

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Town Hall - Select Board's Conference Room

Monday, January 23, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

All meetings of the Select Board are recorded

Location: Select Board Conference Room

All meetings of the Select Board are recorded except Executive Session

Date of this meeting: January 23, 2023

Meeting Notice: This meeting held Pursuant to Chapter 20, Acts of 2021

Hybrid Meeting

In the event of any technical difficulties, we will ensure a recorded tape of the proceedings is placed on the Town Web page after the meeting.

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 Russ Fox at 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Chairman, Russell S. Fox – Present
Vice-Chairman, Doug Moglin - Present
Clerk, Jason Perron - Present
Chief Administrative Officer, Karl J. Stinehart – Zoom
Administrative Assistant, Robin A. Solek – Present

Chairman roll call attendance of Board Members present for meeting.

****A Moment of Silence for Irene Wolfe, Town Accountant Office****

****A Moment of Silence for Lou Campagnari, Southwick Fire Department****

6:00 p.m. Public Comments:

There was none.

Zoom: There were none.

6:05 p.m. T/C/C & Board of Registrars:

Michelle Hill, T/C/C and Nancy Zdun, Board of Registrars met with the Select Board to discuss options of mail in and in person voting prior to each local town election unless the town/city opts out. Not required each town/city can have in person voting prior to the election. The town must opt in for this option.

- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Moglin, seconded by Mr. Perron (Vote: Unanimous) to not to opt in pm early voting by mail in the next town election; to opt in for in person voting with the minimum hours needed for the town clerk's office to be Monday – Thursday set by the Town Clerk.

Roll Call Vote: R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes, J. Perron: Yes

Please see attachment A.

Discussion of staff shortages. The T/C/C Office is understaffed by 2 Full-Time Employees presently. It was suggested the T/C/C Office would be open to the public Monday – Thursday normal business hours and Friday closed to the public due to staffing shortages for six months. A press release will be prepared to inform the public.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Moglin, seconded by Mr. Perron (Vote: Unanimous) to set T/C/C Office hours temporarily be open to the public Monday – Thursday normal business hours and Friday closed to the public due to staffing shortages for six months.

Roll Call Vote: R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes, J. Perron: Yes

The order of appointments was moved.

6:15 p.m. Fire Chief Stefanowicz FY 24 Budget Preview Highlights:

Fire Chief Stefanowicz discussed increases in medical supplies and gear. He is working on grants and increasing permit fees. He will discuss further details at the FY 24 Budget Hearings. The Chief is looking for another FF/EMT Paramedic career person.

6:30 p.m.: Police Chief Landis FY 24 Budget Preview Highlights:

Police Chief Landis discussed staffing concerns, K-9 supplies, computer cost increases and cruiser rotation. The Chief is looking for more Officers. A further discussion will be held at the FY 24 Budget Hearings.

6:45 p.m. Andy Reardon, Park & Rec Grant for Rail Trail:

Mr. Reardon met with the Select Board to discuss applying for a grant for the Rail Trail access near Point Grove Road location. Mr. Reardon is requesting support from the Select Board.

- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Moglin, seconded by Mr. Perron (Vote: Unanimous) to support Mr. Reardon in applying for the grant for the Rail Trail.
Roll Call Vote: R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes, J. Perron: Yes

Payables, Payroll and Minutes:

- Acknowledge Payables Warrant #2318B, dated 1/9/23, in the amount of \$301,695.25
- Acknowledge Payroll Warrant #2317, dated 1/17/23, in the amount of \$373,298.81
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Moglin, seconded by Mr. Perron (Vote: Unanimous) to approve the Open Session Minutes 1/9/23
Roll Call Vote: R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes, J. Perron: Yes

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

- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Moglin seconded by Mr. Perron (Vote - Unanimous) to authorize the Chair to sign the PVPC Contract – Master Plan Phase II
Roll Call Vote: R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes, J. Perron: Yes
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Moglin seconded by Mr. Perron (Vote - Unanimous) to approve a training pay rate change from \$15.00 per hour to \$20.00 per hour for SPD Reserve Officers.
Roll Call Vote: R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes, J. Perron: Yes
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Moglin seconded by Mr. Perron (Vote - Unanimous) to authorize the Chairman to sign MOA for Clerical Union for employee end date.
Roll Call Vote: R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes, J. Perron: Yes
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Moglin seconded by Mr. Perron (Vote - Unanimous) to appoint Clayton Connor representing the STGRSD and Cecil Lewis as an alternate for Joshua Towes from Baystate Health Services and Jessica Bishop as alternate for Fire Department all to the LEPC until 6/30/23.
Roll Call Vote: R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes, J. Perron: Yes
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Moglin seconded by Mr. Perron (Vote - Unanimous) to accept the following donations to the Animal Control Medical Gift Account, \$1,050.00 Southwick Civic Fund, \$50.00 Helga Heiden, \$25.00 Sandra Deyo, \$245.50 IBS, \$50.00 Helen Carr, \$20.00 Barbara Jensen, \$24.00 Cynthia Zarichak.
Roll Call Vote: R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes, J. Perron: Yes

- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Moglin seconded by Mr. Perron (Vote - Unanimous) to approve contract and appointment for Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Nadine M. Cignoni until 6/30/26.
Roll Call Vote: R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes, J. Perron: Yes
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Moglin seconded by Mr. Perron (Vote - Unanimous) to approve PVPC DLTA request to finish Green Communities application requirements
Roll Call Vote: R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes, J. Perron: Yes
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Moglin seconded by Mr. Perron (Vote - Unanimous) to approve PVPC 2023 DLTA project for PVPC Staff Assistance and Chair to sign off.
Roll Call Vote: R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes, J. Perron: Yes
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Moglin seconded by Mr. Perron (Vote - Unanimous) to approve Labor Counsel MA Pay Equity Law Review and Comparability Assessment Study.
Roll Call Vote: R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes, J. Perron: Yes
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Moglin seconded by Mr. Perron (Vote - Unanimous) to approve a PVPC Community Assistance Invoice in the amount of \$3,398.31.
Roll Call Vote: R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes, J. Perron: Yes
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Moglin seconded by Mr. Perron (Vote - Unanimous) to approve a PVPC Community Assistance Invoice in the amount of \$7,648.10.
Roll Call Vote: R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes, J. Perron: Yes
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Moglin seconded by Mr. Perron (Vote - Unanimous) to approve a Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$2,400.00 for Lake Management Buoys.
Roll Call Vote: R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes, J. Perron: Yes

New Business:

- Discussion of Greens West Road Acceptance. This will be sent to Town Counsel Attorney Beglane for review along with DPW. A hearing will be held and will be voting on at the Annual Town Meeting.
- Discussion of MMA Annual Trade Show
- Mr. Fox received a book donated of pictures of Town Halls in Massachusetts
- Ceremony of Gold Star Mother Marie Alamed
- Mr. Moglin attended an Economic Development Meeting and suggested to the Committee the benefits and exposure on Zoom Hybrid Meetings.
- Mr. Perron discussed Municipal Aggregation for ATM Vote to save the Town and residents money.

Old Business:

- North Pond violations site waiting for Fish & Game Agreement – working on security.
- Sewer System IMA with City of Westfield update.
- Marijuana dispensary – Carry forward
- Calyx Pistils at 74 College Highway for an update on the marijuana grow facility.
- Survey is ready to be included with Census
- Opening on Housing Authority – waiting for applicant
- Speed limits in Deer Run area
- Health Director – Start date of February
- Research Veteran's Tax Break
- Tax information – Mr. Perron will be in contact with the Board of Assessors

A MOTION to go into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. Pursuant to M.G.L. Chap. c. 30A, S21 (2) & (3) and Ch. 214, Section 1B Litigation Matters and Strategy for Collective Bargaining with Police Union Coalition, Fire, Library Unit, Non-Union Staff and Clerk Union UPSEU, **Executive Session RE: M.G.L. Chap. c. 30A, S21 (2) & (3) Ch. 214, Section 1B and;**
Exception #2:
Move to go into Executive Session to conduct collective bargaining sessions, with nonunion personnel and to:
not to reconvene in Open Session
(Chair Must Declare).
Move to go into Executive Session to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, and to:
not to reconvene in Open Session
(Chair Must Declare). declare that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the body, and to
not to reconvene in Open Session
(Chair Must Declare).
Exception #3: Move to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and that the Chair Move to go into Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, and to
Not to reconvene Open Session
(Chair Must Declare).
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:
not to reconvene in Open Session
(Chair Must Declare).
RE: Ch. 214, Section 1B
A person shall have a right against unreasonable, substantial or serious interference with their privacy. The superior court shall have jurisdiction in equity to enforce such right and in connection therewith to award damages.

Roll Call Vote: R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes, J. Perron: Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Robin A. Solek
Administrative Assistant