

Social Service PILOT and Comparative Impact Study Committee
Conference Room 2 7:30 PM Memorial Building Framingham, Ma
Draft Minutes
March 14, 2006

Note: If a word or sentence is blue and underlined click for the link.

Note: A tape recording of these minutes is available upon request

Attendance: Bob Berman, Dawn Harkness, Cynthia Laurora., Laurie Lee, Wes Ritchie, Nick Sanchez, Steve Orr , Jim Palmer absent; John Speranza

Bob Berman called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and introduced Peter Dewar from Keefe and Rob Kauffman from the Charter School as our first guests.

Both guests said that their school has no students from the shelters or group homes. The group reviewed the questionnaire and learned about the individual schools. Both schools have their students participate in community service in the town of Framingham.

Peter Dewar said that SMOC rents a room in Keefe to run the New Beginnings Program . This is not for students of the school.

They both said that they will use the services of the agencies for students who need them. Either the school pays or the student's insurance pays the bill to the agencies.

The committee thanked them both for coming.

Police Chief Carl was welcomed by the committee. He brought Chris Murtaugh and Deputy Ferguson.

Srgt Murtaugh is getting his Phd from Brandeis in social science statistics

Bob discussed the questionnaire. Laurie and Bob has met with Chief

Laurie reviewed where we are to date. They have followed the Chief's advice regarding reliability of data and used the data from the department during the 2000-20004 time period. We have the number of calls to the addresses that you have provided. We have also compared Framingham to other communities using the UCR data. Laurie commented that she has given the Chief that information. 1990-2003. One question she had , is there information available that goes to 2005 for Framingham so they can extend their work one year?

Chief said he can provide the number of townwide calls. Maybe not for all the addresses.

Laurie thought we were ok with the address data. It is almost two years worth. The biggest issue for her is how does she determine how to compare those calls to the total number of calls, 40,000. Can we figure out how many are motor vehicle incidents and separate them out?

Chief Carl said they don't track the calls that way. The software is slow and extensive and that would be hard to do. They need serious updating of the entire system to enable them to do such work. Maybe even \$1.5M.

Chief Carl said that he knows we are looking for costs to respond to calls and he can't tell us that, not with the system they have.

Different types of calls require a different response and thus a different cost.

The police tracks calls by crime. By the UCR rate.

Police and fire come when called. They don't ask questions. You call, they go. They don't look at the actual cost.

They did go through the process of looking at alarm costs because it was a huge effect

Regarding the addresses, he continued, they do go to some more than others.

Chief Carl mentioned that he talks to SMOC about the shelter. Every night they go in to see who is in the shelter, do record checks.

They also try to work with the site for youthful offenders.

But the police never look at an address and say they aren't going.

Jim asked if the chief prepares a budget, what type of items is it based on. There is a cost to run a department, how can you run a budget unless you know what it costs for a call?

He Chief said that they can't predict the unknown. They figure out how many ties they are going to go. They figure out what they need, the strength they have. He goes before the fin com. He has officers responding at 2AM to violent situations without backup units.

He continues, no one cares that we have no officers to back us up, that officers are going by themselves. It is the cost of doing business.

If an officer gets injured, we pay the medical out of our budget.

Often it means they can't hire overtime because they have to pay the doctor bills.

He said that if he were to staff based on the statistics, he would need a 200 person police department. You will need a full time person to determine the cost of calls. It is not an exact science.

The police department tried to put officers out there, map the calls, anticipate what parts of town are busy. The south side is busier, more dense, there is a lot more going on.

10% of the calls come from the area of Saxonville, so we put 10% of our resources in that area when it is busy. That is because they keep the resources where the calls are.

The Chief continued that we have to do something about the vast number of calls coming in for violent crime. Every officer does deserve a backup unit. It is a strange job. It is the kind of job where you can hate the guy in the cruiser next to you, but you have to depend on him to back you up and protect you.

It is the kind of job where you leave your biases at home when you come in every night. You go on a call, deliver services and go home

The police department doesn't look at it as the cost of doing business. The town has never looked at it that way.

If you want to break it down to what police officers do into the cost per call, you will have to greatly increase the size of the department. Forget his statistics. Consider the recent report by the News.

The MWDN spent a lot of money on a private benchmarking study which said the police department is understaffed, overworked and underfunded.

We spend less on overtime than other departments that are better staffed.

Every year we are at town meeting, no one questions our budget. We hear rumors that there are no cars, or only 5 cars on the North side.. but no one ever questions the budget or asks him to present his budget in an honest open fashion.

Chief Carl continued that this year was the first year the he went before the board to do his presentation. First in 5 years. No one has ever asked.

It is great that no one is getting really hurt. To be perfectly honest there are some other issues, bigger than the social service agency issue, that this town has to address. They (social service agencies) are part of it, but they aren't the only part of it.

