

Minutes
Cape Cod Selectmen and Councilors Association
February 17, 2017
Four Points Sheraton Hotel
Eastham, MA

Roll Call: Barnstable, Brewster, Bourne, Chatham, Eastham, Falmouth, Harwich, Orleans, Provincetown, Wellfleet

With ten Towns represented the Clerk declared a quorum.

The minutes of the January meeting were presented. A motion to approve was made by Ed Lewis and Seconded by Ed Atwood. Passed unanimously.

The Treasurer, Mr. Lewis, presented the Treasurers report. A motion to accept was made by Sims McGrath and seconded by Ron Bergstrom. The motion passed.

President Moran introduced Senator Cyr and Rep. Peake for comments. Senator Cyr introduced Leslie Sandberg who has joined his staff as District representative and indicated she will be working out of the office at Barnstable Town Hall. Sen. Cyr noted that he received his committee assignments including Chair of Community Development and Small Business, Vice- Chair of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Vice- Chair of Elder Affairs, and member of Housing, Public Health, Municipalities and Regional and Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities Committees.

Rep. Peake announced that she has been reappointed to leadership as one of the four divisional leaders and will have a wide range of subject responsibilities. They are awaiting the filed legislation to be numbered and assigned to committees.

Rich Delaney (Ex. Director of Center for Coastal Studies) and Rob O'Leary, representing the CC Chamber of Commerce Wastewater Committee, talked in regards to the need for revenue for wastewater infrastructure and the possibility of the expansion of the rooms occupancy tax.

President Moran introduced the speakers for the program on Civic Discourse: Mr. Paul Pronovost, Exec. Editor Cape Cod Times, Troy Clarkson, Town Administrator Hanover, and Sims McGrath, selectman Orleans.

Mr. Pronovost discussed the role of the newspaper to print info (real news/factual facts) and editorial opinion. The news role in helping/assisting in civic discussion happens in four ways; reporting on news stories of events, meetings, etc. Printing Letters to the Editor. Printing "My View" pieces. (The paper goes to some effort to fact check both LTEs and My Views but cautions that they can only fact check factual assertions not

beliefs or opinions.) Finally, by taking an editorial position and presenting a reasoned discussion and opinion on a subject, project, and proposal.

Troy Clarkson provided his experience in getting the town of Hanover's story/plan out and engaging the public, both townspeople and investors. In getting a large project/plan into wide civic discussion and understanding, it first and foremost needs to be presented in a clear and straightforward fashion. In addition to presenting it in traditional civic modalities (i.e. public hearings), all other resources need to be employed including web sites, social media, local access T.V., digital visualization, etc. Troy has even done cooking shows to build familiarity with the citizens so when he presents a project the public has a sense of his style.

Sims McGrath presented Orleans experiences in developing and coming to consensus on the Orleans' Waste Water Plan. After an initial rollout of the plan, the town stepped back a bit. They developed a process to bring in the town stakeholders, and utilizing the information developed in the 208 process went through a consensus plan building process.

John Robertson of the MMA discussed the possibilities of seeing movement on the rooms tax legislation this year. All sectors of government are discussing it this year. He is asking that we look at the legislation and provide feedback on what works and what doesn't work for towns.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30