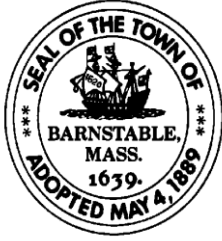

TOWN COUNCIL
Committee to Assess Homelessness in the Town of Barnstable



Selectmen's Conference Room

March 6, 2018

6:00pm

MEETING MINUTES

I. BUSINESS

A. Roll Call:

Members present: Chair of Committee Councilor Jennifer Cullum; Vice President of the Town Council, James H. Crocker Jr.; Britt Beedenbender; LT Jeanie Challies, Barnstable Police
ABSENT: Councilor John G. Flores; Councilor Debra Dagwan; Member at Large, Deb Krau;

Chair of the Committee opened up the meeting at 6:05, Chair of the Committee asked for Public Comment, Chair of Committee recognized Heidi Nelson, CEO, Duffy Health Center mentioned she came tonight to ask for support from the Town regarding the \$5,000 dollar donation the Town makes to the program In From the Streets. This is a program that we request every year, early 2016 it's a program that we provide or try and help clients that are too vulnerable to be in the shelter, we help them find shelter, especially when the weather is too cold, this money doesn't support Duffy Health Center we are the fiscal agent for it, we were asked to monitor it because we had better tools to manage and distribute the monies, but Duffy does not receive any of the money to support any of the program they offer. The money goes 100 percent to the program. The program itself is funded by a base contribution from the United Way, and the commitment from the United Way is for us to ask each town to support and the United Way matches the funds that are donated by each Town. The United Way platform donation can sometimes be as high as \$20, 000. The reason I am here tonight is because I had sent a letter as we typically do to the Town asking for the support of the \$5,000 to President Steinhilber on December 13, 2017, and followed up by phone with President Steinhilber and with the Assistant Town Manager, Andrew Clyburn, and President Steinhilber stated that the amount of the \$5,000 would be reduced by the amount that the Barnstable Police had to come up with this winter to get people into a hotel when the weather was cold and there wasn't anywhere for them to go; Ms. Nelson then called the Chief of Police, Paul MacDonald and he had me in touch with SGT Ellis she told me what the amount was, but did not remember the exact amount tonight, somewhere around 1, 300 or 1700; Ms. Nelson asked SGT Ellis if she knew what process would be used to reduce the amount of the grant by that much and how we would receive the grant with the reduced amount, she was unsure how that works, so that is why Ms. Nelson is here tonight, is to ask how you reduce it and pay what's left.

Vice President James Crocker Jr. replied that he believed that leadership is moving on it. The last discussion he had was that receipts were being asked to be submitted so the documentation can back up the reduced amount, and I believe that that is where it stands right now is as soon as we receive the receipts for the expense, the reimbursement will be given, minus the receipts submitted.

Chair of the Committee asked if this would be a discussion at the Council level as to why the grant was reduced and why it was reduced. Vice President James Crocker answered no; this money would come out of a fund that the Town Manager has oversight on. Ms. Nelson wanted to advocate again for the full amount of \$5000 be considered, she is aware that the Barnstable Police spent less than \$2, 000, Vice President James Crocker Jr. stated, as well, the Barnstable Police were not reimbursed any of the money they spent, this money was given directly to the program, much like the \$5,000 is, nothing was given back to the Police Department. Councilor Britt Beedenbender asked Ms. Nelson to explain

what she meant by 100 percent is spent on services, what services are covered by the 100 percent. Ms. Nelson explained that the funds actually go for the accommodations, but the Case management services that are provided for the client to assist them in finding a place, and if the client is also attached to other services agencies that have any type of funding we find that out as well and ask them to provide help to the individual as well. Chair of the Committee asked if Mashpee was a contributor to the In From the Streets program; Ms. Nelson stated no. Sandwich does, Yarmouth takes the position that because of the motel issue, they do not want to fund something that puts people in hotels and motels, but they give a sizeable amount of a donation to the Duffy Center which is about 3,000 to us each year for the services we provide to the homeless. The Chair of the Committee thanked Ms. Nelson for coming in.

Chair of Committee Councilor Jennifer Cullum updated the Committee on House Bill 3881, which was not successful in the House to pass, so she asked the Committee if they would be interested in trying again to craft something this time around and submitting again, except focusing on the Dover Amendment as part of the crafting of it with a larger voice other than Barnstable only. If the Committee looked at just the educational portion of the Dover Amendment and looked to craft something a little tighter. The Chair of the Committee feels that this needs to be a regional effort, which is why she is going to ask Mr. Yunits from the County and to also include other communities that are dealing with the Dover Amendment and the educational portion of it. The Chair of the Committee remembers this year's Mass Municipal Association had a seminar on this and one of the questions that she asked was about the legislation and if there was any legislation around this at all, or if any of the Community leaders were asking their respective legislators about the Dover Amendment, and she was surprised to hear that all of them had no idea about it, or that the educational portion of it existed. LT. Jean Challies said at the very least it needs to be tightened up, the nonprofits can file under it and say they are educational because there is no reporting or follow up on what they are educating these individuals on, there are no checks and balances.

Vice President James Crocker Jr. mentioned the way Florida is handling it through the Federal Fair Housing Act which the intent of education and then the type of service, they are crafting legislation to tie these two together, but if we stay away from the Dover Act and we craft something in another direction, but we should follow up with the State of Florida and find out how they are doing it, we may be able to craft something in the same way.

Councilor Britt Beedenbender asked if we might take the approach of accountability regarding those that file with an educational component in it and have a check and balance in place as a town to say what is it that you are teaching and how are you teaching it and what measurement of success to use.

LT Jean Challies wanted clarification on what our intended purpose was, because in what she is hearing tonight and originally what she understood was taking an approach on these nonprofit organizations buying homes in residential neighborhoods and claiming they are educational, but now it sounds like there is another direction we are taking with putting something in place for accountability if they do decide to go into residential neighborhoods. Chair of the Committee mentioned that if we now hold those established in neighborhoods accountable to provide a benchmark of success in the education portion, there will be less impact on the neighborhoods because there are educational programs, Vice president Crocker also stated that if you now ask for accountability, and these places understand they have to report to someone, they may not want to come into a neighborhood where they would be frequent checks if accountability. Chair of the Committee will consult with our legal office to see where Florida is right now with the portion of the Federal legislation and ask her to come to the next meeting to give an update on that.

Chair of the Committee Councilor Jennifer Cullum asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes of February 20, 2018. Councilor Britt Beedenbender made the motion to accept the meeting minutes of February 20, 2018 as written, Vice President James Crocker Jr. seconded the motion, all members present voted in favor of accepting the meeting minutes of February 20, 2018 as written.

ADJOURN: 7:00pm

NEXT MEETING: April 3, 2017 at 6pm Selectmen's Conference Room