Bob Berman said that the Chief mentioned that the wet shelter is a site that takes up considerable resources. More than other locations. You mentioned another with youthful offenders. How many SSA sites are there that take up a disproportional amount of resources.

The Chief said that he can't answer by address. They go all the time to the wet shelter.

Are people in public housing a SS site? Section 8 supplements? Are they SS's? How do you define this?

Dawn commented that we are looking at agencies. Looking particularly not at people who are poor and get assistance from state and federal agencies, we are looking specifically for people who are clients and here in Framingham and living at social service agency addresses.

The Chief said we don't police that. We don't track addresses. We have contacts with the agencies. We force them to follow up. They are working will with us

It took years for the problems in the shelter to manifest themselves to the level they are now.

We have 20 cops downtown (inaudible)

We are not going to arrest our way out of this problem. He continued that if we think we are going to arrest our way to a revitalized downtown, we are all crazy. There are better chiefs with more resources who tried that and they all failed.

This is a community problem, not a police problem.

Dawn asked for follow up.

Chief Carl said that people go to these agencies, they get services,.. they get mental help, they are homeless. Homeless is not a police problem .It is not a crime to be homeless. It is not a crime to be poor. Poor people aren't criminals. Sometimes people do things that are criminal acts but they have no choice, It doesn't mean they are criminals.

The chief continues that people are being released from prison by the department of correction and being brought into our community because there are social services agencies here that serve them in the community. Is reintegration working or not?

You need to ask a criminologist. He said that the police deals with the failures. When any of these addresses call the police, we respond, we are dealing with the failure of the system. We don't see the person who succeeded in turning their life around. We don't see

the intoxicated homeless person who beats their addiction. We deal with the failures of reform, the failures of correction, the failure of re integration.

We try no to let it taint us.

Whenever we get called, it is not for a happy event.

The chief said that no one wants to see the police. No one is happy to get a ticket. No one is happy to see the police. It is just one of those jobs.

True community policing...

The chief discussed the survey they did downtown. Those who filled them out did love to give the information and were happy to see the police, but others aren't when the results of the survey come out.

We don't enforce the law based on an agenda. If we get called, we go. He wishes they didn't have to go on so many calls. He didn't want to argue for more resources.

Dawn asked what is the relationship between the SSA and the town of Framingham?

The Chief said he will be honest with her: they work very hard.

A lot of our work is generated..

Chief Carl continued, last summer, Nobscots was robbed. We end up walking up to the high school where Benny Ottavianni caught him, Where is he from ? 105 Irving

We have an armed robbery. Where are they from? 105 Irving. Over and Over again.

Are they from Framingham?

No.

They are from Newton, Brockton, Boston, fall River, New Bedford, Brockton... Look at where they are coming from.

A few from Barnstable. Chicoppee , Chelsea, Fitchburg..

They are coming down here. He said he didn't have the exact figures, it goes back and forth. He said about 40% ...people to the shelter ...There is quite a few.

We go over this with Mr. Cuddy. The names. Where are they from ? They are not from the greater Framingham area. By the way he continued, look at their records. Some have minor records, some have major records. They have gateway crimes. Gateways to further crimes. If you have 200 entries in your box that means you have been arrested 200 times, you have been arrested 69 times... 2 or 3 you might be in rehab. If you are arrested 69 times for filing crimes, you are going to commit crimes. Can he guarantee it?

No.

But , the chief continued, it is not good for the community to have these people imported

He said we have our own problems. We don't need to import criminals.

Cynthia said that she recently heard of a re-entry program on Concord Street, people who have wrapped up their prison sentence.. There are 8 centers: Framingham, Quincy, Mattapan, Worcester, Springfield, Lawrence, Brockton , New Bedford.

The Chief said: Our peer communities, yeah. He added . There are probably just as many wet shelters in the state.

Cynthia asked if she gets notification?

He said that he gets notified by the House of Corrections of whoever gets released and brought into the community . He gets notification of , guess whose coming to town.

Cynthia asked if they are form other communities besides Framingham?

He said some are, some aren't. No one will tell him

He goes on the philosophy of why are they coming to Framingham? We arrest a lot of people, but there are a lot more getting out(of prison) than we put in.

All the things we like about Framingham: transportation, services, cost of housing, job market from unskilled to skilled.. the same thing that attracts people like us , attracts people who aren't as fortunate.. they look for low income housing, shelters.. it attracts them.

Cynthia said that there are other DOC programs through the SSA's. Some of the crimes committed are quite serious, and she wondered what does that mean for Framingham and the police department?

Chief Carl said it is very challenging. Our Street Crime Unit , a couple weeks ago, you might have seen it in the paper, but we have a lot of stuff in the paper, we have one Sherriff who works on that Unit. Not for the extra body but his intelligence. He drives down the road and says, stop that guy. He can tell by the pants and sneakers he has on that he was just released from prison. Three days later he was arrested for armed house invasion.

