

# CAPE ELIZABETH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Special Meeting # 9-2006

Wednesday, April 26, 2006- 7:30 p.m.

		Present	Absent
David J. Backer, Chairman	2 Rugosa Way	X	772-5845 ext 122 12/2006
Cynthia Dill	1227 Shore Road	X	767-7197 12/2008
Carolyn M. Fritz	1 Stirrup Road	X	767-3737 12/2006
Mary Ann Lynch	2 Olde Colony Lane	X	232-1048 12/2007
Paul J. McKenney	5 Katahdin Road	X	899-0045 12/2007
Michael D. Mowles, Jr.	423 Ocean House Road	X	741-2552 12/2006
Anne E. Swift-Kayatta	14 Stone Bridge Road	X	767-5754 12/2008
Town Manager Michael McGovern		X	
Town Clerk Deborah Cabana		X	

## Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Public Hearing on Proposed FY 2007 General Fund and Special Funds Budgets

Chairman D. Backer outlined the procedures to be adhered to during the public hearing. Those who wished to speak were requested to state their name and address and to keep their comments to a maximum of 3 minutes.

The Public Hearing opened at 7:40 p.m.

*Jack Melanson of 3 Rock Wall Lane* - believed greater harm would result to the Cape Elizabeth students if the Town Council kept their promise of the CPI cap. He supported the School Board budget.

*Rebecca Millett of 12 Waumbek Road (Finance Chair of the School Board)* – pointed out that since 1998, student enrollment has increased. She reiterated that Cape Elizabeth spends less per pupil than surrounding communities and that the Cape Elizabeth schools will be faced with substantial cuts if their budget is capped at the 3.4%.

*Anne Gale of 10 Locksley Road* – reflected on the School Board meeting of April 13, 2006. She asked if the Town Council was willing to keep the “second part of the promise” regarding increased enrollment.

*Sue Pierce of 59 Hunts Point Road* – asserted that the budget is not about enrollment. It is about adequately funding the school system. She appreciates the spirit of the compromise.

*Tom Brigham of 34 Rock Crest Drive* – worked on the Palesky Tax Cap group. He felt that the consensus of the group was to maintain quality education in the community.

*Charlie Mc Carthy of 12 Stonybrook Road* – requested that the Council keep in mind the older people on fixed incomes who are facing rising costs.

*Kathleen Kent of 74 Wells Road* – suggested that schools are a dominant part of the community. She reviewed the changes and improvements she has observed in the schools over the last 14 years and asked that they work within the 3.4% budget.

**Gary Cummings** of 36 Richmond Terrace – expects the Town Council to honor their promise to increase the budget no more than the CPI.

**Laurel E. Grassin-Drake** of 9 Wainwright Drive – thought education was like medicine – never enough. She pointed out that this was not a “cap” but rather a 3.4% “growth”.

**Barbara Schenkel** of 32 Belfield Road did not feel that a proposal of 3.4% was unreasonable. She suggested that the School Board trim their budget as there were less than 1/3 of Cape Elizabeth households which have children in the schools.

**Cynthia Garfield** of 10 Abaco Drive - moved back to Cape Elizabeth so that her children could attend the schools. She was not in favor of the Palesky proposal or the Town Council spending cap.

**Patricia Brigham** of 34 Rock Crest Drive – felt that the CPI does not represent the statistics. She cited the No Child Left Behind mandate and the increased demands this has placed on the budget process.

**Jana Zimmerman** of 81 Oakhurst Road – displayed text books currently being used by the Cape Elizabeth Schools which, in her opinion, are outdated. These textbooks were not her idea of a top or adequate school district.

**Anthony Kosner** of 9 Reef Road - stated that the spirit of the tax cap was to keep a hold on spending. He supported the school budget as he thought that Cape Elizabeth is a magnet for families with children. He suggested that the current CPI is 4.3%.

**Rebecca Dadmun** of 602 Preble Street – remarked that even though she and her husband have a tight budget, they still support the School Board’s budget.

**Bill DeSena** of 11 Wainwright Drive – noted that for the last five years Cape Elizabeth has ranked top of MEA scores and expressed concern in the growth of the school budget.

**Sara Lennon** of 54 Cranbrook Drive – asked that the Town Council fully fund the School Board budget because it is the right thing to do.

**Joe Spagnola** of 2 Heatherstone Lane – felt that the good news that has come out of the spending cap controversy is that the community has become involved. He encouraged everyone to stay involved.

**Deborah Fisher** of 9 High Bluff Road – believed strongly to override the spending tax cap.

**Janet Andrews** of 18 Cheverus Road – moved to Cape Elizabeth for the school system. She is a single mom, has two jobs, struggles financially, but totally supports the School Board recommended budget.

