

A special meeting of the Town Council held on Thursday, July 28, 2005 for the Town at Town Council Chambers and was called to order at 7:30 pm. Council President Richard presiding.

After pledging allegiance to the flag of our country, Deputy Town Clerk Chatfield called the roll:

Councilman Marcello - present	Councilman Salisbury - present
Councilman Farrar-present	Councilman Marchant - present
Councilman Winfield - present	Council Vice-President Budway - present
Council President Richard – present	

Council President Richard asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to speak for any items on the agenda or any items that were not on the agenda? There was no one wishing to speak.

Under discussion and/or approval, Councilmen Winfield and Marcello recused themselves for items #1 and #2 (Class B & Class C Liquor Licenses).

Council Vice President Budway asked Town Solicitor David D’Agostino if the Town Council retires the Class C Liquor License permanently and replaces it with a Class B Liquor License, is there any obligation for the Town to re-issue the Class C License? Attorney D’Agostino stated no, not once the legislation is adopted. Mr. Budway asked if we need to pass an ordinance to prohibit the Class C License? Mr. D’Agostino stated that is correct. Councilman Marcello stated that once the Town applies for liquor licenses of any class, they have to by law issue at least one of every class. This legislation would make that provision null and void. In other words, you can issue some classes, but not all classes. Attorney Kevin McHugh explained that a Town cannot eliminate classes of licenses, but the Legislature can enable the Town to do so, because liquor licenses are state licenses, not local licenses. Mr. McHugh stated that we would be in the same position as South Kingstown and West Warwick. The Legislature would say that we now have the authority to pass an ordinance which eliminates a Class C license, but you would be taking away a liquor license from the person who holds the Class C license, so in addition to eliminating Class C’s which won’t be available anymore, you are now turning the one Class C we have into a Class B. Councilman Salisbury agreed that the Town would have to take action on 2 matters. They would have to create an ordinance to eliminate the Class C license, and also propose an ordinance to create a Class B license. Mr. McHugh stated he feels this can be accomplished in one ordinance.

Council President asked when is the next meeting of the General Assembly, and Representative Carol Mumford stated that is yet to be determined. Heather Lang stated that they asked for immediate consideration, and hopefully when they reconvene, even at a special session, this will be heard. Councilman Salisbury stated this may or may not be heard. Mr. Salisbury explained this is all very tentative and we have no control over what the General Assembly's schedule is.

Motion was made by Councilman Salisbury, seconded by Councilman Farrar and voted by consent agreement approve the Resolution No. 05-10 in favor of amendment to RIGL 3-7-8 to allow the Town of Scituate to prohibit by ordinance the issuance of Class C liquor licenses and issue Class B licenses to the holder of the Class C licenses (copy attached hereto).

Council Vice President Budway stated that he would not be in favor of creating another Class B liquor license unless the Class C license was retired. Mr. Budway stated he does not think there is support in the community for the issuance of liquor licenses. There may be support for the Lang's license, but he does not think it extends beyond that. Mr. Budway stated that he knows there are a number of people that are opposed to any additional liquor licenses.

Councilman Salisbury stated that it would be a lot easier for everyone involved to tie the licenses that exist to the growth and population of the Town. Mr. Salisbury stated he is not in favor of creating more Class B licenses at this particular time, unless the ordinance is written to tie it specifically to growth and population of the Town. Councilman Marchant agreed with Councilman Salisbury, and stated right now he is not in favor of increasing the number of licenses. Councilman Farrar stated he feels this is something that could be considered in the future, based on population, but also does not feel you should discourage someone from opening up a nice restaurant in this Town and promote business in the Town. Council Vice President Budway stated that when this issue was previously discussed last fall, we did have information regarding all the different types of licenses by category according to each town with their population. The Town of Scituate had a reasonable number of licenses, given the population we have.

