by: Chairman Ed Harrington  
Voted unanimously on 14 July 2014