Cynthia asked how long they had the Street Crime Unit.

Chief Carl said for a couple of years. You could call it anti-crime but that is not quite...

We call it street crimes because what happens, we become slaves to the 911 system. When you are a slave to the 911 system We put people in target areas and they do not break from their patrol. They go out, it doesn't matter if they are in uniform, part uniform, they have to address specific identifiable situations. They could just sit in a neighborhood with B&E's and wonder around in plain clothes at the time the break ins are occurring . The average officer doesn't have that luxury. They have to go on calls.

If someone has a barking dog we say you may have to wait for a car. If there is a suspicious noise, violence we have to go.

We often call other town police departments to help out too. We work cooperatively.

We call it SCU, but for those in blue, their peers, with a sense of humor, call it the Smoc Crime Unit. That is because of the clientele they like to bring in. That they do bring in.

We don't ask if people we are booking are involved with the social programs. We just ask address.

It is none of our business if they use services.

Nick asked if there is a connection between alcohol abuse and crime.

We have inquired whether our town as a town, provides services for alcohol abuse.

We were told no. It is SMOC that deals with those programs. Can you address if in fact, the availability of services for those with alcohol and drug problems triggers a greater amount of crime in the community.

The chief said that if he could answer that, he would be teaching at Northeastern.

The town of Framingham issues more liquor licenses than the SS's offer programs. There are over 100 licenses issued. You would have to make us a dry town. But he is not promoting that. He deals with people who commit crimes.

Crime is when someone drives drunk, assaults their spouse because they are drunk..

If you want to talk about someone abusing alcohol and the services rendered we get calls up on Carter Drive from someone who had a couple of drinks and gave his wife a backhand, that is using just as much resources as the drunk who passed out downtown. Alcohol is a disease. Alcohol doesn't cause... it calls all sorts of problems and disorders. That is why towns have been dry.

Is alcohol the problem?

We should look at the bigger picture. Why have we become a nation of alcoholics? Why do people need to get intoxicated? Why 94 liquor licenses in Framingham?

IT will drive business out of town. And the problem won't go away. People will get their alcohol and come back to Framingham. Several years ago we tried to eliminate the sale of nips. We couldn't do that. That is a tool of the alcoholic.

The chief said that he can't answer the why question. Why do people grow up violent...why we have a violent society

He said he will play both ends of the coin. Smoc also runs shelters for victims of domestic violence. Is SOMC the problem? If he could answer the why, he could run the world (laughter)

Better people, greater minds have been tackling this problem.

If we could solve it in Framingham we would make some headlines.

Nick followed up asking if there is a connection between alcohol and crime.

The chief said yes.

Laurie asked for a clarification. The BoS report shows that the survey's of the people from the wet shelter reveals 2/3 of them from outside the Framingham area. She asked if this is so because it contradicts an earlier statement about 40%

Chief Carl said yes. When he said 40% he was referring to the last one month run of names. Over the period of a year it will be closer to 2/3.

Mr. Cuddy is sending away the people from out of our area. He is also following up on what happens to the people who are from outside Framingham. Where do they go. The police need a certain comfort level that they are leaving. That they aren't in our community. These are his issues to deal with.

Steve asked how many of the 100 liquor licenses are stores or restaurants. 22 liquor stores.

Would it be useful or legal for TM to mandate the collection of additional data?

The chief said it depends. He would do anything but he will need a 300 man department.

He is mandated by Eops to collect data regarding racial profiling. It is an unfunded mandate. He is 3 months behind for accident investigations.

The kind of data he is talking about will require new computers and data analyst. Mandates are hard.

He emphasized. We are an extremely busy department. Extremely busy. We come into contact with a lot of people and they are offended..

Maybe not the homeless or the immigrants, but if you approach educated citizens we offend them and cross the line of civil rights.

Bob asked if the police ever bring people to the wet shelter.

Chief Carl said yes. If we find someone downtown intoxicated or homeless we could either bring him to the station and care for him or bring him to the shelter and someone else cares for him and the liability doesn't fall on the government.

The other thing is someone who cant care for himself. We call the ambulance, and they go to the hospital. Then we have to take them out of the hospital when they are cleared and we take them to the shelter. ..

Someone who has a bad alcohol problem, homeless, bad health... if they die in the cell , noon says they died with a warm blanket and a pillow. They say they were just turning their lives around... if they die in the shelter their families think at least they had a warm place.

It is a huge liability of taking these people who are habitual alcoholics and putting them in the police station. We monitor them but the police ends up doing more than.. we aren't a shelter but we become a shelter. That is why there are shelters.

Jim said that the history of the wet shelter was at Grace Church. There was a rigorous procedure for checking in.