From the audience, Councilman Marcello (who previously recused himself regarding this issue) wanted to mention some things to clarify the record. Mr. Marcello stated that his telephone has been ringing off the hook and he has been getting a lot of questions from people. Mr. Marcello stated that the Council is holding the status quo. Mr. Lang continues to hold the Class C license with all its restrictions that are imposed both by the Town and the State, including the inability to cook food and serve it on the premises, correct? President Richard said that is correct. Mr. Marcello stated that the Town is only entertaining a potential issue of

converting his Class C to a Class B license and retiring all Class C licenses within the Town of Scituate. In order to do this, they need General Assembly approval. If that legislation passes, then the Town will come back and propose an ordinance retiring the Class C and then determining the number of B licenses by ordinance, correct? Council President Richard stated that is correct. Then that ordinance would have to be submitted to the Council in ordinance form, requiring at least two public meetings where people can comment on that, according to Council rules. That is the process we are using, correct? Council President Richard said yes, we have no choice. Council Vice President Budway stated that he does not think we said we would consider the number of Class B licenses. Councilman Salisbury said we would consider retiring the Class C licenses and create one additional Class B. This will be done by ordinance, which takes two readings.

Under discussion and/or approval, Councilman Salisbury recused himself regarding Item #3, regarding discussion of a special meeting for the purchase of development rights of Knight Farm on Scituate Avenue. Council President Richard gave a brief background on the matter. In January 2004, a number of interested parties met with the Knights to discuss the possibility of buying the development rights of that farm. Expecting that this would take years, and we put a consortium together of who could come up with the money for this purchase. When the Federal Government, the State, Champlin Foundation, Dept. of Agriculture got involved, the State DEM said they have never seen the purchase of development rights on a piece of property move so quickly through the system as this property did. This was rated a priority by everyone involved and as one of the most beautiful farms in the State of RI. At this time, President Richard turned the matter over to Christopher Modisette, Chairman of the Conservation Commission.

Christopher Modisette explained the history of this and how the Knight's approached the Town regarding the purchase of development rights because they were considering getting out of the farming business. The Conservation Commission realized that this beautiful piece of property is "highly developable" and immediately became interested in it. Mr. Modisette stated that the State of RI has secured a fairly sizable amount of money from the Federal Government (USDA), along with the State Agriculture Land Preservation Commission and from the Champlin Foundation through the Nature Conservancy. The appraisal was paid for by the Nature Conservancy. At this point, the State would like to close on this property by September 30, 2005 or they have to send the money back to the Federal Government. They are asking the Town for a commitment of 10 cents on the dollar for the acquisition of development rights on this property, which is a significantly good deal for the Town. The conservation easement will be purchased, monitored and held by the State, with the intent of the Knights to maintain the

property in its current agricultural uses. An agricultural management plan will be prepared by the US Dept. of Agriculture, in conjunction with the Knights to make sure the property is properly managed and farmed in the near future. The total property is about 97 acres, and the State, the Town and its partners are purchasing about 85 acres of the development rights. There is a 6-acre compound in the middle of the farm that includes the existing buildings and barns. Under conservation easements, the State and Federal Government do not purchase those facilities, so that 6-acre compound is carved out and consistent with local planning and zoning regulations. They are reserving for themselves 6 acres along Seven Mile Road for a farm for themselves if they retire. Mr. Modisette stated this is consistent with the Town's Comprehensive Plan, and is consistent with criteria guidelines that the Conservation Commission and the Land Trust Commission have adopted. According to the State, it contains prime agricultural soils, and they are very excited about this parcel. Mr. Modisette stated he doesn't think he's ever seen a project move this fast. The State has asked for participation from the Town for approximately \$250,000. There is a brief summary that is attached hereto.

Councilman Marchant asked if the Knights are looking to get out of the farming business, how will this property be maintained as a farm? Mr. Modisette stated that if it is sold, it will have to be sold with a conservation restriction on it, and anyone who buys it will assume that responsibility. Mr. Marchant asked how would they maintain it if they don't sell it? Mr. Modisette stated that there is a farmer in East Greenwich that is looking for a farm about this size to mow hay on. He explained that the State Agriculture has an extensive system to network the people looking for things like hay land to manage.

President Richard stated that the DiMuccio Farm in Cranston that is across the street from Knight Farm, sold their development rights and Confreda leases and runs most of the back land of the DiMuccio Farm. There are people who would be willing to come in and take over this land for production of vegetable crops or hay fields.

