



**TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Committee to Assess Homelessness in Hyannis**  
**Selectmen's Conference Room**

Monday February 13, 2017  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. BUSINESS**

**A. Roll Call:**

**Members present:** Chair of Committee Councilor Jennifer Cullum, Vice President of the Council, James Crocker Jr.; Councilor Frederick Chirigotis; Member at Large, Deb Krau. **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Paul MacDonald; LT. J. Challies; SGT. J. Ellis, Barnstable Police; Mark S. Ells, Town Manager; Ruth Weil, Town Attorney, **ABSENT:** Councilor James Tinsley, Councilor Debra Dagwan,

Chair of the Committee Councilor Jennifer Cullum opened up the meeting at 6:05 with public comment, seeing none the Chair of the Committee closed Public comment; Chair of the Committee Councilor Jennifer Cullum welcomed Tom Cahir and Paula George from the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority.

Mr. Cahir explained his transit authority that has a great staff and he hopes that the service provided brings relief to those who need transportation. We have a regional board that has a representative from each town on the Cape. Barnstable's representative is Town manager Mark S. Ells. Mr. Cahir stated they run the transit by a significant amount of Federal Funding, but also have State contracts, and local assessments for the Community that needs our services. The local funding has been kept at a 2% and that has not increased. There is also a huge amount of Human Services monies as well for doctors' appointments.

We have a fixed route service that operates hourly, when he first started with the transit authority there was not any transportation from Bourne to Sandwich, but that has changed. We transport a lot of students from the Upper Cape to the Sturgis School. We have the C line that operates from Woods Hole to Hyannis hourly, we have the H2O from Orleans to Hyannis, we have the Flex Route from Harwich to Provincetown, in Barnstable we have the villager service and with the Town Managers help we created the Hyannis loop, we also have a general dialer ride, this particular ride service is costly, riders call 1 hour before their appointment if they are disabled and that cost is 3 dollars a ride. We also have a Boston Hospital bus that costs 30\$ round trip that goes to all 16 Boston Hospital. We have applied for grants and have been very successful in getting those grants. Most of our vans are from the grants we have secured. The mobility assistance program provides vehicles to all the Council on Aging programs, so that each Council on Aging program on the Cape has a van given to them by us.

The Human Service trips that we did last year totaled 360,000. People are eligible for these through their Mass Health insurance, and it equals about 3, 000 trips a day, we also provided 8, 000 social service trips that were not health related, we also created the weekend flyer that takes the train from the Cape to Middleboro, and it is the only service in the State right now in transportation that is actually making money.

The homes that we provide services to are the Angel House, Carriage House, Safe Harbor, Cape Cod Council of Churches, Village of Cataumet, St. Joseph's House, Independence House, these are facilities we go to daily and provide rides daily. We have a new program that we have created where we go by a number of businesses to explain our services because we had concerns that not many had this information. Mr. Cahir had also asked the Police Chief to make some extra runs by the transportation Center to make sure that there are no issues or any loitering happening, and since they have done this most of the problems reported to him have been taken care of and no longer exist. Mr. Cahir stated he and his staff has weekly meetings to discuss the transportation concerns of the Cape and try to come up

with ideas on how to solve those. Since Mr. Cahir has been here the ridership has increased more and more people are utilizing the transportation system.

Chair of the Committee thanked Mr. Cahir for his very informative explanation of the services he provides. Chair of the Committee asked if any of the Committee members had any questions for Mr. Cahir. Vice President James Crocker Jr. asked about the influx of service providers in the Hyannis area, and we have had several agencies in here and one of the complaints is there are no rides if we locate elsewhere, or the transportation is the problem. How can people approach you or get the word out to the Social Service Agencies that you provide these transportation services. Paula mentioned that she herself goes into the Social Service Agencies and explains to them all about their services and how they can utilize us to get the rides for individuals that they need. All of the Social Service agencies in the Town of Barnstable have our pamphlets on the services we provide. We have also asked these agencies if the stops we have are adequate or do we need to change the stops to make it better or easier for clients.

Chair of the Committee asked about how is the transportation out of Hyannis, so if there is someone in Chatham that needs a ride to their social service appointment in Hyannis, how long would it take for the ride or is it even possible to provide transportation from the Outer Cape into Hyannis. Mr. Cahir said that he has transportation services efficiently from Provincetown to Bourne very easily; we have a Riders Guide that we provide as well and handout to everyone that has all the times and the rides available.

Town Manager Mark Ells would like to have Mr. Cahir come to the Regional meeting that is held with all the Social Service Agencies so that he can explain to them about his services. Mark believes that if Mr. Cahir attends these meetings then regionally we can get a handle on the transportation needs of the Town. It was mentioned that last year alone the Regional Transit Authority provided 145,000 rides for Human Service rides which is paid for by Mass Health.

Deb Krau had a question regarding transportation for those that live in residential neighborhoods say in Yarmouth or Dennis or wherever, how do I get a ride to an appointment from my house in a neighborhood to where I need to go whether it is on Cape or off Cape. Mr. Cahir stated they have a service that is called the DOT service which requires an individual to try and call 1 hour before their appointment or pick up time and they will go and pick up the person, it is not always that someone will give that notice we like, and we will still pick them up. Mr. Cahir stated we try our best to run a very cost effective business, and when we do these types of rides it is very costly to do individual pickups, but we do it, that service is the only one of its kind in the country, we have limited resources but we do our very best to accommodate everyone's needs on the Cape. Mr. Cahir stated we already go to the outer Cape, so that isn't a problem to reach outer areas. The only restrictions for those outer Cape runs are done on a time schedule, so we always ask those riders to call us first before they make their appointments so we can set the ride up first, and then the appointment can accommodate the individuals ride. Mr. Cahir stated we do so much, and we need to be able to get the word out to everyone, we go door to door to explain to make them aware of our transportation services, so if there is a better way to communicate what we do then we are certainly open to any of those suggestions.

Chief MacDonald of the Barnstable Police had a questions about individuals they may sometimes come across that are indigent and want to go home, a lot of times the Police Department will take funds out of a sunshine fund to get a bus ticket or pay someone's cab fare to transport them back home off Cape, does the Transit Authority do any of those types of transportations. Mr. Cahir answered that they will take someone anywhere they want to go, however we only service the Cape, but have contracts with Boston Hospitals which is why we go there, but nowhere else off Cape. Mr. Cahir mentioned possibly the Peter Pan Bus Services might do that, however Mr. Cahir stated he would talk about possibly creating something that may help the police out.

Chair of the Committee thanked both Paula and Tom for coming in any explaining what they provide.

**ADJOURN:** 7:00pm

**NEXT MEETING:** March 6, 2017, at 6pm Selectmen's Conference Room