Chief Carl recalled it for winter months only. Emergency shelter for the homeless.

We had very few homeless. You never saw shopping carts in Framingham 10 years ago. You didn't see the vast number of people...

When the Church handed off the shelter to the social service agencies it seemed to grow. You will see the number of arrests of the past years, or taken into custody

As the social service providers who are specialists in providing shelters took over from the Church they started increasing their numbers.

What came first, the chicken or the egg?

Did we have this many people out there in Framingham?

The Chief says no. Especially since he can see where they are from. It is like a moth to light. This is his opinion. He tells it to Cuddy, Desilets.. his recommendation is to shut down the wet portion. We need a shelter, shut it down. Wait until it is warmer, but don't debate. Do it.

The issue is: is a wet shelter healthy for our community? We are trying to revitalize downtown. Waltham got rid of their wet shelter when they revitalized their downtown..

When you are driving downtown what do you see?

People wandering around, not looking clean, clothes disheveled, intoxicated or on drugs

It creates fear. Half might not bother you. But the fear sure doesn't help the downtown situation. When we are trying to battle fear along with some actual crime, it is a tough battle.

We read about K. Bartolini and the \$50M being invested. If he were investing that much he would want to know what we are doing.. across the tracks we have major problems. Even people who want to live in an urban environment don't want a shelter next door.. This is urban planning.

Do you want us to arrest our way out of this? We can arrest from morning noon and night. Costs will go up and the problems won't go away.

If there is someone intoxicated disturbing the piece they have to bring them to the hospital and get statements from nurses and doctors. Now they don't want to go to court and testify. Police officers are not going to make it up. All we have is our work and our integrity. We don't make things up. That is the issue.

The issue is Urban Planning.

What do we want Framingham to be?

What do you want Framingham to be 10 years from now. How do you get there?

If you think wet shelters ,and certain other social service agencies are good for the town, they are good, they don't hurt in some people's mind, they help.

But who are they helping?

Are they actually helping our people and people in surrounding communities? Or are they helping people from far away?

It is like moths to light.

There are only 6-7 wet shelters in the State. We are lucky enough to have one

You hear the statistics on reentry programs, we are lucky enough to have one that too.

Some people think it is lucky because they provide jobs. Sheriffs and a few corrections officers and counselors. It might provide cheap help for labor.

But, is this what we want Framingham to be?

Is this what you want?

What does TM want it to be.

If you want us to stay in this vicious circle and keep arresting people.. Sergeant Espisito took out a newspaper reporter at night to show him what went on. The article was called "The Wheel of Misfortune" He wasn't politically correct, but he wasn't wrong.

You get up in the morning you leave the shelter. You go to the Salvation Army an get your coffee. You go to labor ready and work for 4 hours. Go to any liquor store, they are within walking distance, get drunk , go to the Salvation Army have your dinner and go back to the shelter and start again tomorrow. The wheel of misfortune. All the things that are here to help them are also bad influences here to help them fall off the wagon.

Dawn asked if in that cycle a person was committing a crime? She didn't hear any part of the cycle where he said the person actually committed ac rime.

Chief Carl said if you are poor or an alcoholic that is not a crime. But he sees the criminal records of the people going into the shelter. They are habitual criminals. He would love to believe they saw the light, but statistically they aren't. They might say it but they aren't changing their life around... We arrest them and they aren't from Framingham. They are from Peabody or somewhere. IS everyone who is intoxicated and goes to the shelter a criminal? No. Not at all? Are some of them going to commit crimes continually? How do you survive? If you have no money, no job, no residence. The little bit the salvation army gives you isn't enough. We always see them drinking and smoking. They get their money from somewhere. They are either pimping out their bodies, committing minor crimes, breaking into cars. He is not sure what they are doing. If they are not committing crimes... we try to just move them along. It is a public sidewalk. If they are moving we can't throw them off. If we find them in the park, we move them along if they are sleeping. The park isn't designed for them to sleep. We can't throw them out. The newest problem is that they go from the shelter, in the cold weather, and then go spend 8 hours in the library. They wait until the shelter opens up again.

The Chief doesn't know if anyone has children or if they drop their children off at the library but the library should be a safe haven for our children. No one should worry about our 10 year old son walking into the men's room and see a bunch of naked homeless people bathing in the sink.

Yet again we don't have the money to put a security guard or maintenance person in the bathroom. They just call us every time they do it.

We do patrols through there. We try to educate the library staff.

Again.

What do you want Framingham to be?

Jim followed up that at some point in history that wet shelter became a problem. It wasn't in the beginning.

The Chief said 2001-2002 the police started to get calls of people standing around and urinating while waiting for the doors to open.

The police made a videotape from a 7-8 year old girls window.

Jim asked what would be significant that happened at that point that was different from before.