Councilman Marcello asked if the proposed conservation easement has been drafted, and stated he would like to see it once it is. Councilman Marcello asked if we have funds in the current budget to purchase this without going through the procedure of a special financial town meeting? Is there any general revenue to offset this purchase? President Richard stated that we did have funds approved in the past for a purchase that never occurred, but according to the Town Solicitor, this type of expenditure needs a vote specific to the parcel of property we want to purchase. Mr. Marcello asked if anyone knows how much we have accumulated for the purchase of open space that we approved in the budget? Mr. Marcello stated that once it was approved in the budget, it was already once approved and does not need to go before the voters

for approval again. The question is how much is available for open space? Councilman Marcello stated that he is generally not in favor of purchasing development rights; however, this is not a lot of money for prime land. It is a beautiful piece of property worth preserving. He asked Mr. Modisette if it is currently in the Farm, Forest and Open Space Act, and Mr. Modisette stated he does not think so. What is the status of any property taxes owed? Mr. Marcello stated he would like to see one more public hearing before a financial town meeting, and also possibly a public walk-through prior to the vote. Also, he would like to have the Town Treasurer advise what the balance is of that account and whether or not there is a possibility of re-allocating funds within the current budget.

Motion was made by Councilman Farrar, and seconded by Councilman Marchant, and voted by consent agreement to have the Town Clerk schedule a Special Financial Town Meeting within the allowable time period by law, and to also have the Conservation Commission set up a work session and tour of the property prior to this meeting.

Council President Richard asked Town Treasurer Przybyla what portion of the \$250,000 may be available in the budget? Mr. Przybyla stated he would have to look at it, and advise what is available. Mr. Richard also asked Mr. Przybyla if he can look into and advise if we have to borrow \$200,000, how long it would be bonded for and what the rate would be on someone's tax bill?

President Richard thanked Chris Modisette and Paul Dolan for their assistance.

Next item on the agenda was the Fire & Rescue Engineering Board. Council President Richard stated this part of the meeting is a worksession to discuss a number of issues. At this time, Fire and Rescue Engineering Board President, Chief Donald Campbell, thanked the Town Council for taking the time to sit down and listen to them.

The first item to be discussed was placing all the fire departments on the State contract for oil and propane. Mr. Richard stated that we do have other town departments on the State bid, such as the Hope Library. Public Works Director, Richard Iverson stated there is no State contract for heating fuel and diesel right now. They are working on it. They may request that the billing come right through the Town. Councilman Marcello asked when this request was first made? Chief Campbell stated he made the request approximately 4 years ago to the Highway Director, and was told they would be put on the contract, and nothing was ever done. Chief Gaffney stated that this was discussed in January at budget time. Mr. Iverson stated this was a very simple process, all they have to do is formally make a written request, which was never done. Councilman Winfield asked if this would suffice as a written request? Mr. Iverson stated yes.

The next item for discussion was a long list of capital improvements for all departments. Councilman Marcello stated that some of these things were in the budget and were eventually cut out due to budget cuts. Chief Campbell stated the roof at Hope Jackson has been in the budget for years. Emergency Services Director, Richard Tucker stated that he cut all of their capital assessments due to budget cuts. At that time, Councilman Budway asked the departments to make a priority list of capital improvements for the next five years. Richard Iverson stated that in his town properties budget, they initially had \$18,000 for miscellaneous work at the 2 Town fire departments. Some of that money was cut, and some was left in the budget. Chief Campbell stated that their roof has a tremendous area of leakage. It's a wooden roof and when it rains, it just pours in. He has gotten estimates of approximately \$25,000. Councilman Marcello asked Chief Campbell how much money he had in his operating budget, and Chief Campbell stated there was probably a couple of thousand he could come up with for this.

Council Vice President Budway stated he specifically asked for a capital expenditure request for a period of over the next five years, and he has not seen it yet. Richard Tucker stated he gave that to the Treasurer's Office prior to the budget. Chief Campbell stated this has been on Hope Jackson's priority list for years. Councilman Budway stated he has not seen it in the 8 ½ years he's been on the Council. Mr. Budway stated he requested a prioritized list for 5 years, and each year it is modified to impact the future years. Councilman Salisbury stated everything should be turned over to Richard Tucker and he will forward it to the Council. Vice President Budway added that the composite list be prioritized as well, amongst all departments.

