

Selectmen Goals - FY07

- 1) (44) Support wastewater solution progress.

The Board of Selectmen will continue to keep the Wastewater Management Plan a top priority. Planning, financing, and implementation will play a strong role in the development of the FY07 budget for Town Meeting 2006.

- 2) (33) Start and finish previously funded capital facilities projects on time and on budget - Community Center, DPW, Boy Scout Hall.

The Board wants to ensure that each project is being kept current and receiving the attention of the Project Manager on a regular basis to avoid frustration due to the procurement laws, mistakes, rising costs of materials and other delays.

- 3) (32) Support and create affordable housing (Lake Street and other creative affordable housing opportunities that may not require land purchases).

While all of the Selectmen consider affordable housing a priority, they have varied opinions of accomplishing the Town's goal. Some comments included having individual houses spread through the Town as opposed to "housing projects" and with an emphasis on home ownership. Others would like to reassess the need after the Lake Street development is operational.

- 4) (24) Support Capital Facility Plan Implementation.

The Board is committed to supporting the Capital Facility Plan, keeping an eye to the future and all of the Town's needs; not focusing on one project but rather planning fiscally and practically for expansion of Town facilities to meet the demand for services.

- 5/6) (22) Zoning Bylaw Rewrite.

The Selectmen recognize the importance of the Protective Bylaw rewrite in implementing the Comprehensive Long Range Plan and as a defense against changing the complexion of Chatham and her natural resources, etc. in a negative way.

- 5/6) (22) Support fishing and shellfishing community and dredging projects, mooring issues, continue to work to resolve Monomoy shellfishing issue.

The Board remains mindful that the fishing, shellfishing, protection of resources, and access to waters surrounding the Town are an integral part of the community for both commercial and recreation purposes.

- 7) (17) Improve communication between Board of Selectmen, staff, committees and public (Upgrade Town Website to latest version, hold one-day focus group for Town committee and departments, investigate the cost of voice mail for employees, also, the cost for more televised meetings).

The Board wants to strive to have as much information and employee accessibility as possible for the residents as well as informative interaction between the committees, employees, and Board of Selectmen.

- 8) (16) MCI Property

The Board wants to maintain a focus on a master plan for reuse of this property. Many decisions will have to be made on this property in the coming year.

- 9) (14) Maintain fiscal position/stable tax rate.

The members expressed sentiment about the importance of keeping the Town financially healthy while maintaining a low tax rate to ensure the maintenance of our culture and quality of life in Chatham.

- 10) (12) Support youth programs - hire Youth Services Director, maintain Skateboard Park, Playground replacement (downtown).

The Board feels maintaining youth oriented programs will provide community participation by all age groups.

- 11) (10) Develop West Chatham neighborhood center concept.

Some members feel this would enhance an important section of Town and would be in keeping with the Long Range Plan. Also, the Town received a grant for planning in this area from the Cape Cod Commission.

- 12-14) (7) Explore alternative revenue sources:

- a) Golf driving range - Landfill
- b) Downtown parking
- c) Real estate transfer tax

By creating revenue sources, the Town can raise operating funds provided by the users who take advantage of certain services. Through user fees, the Town avoids an across the board tax increase and persons who do not use the services are spared the cost.

12-14) (7) Sidewalk/Bike Path extensions.

Now that the Bike Path is substantially complete the Board wants to expand on spurs to various destinations. Members pointed out that, since we are basically a resort community, sidewalk expansion and extensions of the Bike Paths will provide more safety and recreation options.

12-14) (7) Improve customer service.

Comments included creating a more systemic approach to dealing with public needs and stressing a friendly manner for employees.

15) (4) Underground utilities, streetscapes, tree planting.

The Board members agree that the placement of underground utilities would be aesthetically pleasing. The Main Street Underground Utilities Study Committee has been dormant but also watchful of proposed legislation to allow bonding of funds and other bills that have been submitted by various agencies. The Main Street enhancement project would also play a part in this consideration, but costs would have to be quantified.

16) (2) Aggressive land acquisition.

The Board will continue to ask the Town voters to approve wise land purchases they believe to be in the Town's best interest for environmental protection, recreation or other purposes.

17) (1) Develop long range economic plan through public/private partnership.

There are concerns among some groups that Chatham may be edging toward becoming a wholly residential area. Through this goal, a public/private effort would develop a plan toward retaining jobs and income and avoiding economic distress.