The Chief said two things:

- 1) it was taken over by a social service agency and expanded
- 2) In 2001-2002, the whole nation and state economy flipped. Homelessness is connected to the economy.

He added: we are all one step away from being homeless. No one chooses to be homeless. Or habitual violent criminals. Something is wrong.

Phd's come up with programs and policy and programs like re-entry, re-integration and reform. A lot of repeat offenders...

Between 1/1/2005 and 8/15/2005 15 % or 173 of individuals in protective custody or arrested reported the wet shelter as their home address. 57 were responsible for these 173 events. Some arrested more than twice. 55 had previous criminal records.

Chris Murtaugh added that those numbers are very close to the recidivism rates.

Dawn said that there are a lot more than 53 social service agency clients.

Chief said there are 100's and 100's. He added that he is not saying get rid of the SSA's. Get rid of the wet part of the shelter. Unfortunately the state shut the detox. Get that re-opened ...

Dawn said that isn't our problem.

The Chief said, that is his problem.

We work with SMOC. The police department works with the SSA's to address the issue of impact on the quality of life. We work with other to help them. He is not saying to get rid of them. The police job is to put themselves (the police) out of business. We are to rid the community of crime. He will be long dead before that comes.

He works with the agencies. He is not saying get rid of them. The wet shelter is not healthy for this community. IT is already impacting an area of town with crimes. They are importing people who are criminals. The library is starting to feel the effects of the wet shelter. That is what we are saying. We aren't saying the domestic violence shelter. Those people are victims of crime. He is not saying shut down the methadone program. That caused no problem. Don't shut down public housing, section 8, any other SSA in this town. He is not saying shut down SMOC. His concern is and his statistics focuses on the issues in downtown and a lot of it comes out of the wet shelter.

Don't put words in his mouth. He isn't even discussing immigrants. He has more calls about that...

If he arrested one immigrant and sent him to court, he would be fired and sued. That is not his authority.

The wet shelter increase a lot of the work load for the police department and creates a lot of fear in downtown Framingham.

He is not saying shut down SSA's because this town needs them. There are a lot of people who live all over town who need SSA's.

IF they never opened the wet shelter we wouldn't be having this conversation. SMOC offers a lot of great programs.

Without the wet shelter they wouldn't be in Framingham. There would be nothing to bring them in.

Wes asked how his job changed since detox closed.

The Chief said that his job changed with the economy. That is when his staffing went south. There is less support staff and the statistics are very reliable we are running short handed.

The chief said that he can't solve the problem for us. If the detox opened tomorrow, that will not solve all the problems. That is a place for people to go that want to be helped. It will impact some issues we have.

But he said that none of us will have and never will, the CORI information of the people who are coming to Framingham.

They are coming from other large urban areas, being imported .They have long violent criminal records and they are coming here for the shelter. They have no other connections to the town of Framingham.

The shelter wasn't opened to hurt people. It was opened to help people. But there is a dark side to everything that happens.

The dark side to the shelter is the impact on crime in the town and some of the things they do.

No one likes traffic enforcement tickets but we gave the town a lot of funds from that.

There are two sides to every thing you do. And if you are a SS person and you believe in helping people, and you help one person save their life and 99 fail, you are a success.

The police deals with the failures. He is not giving solutions.

He also asked what about a shelter with 5 people with 20 trying to get their life in order and 30 violent criminals? Is it fair to the 20?

The shelter is one giant room.

Cynthia wanted to ask about substance abuse programs.

Cynthia asked if you have a lot of facilities situated in one community if this is something that will tax the municipal services, police?

Chief Carl said you can tax, but someone has to decide what the right amount of services is. Are they services that are needed in this community? This is something you need to talk to a SSA about. His view might be tainted. When we all grew up our parents told us that too much of a good thing isn't good. Well social services are a good thing. They help a lot of people, but too much of a good thing in one area is not good. This is not a decision a police chief can make. This is a decision the community must make. What is the tolerance of the community? When we do our survey's and try to customize our services according to the responses, that is how the crime unit came into existence. We had a need. We had a need for traffic enforcement. But the community determined the need with survey's and calls to the police chief.. e cant determine the need for social service facilities.

Cynthia asked if having too many programs clustered in one town attract drug dealers, crime... even though people might be putting their lives back on the road to recovery

Chief Carl said Yes. Potentially. Yes. We have a commuter rail that you can get a train in NYC with drugs stop in Springfield sell some drugs, do the same in Worcester and the same in Framingham and then to Boston. There are no cops on that rail. MBTA doesn't watch it. Potentially a lot of crime can come from a variety of factions.

Can SSA's cause problems? Of course it could, especially some of the people we see with criminal records. That doesn't mean they are all criminals. Some people are trying to straighten out. Some people are committing crimes because there is nothing in life for them , they have to survive. That goes beyond Law enforcement.