The next item is the painting of Chopmist Hill and Potterville Fire Departments. President Richard added that the Town of Scituate owns those two stations. North Scituate and Hope Jackson are not owned by the Town. Mr. Richard stated it is the Town's responsibility to keep up with that. President Gaffney stated that Chopmist Hill's building is deteriorating on the bottom, and needs to be sealed up. Richard Iverson stated that once we get done with the gazebo and the North Scituate Fire Dept. and Community House roofs, probably in September, we should know if there is enough money left in the budget to get this done. Councilman Salisbury suggested Mr. Iverson gets the numbers together prior to September. Councilman Marcello asked if these repairs were done by outside contractors, under \$5,000? Mr. Iverson said yes, and this painting would also be done by an outside contractor. The numbers that we got were \$8,000 to \$9,000. Mr. Marcello asked if it was possible to have the Town paint this building? Mr. Iverson stated he does not have the manpower or overtime money to do so. Councilman Salisbury stated he is concerned that this will be delayed until the weather gets cold and won't get done. Mr. Iverson stated we can go out to bid now, we do not have to wait for the bidding

process. The Council agreed that if the building is deteriorating, this is a priority and should be taken care of immediately.

Council President Richard moved on to the next item regarding fire code and fire alarms. Chief Gaiewski stated that each and every one of the fire stations are lacking complete fire alarm systems. North Scituate has a tremendous amount of deficiencies, and Chopmist and Potterville have some door issues and pull station issues. Chief Gaiewski stated that every Town building has an issue with meeting today's fire code. Mr. Iverson stated that before we can spend money to paint a building, we need to bring these buildings up to fire code, especially where there are meeting rooms. Councilman Farrar stated that fire code in general needs to be approached town-wide on all the buildings, not just limited to the fire departments. Chief Gaiewski feels that putting every Town building in a package when we go out to bid would make the most sense. President Richard asked how time sensitive is this? Chief Gaiewski feels it goes into effect the end of this month. Each applicable district is responsible for their own building. Chief Gaffney stated that what bothers him personally is if you are going after people in the community to follow these laws, the Town should be following the laws too. Councilman Marcello stated the schools have some issues as well. Councilman Marcello stated he feels it is unrealistic to accomplish this overnight. Deputy Chief Chevalier stated there is a life safety hazard situation in the fire stations right now because from time to time, very frequently, you have people sleeping in the fire stations. The Town has an investment of well over \$1 million in equipment in each one of the fire stations.

Councilman Farrar stated that he feels some of these codes may be toned down a bit, and he would hate to see us spend a ton of money for something that we didn't have to. Representative Carol Mumford stated that the strict fire codes are going to cost the State of RI tens of millions of dollars in order to comply. Mrs. Mumford stated the State House is in less compliance than the Town is.

The next item for discussion was fuel diesel storage in North Scituate, Hope Jackson and Chopmist. The above ground tanks in these stations is an issue. They are not enclosed. These tanks need to be contained and protected from vehicle damage. Potterville has an underground tank, and there was discussion regarding whether it needs to come out or not. Councilman Marcello asked if we can clarify if they need to come out or not?

Next item for discussion is the crew quarters in Potterville, Hope Jackson and Chopmist Hill. Chief Gaiewski stated one of the things to retain volunteers is to give them an appreciable place to stay. Chief Gaffney stated they have male and female firefighters, so if there is a storm, they are staying in the same room. Chief Campbell stated they have 4 to 8 people staying every

night in the quarters in the basement that are full of must and mildew that is not up to fire code. Councilman Marcello stated that we shouldn't be keeping people in a building they shouldn't be in. Chief Campbell stated they stay there to enable quick response. Chief Gaiowski stated they don't shy away from taking any volunteer. He won't hesitate to take someone from Providence that is willing to volunteer. These people must commit to a night if they want to run. Most of the stations have out of town people. Councilmen Salisbury and Marcello agreed that when you provide quarters for everyone, these people are going to eventually going to feel it's time to become a paid department. Deputy Chief Ellis stated that Scituate affords a lot of people the opportunity to get the rudimentary training and they move on. Luckily enough, a lot of these people stay on and help out once they move on in their careers.

