<u>TOWN OF FALMOUTH</u>
<u>SELECT BOARD</u>
<u>STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION</u>
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2022 – 9:00 A.M.
2nd FLOOR TRAINING ROOM
FALMOUTH FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
399 MAIN STREET, FALMOUTH, MA 02540

The Select Board may discuss and vote appropriate action on any item listed on this Agenda unless a different disposition is noted. At the discretion of the Chair, agenda items may be taken out of order.

Present: Nancy Robbins Taylor, Chair; Sam Patterson; Edwin (Scott) Zylinski II; Onjalé Scott Price; Douglas C. Brown
Absent: Megan English Braga
Others present: Peter Johnson-Staub, Acting Town Manager

THIS IS A WORKSHOP MEETING – THERE WILL BE NO PUBLIC COMMENT.

OPEN SESSION

1. Call to Order - By Chair Taylor at 9:00 a.m.

2. Waterways Committee – Informational Update on Eel River West Coastal Resiliency Grant Study, and Annual Report

Jeff Thomas, Chair of the Waterways Committee, explained that the Committee has a non-capital budget request increase for FY23 at November Town Meeting. The Committee requested the following increase: $225,000 for yearly maintenance going forward, an increase from $150,000 last year. Also, per the Finance Department's direction, future one-off projects are proposed to be split with separate Engineering and permitting/dredging budget line items. He explained that 2022 spring inlet maintenance dredging was accomplished for the Great Pond and Green Pond approaches only. For 2023, the Committee expects the same list of dredging plus the Eel River approach. The 10 year comprehensive dredging permit expired in February 2022 but was extended due to COVID to December 31, 2022. The permit covers areas that are dredged on a frequent basis due to their relatively simple nature, and beaches used for dredge spoils nourishment. The permit covers both navigational and water quality dredging. The renewal of the permit is in process but delayed. The proposed permit renewal added Great Pond interior channel, Megansett approach, and the Trunk River interior.

The Board thanked Mr. Thomas for his presentation.

3. Strategic Planning Discussion

Ms. Scott Price stated that she took the goals and feedback from the last Strategic Planning session and drafted a document to help with this discussion. She explained that there are some areas which need to be considered under other priority areas such as maintaining financially sustainability, the AAA bond rating, making use of appropriate public-private partnerships, DEI accessibility, and leveraging the work of the Cape Cod Commission.

Mr. Johnson-Staub made a presentation on the Town's AAA bond rating.

Mr. Brown asked about including a priority regarding regulation or prohibition of short-term rentals.

The Board continued to review the Strategic Planning document, noting proposed items of prioritization throughout.

There was discussion regarding upcoming capital items which could be postponed in order to allow for free cash for other one-time projects.

Mr. Johnson-Staub explained that the DEI Officer position description has been modified to increase the pay grade and elevate the position within the organization. This would require Town Meeting approval. This position will be reviewed as part of the Compensation Study which will likely adjust the position further in the FY24 budget. The recommendation is to hold off on hiring someone for this position until July 1, in order for these changes to take place.

Mr. Zylinski suggested combining the Human Resources and DEI offices in order to help streamline the process and potentially save some funding. Mr. Johnson-Staub stated that he would look into this idea as a potential managerial efficiency opportunity.

Ms. Taylor suggested departmental audits, similarly to what the school departments undertake.

Ms. Scott Price reviewed the priorities with budget implications including funding for a consultant study to replace the water mains, two clinical staffing positions, staffing for the Fire Station, DEI officer budget changes, Sustainability Director position, and a departmental audit budget.

The Board agreed to review a revised draft document and continue these associated discussion at its next work session.

ADJOURN

Motion by Mr. Zylinski: To adjourn at 11:50am.
Second: Ms. Scott Price. Vote: Yes – 4 No – 0

Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Patenaude, Recording Secretary