The problem is the community should be focusing on prevention and intervention. Getting people away from the bad influence. If you start looking at enforcement to solve

your problem, that is a problem. Enforcement is really amend all. For example, it is better to build a building with sprinklers than hope the fire dept will put the fire out. That is what we are doing

Jim wondered if he could draw a comparison between Framingham and Natick. Natick has rail, bus, older buildings, what is the difference?

Chief Carl said they have less diversity, lack the cultures, they have no social services, no wet shelter, not as much public housing you can go on and on. They don't have marshalling yards

He continued Framingham is more urban: more dense and the demographics. A variety of people. A person with a blue collar job can survive in Framingham, People with that job are not going to move into Natick.

Jim said is the community deciding what they are going to have. The government is deciding what to have.

Chief Carl said we don't tell people who can live in Framingham.

Chief Carl said we should be doing enforcement. We have huge apartment complexes. People living in Waterview are paying \$100, \$1200 and people up there have section 8 ticket paying \$100. You can't tell people they can't live somewhere..

We don't see economy when we enforce laws. We see violations , we see quality of life. We deliver services. Sometimes we do services because there is no one else to call. Policing is a blue collar industry. Not that we aren't professionals. blue collar. When the average persons husband slaps their wife or someone's daughter is beaten up by their husband, they call the police. If you are up on the top of Carter Drive and your husband slaps your face, you don't want to jeopardize your job, you call your family attorney you don't call the blue collar police. We are a blue collar service. You might call us for a car accident or for a whole variety of things. People with a lot of resources have resources they can reach to other than the police, other than social service agencies to provide for their families. We are a blue collar service, just like the social service agencies. Except we carry a gun and we have the power to seize you in violation of the constitution and bring you before the court, to a judge for bad conduct. That is the only difference. We are a social service agency. We help people. Our clients are the same clients that SMOC deals with and Wayside and the multitude of all the other SSA's. If it is someone on Carter Drive and their house burned down and they knocked on the door of the shelter, they would let them in. They don't see economy. They see a homeless person.

Nick finds it striking that the schools get a lot of grants from outside. We see a lot of grants going to other communities. Does the police try to get other grants?

Chief Carl said we get lots of grants. From HUD, domestic violence grants, bullet proof vest grant. If it weren't for grants we wouldn't have portable radios, laptop computers.

Every unmarked car is grant to seizure money. Firearms

Nick said that he would be surprised to find he is getting fewer grants than other communities.

Chief Carl said that he can't apply for many grants because they require match money. Mr. King had a policy of no matching funds grants. You are not allowed to take it out of

the operating budget. You would be surprised at the number of grants that we have gotten that we barely qualify for. He wrote them all since 1994. Most now are homeland security.

Bob Berman and the entire committee thanked Chief Carl.

Schedule Update

The committee reviewed the schedule.

Notification for the forum was discussed.

Minutes

Wes moved to approve all past due minutes.

Feb 9, 2006 and Feb 15, 2006

Second

Jim said that the person who requested the delay is not in the room.

Dawn commented that in the Feb. 9 minutes there are several places where it says Dawn interjected. When some speakers speak it is so and so commented. If Dawn speaks it is frequently interjected. It is a pejorative, a subjective she would like it changed. Every time she speaks she wants it Dawn commented.

Laurie asked what page it is on.

Dawn said every page. The same thing when you had the problem with Bob's name.

Dawn didn't have her copy to give the exact pages.

Laurie said that she read through the document and only found one time she wrote Dawn interjected.

Dawn said that when she finds that one she wants it changed.

Jim said that Laurie has to make sure all Bob Martins are correctly identified.

Dawn wanted the Feb 15 minutes include her point of order where she asked a member of the committee to direct his comments to the chair.

Bob asked where this was in the minutes.

Dawn said during the discussion of town counsel's report and before the break.

Laurie has been leaving out personal comments and doing so for many people. If it doesn't seem relevant to motions or discussion of our work, she is not going to put it in.

Dawn said that she doesn't have a choice. Dawn made a point of order and she wants her point of order reflected in the minutes and the point of order was reflected in the minutes.

Laurie needed the tape to hear if it was a point of order

Laurie moved to table these minutes so she can listen to the tape.

Vote on Feb 9 minutes

Vote 9 in favor 0 opposed 0 abstain

Motion to table Feb 15

Vote 6 in favor 3 opposed 0 abstain

Draft Report Update

Laurie handed out the draft reports

Laurie said she just summarized all the information that has been handed out to the committee, such as the DOR report and the Boston PILOT.

Laurie said that she was complying with the request to include everything we have.

She said that the list of what we haven't done yet is important.

Dawn said that AMR is done. She sent out the file and there is a 3-4 page questionnaire they answered.

Laurie thought Dawn was going to do that.