Council President Richard stated that he feels this is evolving towards a paid department. It has already happened with the rescue, and he feels it will happen with the fire department. If that is the case, then we cannot afford to have four paid fire departments. We can only afford maybe two with the size of this Town. The Town will have to make a decision as to where these fire stations will be.

Deputy Chief Chevalier stated that half of the people that they have staying overnight are career firefighters and EMS people in other areas, and are by no means looking to get paid in the Town of Scituate. Deputy Chief Ellis stated the incentive for him to continue was his tax bill he received a few months ago. He does not want his taxes to go up, and wants it to stay volunteer for as long as possible. Deputy Chief Chevalier said they are just trying to find ways to encourage and retain the younger people to hang around and spend more time and be more active in the crews.

Council Vice President Budway stated when he first looked at Chief Campbell's letter, he thought it conveyed something a little bit different than the conversation that is taking place. Mr. Budway stated what we need to do is put together a format that we can look at the whole thing. Prioritize the items that we need to do first. Mr. Budway stated we are thankful for everything that the fire departments and rescue people do. However, we need to be careful that we don't approach this a little piece here and a little piece there and build something we never meant to build. Let's put it all together and project out a few years down the road and come to something reasonable we can agree on and afford.

Next item for discussion is insurance. The insurance reimbursement of \$450 per week is inadequate if one of the volunteers gets hurt, Mr. Iverson explained that the policy pays \$450 per week for the first 28 days to someone who gets injured and is not able to work. After 28 days it goes to \$900 per week, or whatever the individual makes, whatever the lower number is.

That can continue for up to 5 years. Lengthy discussion followed regarding temporary disability insurance. Councilman Winfield stated he would like the Insurance Committee look into this and have those benefits increased by a reasonable amount for the volunteers. Councilman Farrar suggested getting data from other communities on how they deal with this. Richard Iverson stated that the \$450 is on the low side. The cost to increase this is not a lot of money; however, we do not have the money in this budget. Councilman Winfield stated that if we can't afford to increase the insurance at this time, the Town should make up the difference out of the money the Town has. It is the only fair thing to do for the volunteers who put their lives on the line, and it is the least we can do until we straighten it out.

Representative Carol Mumford asked if a paid firefighter from another community gets hurt while they are volunteering in Scituate, does this person go on disability in the city or town they are a paid firefighter? Deputy Chief Chevalier stated there are only a few cities and towns that allow their paid firefighters to volunteer in other communities for that very reason.

Council President Richard stated that he agrees the volunteers who put their lives on the line should be adequately covered, and he is in support of having the matter reviewed by the Insurance Committee as soon as possible.

The next item for discussion – apparatus maintenance. Discussion followed regarding out-sourcing maintenance. Richard Iverson stated that when a piece of apparatus needs repair, it is looked at by Dean Randall, the Chief Mechanic at the Highway Department, and if he can't fix it, he will send it out. Mr. Iverson stated that the cost of a yearly contract with a vendor where they come in and inspect and go through the vehicle and do oil changes on a regular basis will eat up approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of our appropriate for maintenance. Mr. Iverson stated the electronics on these trucks are getting more and more complicated, and we do not have the expertise to deal with this. We do have a Chief Mechanic and he should be involved in the process enough to say either he can handle it or it needs to be sent out.

Council Vice President Budway asked what is wrong with this approach? Chief Gaiowski stated it is too time consuming. By the time the Chief Mechanic comes down and looks at the vehicle, he consults with Richard Iverson, and then the determination is made at that point, becomes time consuming. Chief Gaiowski stated they had a situation where their rescue lost its warning system. A temporary warning system (siren) was put in by our mechanic that didn't clear traffic like it was suppose to. They had to wait several months to get it funded in the budget. Councilman Farrar asked Mr. Iverson if he can get together with the Chief Mechanic and the Chiefs and come up with a time frame that would be acceptable? Mr. Iverson stated yes, he will be willing to do that.