***Daniel Fishbein*** of 19 Salt Spray Lane – suggested that the economy is at stake. A house in Cape Elizabeth is worth two times as much as a surrounding community and it is because of the school systems. When he voted on the tax cap he did not vote on the 3.4% CPI.

***Dena DeSena*** of 11 Wainwright Drive pointed out that money does not necessarily make a better education in the schools. She suggested that there be a change in attitude and inspiration.

***Susan Spagnola*** of 2 Heatherstone Lane – hoped that this evening was not an “exercise of futility”. She encouraged residents to get involved and run for office this coming November.

***Mary Brett*** of 7 Steeplebush Road – asked how many of the Town Councilors have volunteered in the classroom. She thought that Cape Elizabeth has amazing teachers who are very concerned about be able to meet the needs of the children. She supported the School Board budget.

***Geoffrey Alexander*** of 31 Reef Road – has lived in Cape Elizabeth for 12 years. He supported the higher allocation for the school department than what was on the table. He said we must address the fundamental mismatch between revenues and expenses.

***Polly Wilcox*** of 15 Abaco Drive – said to be careful when using the argument about commitment because education for children with “special needs” is very expensive.

***Jennifer DeSena*** of 4 Ivie Road – is a past School Board member. She explained that the School Board does not throw money at schools and that the schools are not always moving forward. She explained that there is no commercial base and the only people who are paying for the good schools are the homeowners.

***Sabina Freedman*** of 2 Todd Road – stated that she was born in India. She reflected on how the focus on education has made the difference in India. She encouraged the same for Cape Elizabeth.

***Anne Belden*** of 56 Stonybrook Road – is on the School Board and wanted to speak about the process. There have been strong differences of opinions expressed, but the process has generated a lot of passion and energy.

***Scott Allmendinger*** of 8 Cole Field – moved to Cape Elizabeth so that his children could go to the school. He has learned about the school budget and has come to realize that the school is the financial engine that drives Cape Elizabeth. This is a result of a lot of dedicated people in the school. He supported the School Board’s increase.

*Michael McGovern, Town Manager* – reminded that Cape Elizabeth is unique in that it follows a “one town concept”. A 2% housing increase should be considered when looking at the impact on this budget. He outlined other various state mandates that have been imposed on the municipal budget as well as needs such as paving that were not proposed for this budget in order to maintain the 3.4% increase. He hoped that both budgets would be consistent.

*Michael Mowles of 423 Ocean House Road* – is a Town Councilor. He is proposing \$274,000 additional money for the School Board’s budget.

The Public Hearing closed at 9:25 p.m.

\* \* \* There was a five minute recess \* \* \*

The Public Hearing on Proposed Adjustments in Sewer Service Charges

The Public Hearing opened at 9:31 p.m.

The Public Hearing closed at 9:31 p.m.

**Item # 97 Proposed Adjustments in Sewer Service Charges**

Manager McGovern outlined the proposed adjustments in the Sewer Service charges.

Moved by M.A. Lynch and Seconded by C. Dill

**ORDERED, that the Cape Elizabeth Town Council, pursuant to Sec. 15-1-11 of the Town Ordinances, does hereby revise and adopt the following Sewer Service Charge and Schedule:**

**A. The following user charge shall be effective for the first bill issued after the indicated date for all buildings within the Town of Cape Elizabeth connected to the public sanitary sewers of the Town:**

**Effective July 1, 2006**

**\$32.50 Up to 100 cubic feet of monthly measured water usage**

**\$4.25 Each additional 100 cubic feet, or fraction thereof, of monthly measured usage**

**Effective July 1, 2007**

**\$33.50 Up to 100 cubic feet of monthly measured water usage**

**\$4.38 Each additional 100 cubic feet, or fraction thereof, of monthly measured usage**

**Said Sewer Service charge shall be applied directly for each water meter in place and for every structure attached to the municipal sewer.**

**B. Sewer Connection Fee**  
**Effective May 1, 2006**

**Pursuant to Sec. 15-1-6 (b) and 15-1-6 (c) of the Town Ordinances, the connection fee, including inspection and start-up assessment, shall be as follows:**

**\$3,500 for each unit to be served by the municipal sewer system with said fee to be paid prior to any connection to said system.**

**C. ORDERED, in accordance with Sec. 15-1-11 (c) of the Sewage Ordinance, interest for past-due sewage charges shall be assessed beginning twenty-five (25) days after date of billing at the same interest rate as is charged for past due taxes.**

(7 Yes)

Citizen's Discussion of Items Not on the Agenda – None

**Adjournment:**

Moved by M. A. Lynch and Seconded by A. Swift-Kayatta

**Ordered the Cape Elizabeth Town Council adjourn at 9:39 p.m.**

(7 Yes)

A True Copy Attest:

Deborah S. Cabana  
Town Clerk

Minutes approved by the Cape Elizabeth Town Council on May 15, 2006