We asked what Laurie or Bob have received that the other committee members have not gotten yet.

For example Peter Dewar's report.

Laurie said she doesn't have anything.

There are no other responses from agencies.

This is everything anyone has done. The data is in the appendix.

There are no interpretations or recommendations It is just what people have sent to Laurie and what we have already done.

Bob asked where the PILT stuff came from. We didn't talk about that

Laurie said it was all information she already brought in: the Newton report, Boston. Salem got the Salem report. John found the DCR PILOT information for the State.

Bob was surprised because he was planning on discussing this issue and forming a working group tonight for this issue.

Laurie said this is just background information from the background group. When we called other communities to find out about the SS's they had, we also asked if they had a PILOT program. This is no analysis, just summary of information. Most of it has been brought in already.

Nick asked about page 24. It is hard to tell what is going on. Can we get it in color?

Bob asked about page 81. Is this a listing of communities that have PILOT payments?

Laurie said that she brought in a long time ago a DOR report done in 2003 of all MA communities and what PILOT's they have. This is taken from that and includes the comparative communities and if they have PILOT.

Bob asked if it tells what type.

Laurie said the code tells. 905 for charitable and 904 for educational.

Laurie said she can send it out again. It is a study of charitable and educational organizations.

We asked if page 4 of the appendix is a list of everything we are studying.

She said yes.

Bob said lets take some time to digest this. Not just this week. Let's take a couple of weeks.

Wes was worried that there are so many little things. If he had Laurie all the time it wouldn't be a problem.

He is going to have a lot of questions why some things are included and why some admitted.

Laurie said she will send the list of addresses in large print, This is the updated list with all the changes we have approved. There is one change that came from Jerry Desilets. He told Cynthia that 3 Merchant Road is a post detox program. That is the only change that hasn't been approved.

Laurie said that this report was written following the progress chart that she handed out in January. It listed all the specifics of what groups were doing and the dates.

Nick asked on page 12, ..

Laurie interrupted to explain that this is the at a glance chart that the group discussed a few weeks ago. Nick had asked for the group to look at the financial background in this chart from MA databank.

Nick continued, he finds surprising that on 2005 schedule A, education the general funds give the schools \$80 M. In addition they get \$16 M through grants.

What about the police? They get grants, but they are not shown. Can someone ask him why they are not shown.

Bob was confused about this sheet. It is interesting but how does it fit to the work that we are doing.

Nick said that one way it is relevant is that this information will impact the actual costs of educating students. HE added that it is useful for the town to know what our expenditures are. He found out that many town officials are not aware of how much we spend, It is tied up to the issue of grants to the police. The grants don't show up.

Jim said that they are specified for a certain type of thing. That is all it can be used for.

Nick wants to know how much is this town being helped by the State and Federal government.

Wes didn't think this answered the why question.

Cynthia said that we need to have an idea of what we are spending. As background information.

Bob disagreed.

If this stuff is in the final report it will confuse the final report. It has nothing to do with the impact of SS's in Framingham.

Laurie thought that perhaps it could go into an appendix. She thought that comparing Framingham to other communities It helps to compare some basic financial information. State and Federal grants and aid. It is very revealing. Lynn gets \$160M. Waltham gets

less than us. It helps us to understand the towns we are looking at. Maybe there is something else besides SS's going on.

She also thought it was important for the break down of general funds. Most PILOT's are based on percentage of budgets. If you take these numbers and pie chart them you can see what that % is. It could help if we go in that direction.

Wes said that is interesting information but his concern is that we haven't had a discussion as a committee that we are preparing to go in that direction. He thinks Laurie is preparing us for a solution: a potential PILOT in the mold of other people. It might be fine if we have a discussion as a committee that we want to go in this direction? Wes did not feel as if we are being set up but we are going in a certain direction like other towns without deciding.

Laurie said that is not at all what it is about.

Wes said that it just feels as if this is being fit into a particular hypothesis. That concerns him. We don't even know if we are going to recommend a PILOT.

Laurie said that is fair.

Jim wanted to discuss the last paragraph on page 83 stating there are no known PILOT's for private non-profit social services. Based on that statement, and he hasn't had a chance to look at all the cities and towns, but they would all have to make the same statement. The PILOT's that cities and towns do have are based on other than SSA's. He finds it difficult to draw a comparison to this and SSA PILOT.

Bob had a question on page 12. Financial impact of non profits based on 2006 assessments.

Laurie said that came from our list and she updated the assessments to be from 2006. She said she used her best judgment as to whether they were residential or commercial.

Bob then read:

What impact on our tax rate do the Non-Profit Social Service *non* taxed properties have?

- The tax rate is approximately \$.07 higher or \$30/year for the average home.
- In 15 years, assuming half the growth of the previous 15 years, the tax rate would be approximately \$.32 higher, in 2006 dollars. That would amount to \$130 per year for the average home, in 2006 dollars.