Council Vice President Budway asked if the fire departments are asking for out-sourcing preventative maintenance? Mr. Budway asked if we have any preventative maintenance now? Deputy Chief Chevalier stated the Chief Mechanic at the Town Highway Garage does that now; however, he may not have access to critical information specific to emergency vehicles. Richard Iverson said the total cost per department for out-sourcing maintenance is approximately \$4,500 per department. Councilman Salisbury asked how many vendors are out there that can handle all the fire departments' needs? Mr. Iverson stated there are a number of vendors. Councilman Salisbury stated this is a budgetary item, and nothing will be done immediately. We need to get the numbers and put it out to bid, and then we can decide which way to go.

The next item for discussion was Schools. The Fire Chiefs have concerns with cooperation from the school department relative to parking, fire lane compliance, accessibility to facilities, and an emergency call list. Discussion followed regarding no parking available for school functions. Councilman Marcello questioned the problem with the emergency call list. Chief Gaiewski stated the dispatcher does not have a call list, and they do not have the Superintendent's telephone number in the event of an emergency. Richard Tucker stated this has been corrected within the last week. The School Department gave the Director of Maintenance a Nextel and the dispatcher has that number. Councilman Marcello stated he would hope the Superintendent's telephone number is on someone's list in the event of an emergency. Councilman Farrar stated he's married to a teacher, and he knows for a fact that there is a list that the teachers have with Principal's telephone number. Mr. Farrar suggested the Engineering Board write a formal letter to the School Department requesting this information.

Council Vice President Budway stated that he serves on the Traffic Safety Committee, and there was an issue some months ago at the high school parking lot in the turn around area. The Committee wrote a letter to the Superintendent, and did get an immediate response from him. He was very cooperative in responding, so he is confused as to why the Engineering Board is not getting a response.

Next item for discussion is the Scituate Ambulance Corps. Council President Richard stated that he has had several meetings with Richard Tucker and David D'Agostino in which the Council said if we have able and willing volunteers that want to run in the Town, then it behooves the Town to let those people serve. Mr. Richard said that is still the Council's position. Mr. Richard explained, without going into too much detail, that there were some problems with the Ambulance Corps, just as other departments have had problems in the past with staffing. We tried to work out an agreement where certain criteria would be met, as things are different now than they were 20 years ago. A number of issues were discussed, and we felt the Ambulance

Corps was a member of the Fire Engineering Board, and that we were hopeful that the Fire Engineering Board and the Ambulance Corps could work out some sort of agreement. Mr. Richard stated the Ambulance Corps said they would try to meet the criteria, and they would be put back on the run card. We came very close, and then there was a meeting and it seems like things have fallen apart since then. Mr. Richard stated his position has always been that if you have qualified people that are willing to volunteer their time in the Town, the Town should allow these people to do that. The Council agreed with President Richard. Councilman Salisbury stated he finds it disheartening to think we have some people that may be qualified to volunteer, and for some reason, feelings were hurt back and forth on both sides. He is hopeful that something will be worked out where these people will be allowed to participate in the program at some level.

Council President Richard stated that he told David D'Agostino that someone that gets up in the middle of the night and someone that goes through the training and goes out to save someone's life, taking someone's mangled body out of a car at 3:00 am, there is no higher calling that anyone can do for the human race. Mr. Richard stated he cannot understand why something that high, when personalities get involved, can sink to a level that is beyond juvenile. The nonsense and the name calling and the letter writing is beyond belief. It seems sad that we have people who want to do the right thing, and we can't find a way to make that happen.

Councilman Marcello stated he does support 24 hour paid rescue. He thinks we've come to that point where we are going to need it, and it will come sooner or later. Council Vice President Budway stated he does not ever recall that issue coming before the Council whether they are for or opposed to 24 hour paid rescue. Councilman Salisbury stated that it never came before the Council for a vote, but was mentioned, and the majority of the Council felt that we really couldn't afford it at that time. When the issue previously came up, we had pretty good coverage around the clock other than the daylight hours.

