

Select Board Minutes

September 17, 2019

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Select Board Conference Room

All meetings of the Select Board are recorded

ATTENDANCE: Chairman, Joseph J. Deedy
Vice-Chairman, Russell S. Fox
Clerk, Doug Moglin
Chief Administrative Officer, Karl J. Stinehart
Administrative Assistant - Absent

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

The Public Body convened in Open Session according to M.G.L. c.30A, S21 (b) (1). The scheduled meeting of the Select Board was called to order by Chairman, Russell S. Fox, at 6:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m. Convene in Open Session

A Moment of Silence was held in memory of Dick Conron.

6:30 p.m. FY 20 Tax Classification Hearing with Board of Assessors:

The Select Board held the tax hearing to decide whether or not all classes of property should be taxed at the same rate for FY20. Assessor Chair, Paul Connolly recommended to keep single tax rate. The hearing was closed. **A MOTION was made by Mr. Moglin, seconded by Mr. Deedy (Vote-Unanimous) to adopt the minimal residential factor of 1 for FY20 taxes.**

6:50 p.m. Board of Appeals re: Board update on Operations and Membership:

Re-organization of Appeals Board to reflect 5 members **A MOTION was made by Mr. Moglin, seconded by Mr. Deedy (Vote-Unanimous) to accept David Methe's resignation, appointment of Paul Gregoire as member, and Tom Stapleton as an associate member.** Full members are: William Lis, Christopher Mastroianni, and Paul Gregoire. Associate members are: Thomas Stapleton and Michael Parent. The Select Board is requesting the Board of Appeals arrange to have training by Town Counsel and re-organize their board officers.

7:00 p.m. Public Discussion on Open Space Plan Update:

Chairman Fox as a member of the S.O.P.C. outlined the Open Space update. The Board and audience examined the map upgrade showing all the parcels in inventory for active/passive uses. The Town has saved over 1,000 acres for use and enjoyment. The plan needs to be finished with help of PVPC for State DCS review. It is important to have in place for State grant requirements eligibility going forward.

Payables, Payroll and Minutes:

- The Board acknowledged Payables Warrant # 2007B, dated 9/9/19, in the amount of \$1,147,291.70
- Payroll Warrant #2006, dated 9/16/19, in the amount \$243,788.88

- Special Payables Warrant #2008B, dated 9/16/19, in the amount of \$480.00
- The minutes of 9/3/19 were tabled

Action Items, Bills, Mail, Correspondence, Vendor and/or Personnel Contracts, Personnel Decisions, Policy Adoptions, Payroll Actions, Old Business, New Business, Etc.-Possible Actions/Votes:

- ***A MOTION was made by Mr. Moglin, seconded by Mr. Deedy (Vote-Unanimous) to sign and approve the following except where noted:***
- The Select Board approved to hold an Employee Volunteer Recognition Picnic date to be determined.
- The Board accepted the resignation of Dave Gunn, Southwick Historical Commission.
- A Certificate of Appreciation was signed for Dave Gunn.
- The Select Board designated Mr. Stinehart as the primary FRTA Advisory Board Member and Paula LeBlanc as the secondary member. COA Chair is attending to FRTA.
- The Town Wide P/T Board Secretary Job Description was adopted.
- The Animal Parade to be held on October 20, 2019 was approved.
- The Selectmen were invited to the Veteran's Day Parade to be held on November 11, 2019.
- The Veteran's Day Parade to be held on November 11, 2019 was approved.
- The Select Board adopted the Plumbing/Gas Inspector Job Description.
- Approval of MOA with Westfield for Sealers Weights and Measurers Function.
- The Select Board approved the revisions to Weights and Measures fee schedule.
- Approval of Tighe & Bond Contract for College Highway Waterline Project in the amount of \$474,800.00.
- Paige Phillips was approved to fill the vacancy for the P/T Children's Library.
- ***A MOTION was made by Mr. Moglin, seconded by Mr. Deedy (Vote-Unanimous) to waive the provisions of Ch. 8, Section (1) & Ch. 8, Section (2) approve of the Code of the Town of Southwick for the August storm damage to Town Hall.***
- I, Doug Moglin, move that the Release and Settlement Agreement regarding the pending litigation known as Dabrowski v. Town of Southwick et.al.US Dist. Ct., Civil Action No. 3:19-CV-30035-KAR, be approved in its entirety and that Russell Fox as Chairman of the Select Board for the Town of Southwick be authorized to execute the Release and Settlement Agreement on behalf of the Town of Southwick and take any other action as may be required to effectuate the terms of the settlement agreement. ***A MOTION was made by Mr. Moglin, seconded by Mr. Fox (Vote: Yes: 2; No: 1 J.D) Approved 2 – 1.***

Old Business:

- An update on COA transportation issues
- SME Update tabled for Town Counsel clarification
- Department Head Goals/Objectives tabled
- Select Board Goals/Objectives tabled
- BOH position discussion

New Business:

- Select Board was made aware of an award for the town may be forthcoming.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Deedy (Vote-Unanimous) to go into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. RE: **M.G.L. Chap. 30A, S21 (2) & (3) Ch. 214, Section 1B and; CMR 29.03 (1) (b). not reconvene in Open Session.**

RE: Litigation and Labor Counsel for Police Department IBPO Local 384 Negotiations

Exceptions #2 & #3

Exception #2: X Move to go into Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union personnel, and to:

X not to reconvene in Open Session

Move to go into Executive Session to conduct collective bargaining sessions, with nonunion personnel and to:

reconvene in Open Session not reconvene into Open Session

Move to go into Executive Session to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, and to:

reconvene in Open Session not reconvene into Open Session

Exception #3: X Move to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and that the Chair declare that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the body, and to:

X not to reconvene in Open Session

Move to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, and that the Chair declare that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the body, and to

reconvene in Open Session not reconvene into Open Session

RE: Ch. 214, Section 1B

A person shall have a right against unreasonable, substantial or serious interference with his privacy. The superior court shall have jurisdiction in equity to enforce such right and in connection therewith to award damages.

Transcribed by,



Robin A. Solek

Select Board Secretary