He asked if this is based on the back of the envelope calculation from the town assessor?

Laurie said yes. She used the assessors' calculation to project a potential impact in 15 years. It is all approximation.

Bob commented that this is the calculation that took an average of the residential and commercial rate.

Laurie agreed. She said that if they want that data out of there, that is cool.

Bob said let's all take all of our time to read this over the next couple of weeks.

Steve asked if we need two weeks or if we can do it in one week.

Wes said he wants to start it next week. He asked if we can have a big portion of our discussion on this next week on this. He would like to at least start on it. Maybe not vote on it but he will need to pick Laurie's brain.

Dawn asked if it is the kind of thing that we can allowed meet in smaller groups to discuss?

For example you can meet with Laurie and go over it?

Wes said absolutely.

Lots of talking and asking if Laurie is available.

Dawn commented as long as we don't have more than 5.

They agreed.

Laurie commented that the 2006 numbers actually came about because Wes called her and asked how to get those numbers.

She added that she made some assumptions about the proportion of Bethany and Sons of Mary used by the non profits. That is marked in there as 10% and when we get the exact number we will change that. She thought she even low balled it.

Wes asked if the real numbers are waiting on square footage. Laurie agreed.

That will allow us to figure out the true amount.

Nick asked when the data from education is coming?

Laurie said we heard from two tonight. Wes said they have no students.

Jim said Martes is coming. Nick asked if they were going to send us answers to the questionnaire.

Bob said we haven't seen it.

Dawn asked exactly which SSA's have responded?

Wes asked if that was included in this?

Laurie said no, that is in the what is not in list.

Bethany, Genesis, Advocates original letter, Wayside original, Metrowest outreach, JFS, GBVH

Dawn commented they are not a SS.

Laurie said we are including community clinic. Dawn commented OK

Wes asked if we can have an update where we are with what we received in terms of communication.

Jim asked if we can take the list and if it is complete put a check mark next to it.

Dawn commented we have AMR and she will send it to everybody.

Nick asked if she can send it before the next meeting. Dawn commented sure.

Nick raised the issue of who is going to write the business about the benefits.

Dawn commented that is far more complicated if the SSA's do not give us the answers for that. That was our source for that and that will make that a little more difficult.

Bob said there are parts; like the ride along program

Dawn commented there is information we got from other departments.

Wes said that is on the not included list.

Nick said that the issue he sees is that we are going to meet with town officials. This summarizes, or puts some information we already have.. and if we are not going to get that information what are we going to do?

He continued, with the education there is a lot of information which is available in the MA Data Bank. Will the Education Committee research that information and provide it for us?

Jim raised a valid question: He thinks it is up to the committee to decide on the status of John Speranza. He has missed most of the meetings of this committee. Jim doesn't know what he is doing and this issue was raised by his predecessor to determine what is his contribution to this committee.

Dawn recalled that at the very beginning we drafted and adopted a rule for the dismissal of members if they missed more than 1/3 of the meetings. John got appointed late. She doesn't know what the math is , does anyone know?

Steve said we don't have anything to do with John Speranza's hiring or firing. He was picked by the BoS with their full knowledge that he traveled 4 months out of the year and that he has no email. John came down to this room on the night he was appointed , took one look and said there is no way he can handle this responsibility and we all begged him to stay.

You might not have, but collectively we did.

Jim said not to say we all did.

Since that time he has been contributing member and has contributed more than we expected when he signed on.

Dawn commented that he can speak for himself on that one.

Laurie said that first of all we never passed that document.

Second of all, she mentioned that John gave a up a six week trip to Japan for this committee. He also came back from his vacation in February when we didn't meet and then went to Florida. He has been quite sick with gout and was ordered to go on 3 weeks bedrest. This should be his last week of that.

She added that he has actually helped a lot. He helped collect the data for the property study, he was the only member in the basement of the Danforth digging out old property assessment books. He spent hours searching for the addresses, he looked up the list of tax delinquent records to determine if the SSA's that should pay taxes do, and they do, He also contributed information of the State PILOT's.

Laurie said that she will call him to see if he is coming back.

Dawn commented that there are other members of the public who have attend our meetings and watched them on TV and they are ready and willing and interested in filling that slot. John has not shown an interest. She knows that when Jim was on vacation there was a phone call so he could participate. We are in the long haul, final crunch and if John can't participate we need to fill his shoes and there are members of the public.

Bob said something that he said all throughout when a previous member left. There were members on this committee who did not want that position filled . That is up to the appointing committee and that is the case now. This is not an issue we should be addressing.

We agreed with Steve. If we have numbers and motions and things we can do.. He doesn't think we do.

Motion to adjourn

Vote 7 in favor 1 opposed 1 abstain