Council President Richard stated that he agrees with Councilman Marcello that if we need 24 hour paid rescue coverage, that is a top priority. That is something you have to have. The fire departments said we did not need 24 hour paid coverage. Everyone agreed that there is excellent rescue coverage right now. Mr. Richard stated that he feels the departments are doing an excellent job. Chief Campbell stated last Tuesday they had 5 calls in 2 ½ hours, and nothing went uncovered.

Councilman Marchant asked what happened with the emergency trailer situation? Richard Tucker stated the last dealing we've had with that was 3 weeks ago, right after the first London bombing, the RIEMA decided to do a mock test of response times for the mass casualty

trailers. They called our police dispatcher asking her what the policy was. She referred the call to Richard Tucker, and he told them he could not answer the questions. Mr. Tucker explained the Ambulance Corps would have to be toned out, and he doesn't know what the response time would be. The trailer is in a locked, private building, and he doesn't know where the vehicle is to pull it. We can't keep the trailer in Town building because the Town never signed an acknowledgement that we would take responsibility for this trailer. We've run into problems because of the way the Ambulance Corps took the trailer in the first place.

Council President Richard stated that at one time, the RIEMA was under the opinion that the Ambulance Corps was the Town, and a person there was acting as the Acting Emergency Management Director for the Town. Mr. Richard received several calls on this, and we've had to straighten out a lot of misconceptions.

Councilman Marchant asked if this is something the Town wants responsibility for, or should we let the RIEMA pull it? Mr. Tucker stated this has been discussed with the Fire Chiefs, and that if this responsibility is offered to us, we are prepared to take that responsibility. RIEMA needs to speak to the Ambulance Corps to see if they are able to fulfill this responsibility. Councilman Marcello stated he is concerned about all this because it does taint the Town for the near future.

Councilman Farrar stated he went to the meeting with the Fire Chiefs and the Ambulance Corps, and he walked out of the meeting thinking we were in good shape. It really disappointed him to see they were not. Councilman Farrar would like to see the Engineering Board embrace the Ambulance Corps and sit down and try to work things out. Deputy Chief Chevalier stated they have been trying for 6 or 8 years, with different individuals. Mr. Chevalier stated that there have always been issues between departments, but one thing they have never failed to do is when the alarm goes off, they all work together 100%. That is one group that never did. Councilman Farrar stated he disagrees. Lengthy discussion followed regarding this matter.

David D'Agostino, President of the Ambulance Corps stated that he offered to work with these gentlemen. He wanted to start new. They keep bringing up the same thing about Marybeth. They are not going to say the Ambulance will only go back on the run card if Marybeth goes. That is not going to happen. They won't even give us a chance to come back. They are trying to make us a fire department. We are not a fire department. The Ambulance is not required to have turnout gear in the ambulance. Mr. D'Agostino stated he's bent over backwards to try to work with the fire departments. We just want to respond to a call. If another department is on the scene with qualified people to take the call, then the Ambulance will go back in service. If the Ambulance gets there first and has qualified people, then the Ambulance

will take them in. Mr. D'Agostino stated all he is asking for is to start off clean and for everyone to stop bringing up the past.

Richard Tucker stated the Ambulance Corps's web site advertises non-emergency services and transportation and several other things for Northwest Rhode Island. Mr. Tucker's question is if they are advertising this, how would their truck even be available for the 911 services? David D'Agostino stated they are actually getting another truck.

Further discussion ensued in regards to the Ambulance responding to calls. Councilman Marcello asked if people are racing to a scene? Mr. D'Agostino stated they listen to their radios and then respond, even though they are not dispatched. Councilman Marcello stated the Ambulance Corps has been of a great service to the people of Chopmist Hill for the longest time. However, he is a little concerned with the situation right now that even though they are not dispatched, he does not want to have a situation where there is a turf battle on someone's front lawn about who will be taking this call. Mr. D'Agostino said this will not happen. We are all reasonable adults, and if they put us back in service, we will leave. Councilman Marcello stated everyone needs to work together. Until Richard Tucker comes to the Council and makes a recommendation that the problems are straightened out, he can't in good faith say the Ambulance should be back on the run card.

Councilman Winfield stated that the potential for terrorism in this country continues to increase on a daily basis. We have to work together and do the right thing by getting as many volunteers as we can working for the Town. We should move forward from this point. We appreciate everything the volunteers do every single day.

Deputy Chief Mark Ellis stated everyone listened to Dave D'Agostino and showed him respect. The issue is not with Mr. D'Agostino. When you're involved in the situation where someone is dying, it makes you very sensitive and aware of what is going on around you. When people have friction in those situations, it tends to stick for a very long time, especially when we talk about personalities and people that are worried about their own egos instead of worrying about the matter at hand. We are talking about people's lives and the way things have been handled on emergency scenes. What the fire departments made clear the night they met, was that if there isn't an administration change, we can't work with it anymore because we have given our all for reasons that are very personal for all of us sitting here. Chief Campbell stated that after the last meeting at Scituate Ambulance Headquarters, the Ambulance Corps was supposed to get back to us, and we've never heard from them. We did get emails and letters that are not easy to overcome.

Councilman Salisbury stated the Council would really like to see everyone give this another try. Mr. Salisbury thanked everyone for all the work they've done.

Mr. D'Agostino stated if they are given one more chance and things don't work out, he will resign from his position.

Council President Richard stated he would hope we can keep this in-house as much as possible to avoid any problems.

Council Vice President Budway asked what is the problem with putting the Ambulance back on the run card?

Councilman Marcello stated that until Richard Tucker makes the recommendation to put them back on the run card, he is very reluctant to do so. That is what he is there for.

Councilman Budway suggested that everyone try and avoid the history of this and go forward. Everyone needs to work together. The bottom line is how can we use the resources we have in Town to the benefit of the people here.

Next item on the for discussion is equipment. Richard Iverson stated that Richard Tucker is in charge of capital purchases, and if these items are prioritized, we can address the majority of these items on the list. We do have some money in the budget for these items.

Next item for discussion is apparatus. Council President Richard stated this is part of the five year plan that Vice President Budway has requested.

Radio interoperability was next for discussion. Council President Richard stated we have a new dispatching system at the Police Department. The dispatcher does not talk to the Public Works Department unless there is an emergency. Otherwise, there is no communication between the Police Department and Public Works by agreement. Richard Tucker stated that Richard Iverson has given him the authority in an emergency situation to bring up the Public Works system if necessary. The console has that capability. Richard Tucker explained that the issue here is the fire departments know that the console has the capability of allowing people to talk back and forth between the radio bands. The Fire Department wants to be able to talk to the Public Works Department if they are out. Richard Iverson has a set policy that they must communicate through the Public Works Department, so the dispatchers are forbidden to open that system up unless it's an actual declared emergency. Councilman Marcello asked if this policy has caused a problem? Richard Tucker said he cannot answer that. Richard Iverson suggested that he Richard Tucker and a representative from the Engineering Board sit down and review this policy.

Discussion followed regarding when the Town will take possession of the North Scituate and Hope Jackson Fire Stations? Council President Richard said that question goes to the bigger

question about what is going to happen in the long range plan? What is going to happen with stations? We are looking at serious money. We have the best equipment in the State. Deputy Chief Chevalier stated their station has become so overcrowded that it has become dangerous. There is so little space between apparatus. The trucks are getting scratched from the exhaust hoses because there is such little space between them. The Town's Comprehensive Plan does not address this issue very well. It addresses how the Chopmist and Potterville stations were paid for with federal grant money some years ago and if this money ever becomes available again, the other stations will be replaced.

Chief Campbell asked the Council to consider another point, since everything is done for capital improvement through long term plans. Perhaps a committee can be formed from the Council, Engineering Board, Emergency Services, the Police Chief and the Highway Director to come up with a 5 , 10, 15 or 20 year plan as far as growth and need within public safety. President Richard stated there is a Finance Committee in place to look at the big picture. Council Vice President Budway has started some very good procedures doing this. Mr. Richard asked everyone to put together the information that has been requested by Mr. Budway so we can work together for long term planning.

President Richard stated that Richard Tucker has been taking on more and more responsibility. He has a lot on his plate, and as time progresses, more things will be transferred to him.

Motion made by Councilman Salisbury, seconded by Councilman Marcello and voted by consent agreement to adjourn at 10:38 pm.

Attest:

Gail Chatfield, Deputy Town Clerk