

Select Board
Meeting Minutes
Town Hall - Select Board's Conference Room
Monday October 2, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.
All meetings of the Select Board are recorded

Roll Call Attendance:

ATTENDANCE: Chairman, Doug Moglin – In person
Vice-Chairman, Jason Perron – In person
Clerk, Diane Gale – In person
Chief Administrative Officer, Karl J. Stinehart – Remote
Chief Administrative Officer Assistant, Nadine Cignoni -In person
Select Board Secretary, Lisa A. Anderson- In person

Buddy Veccio led the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment:

On Zoom:

6:05 p.m. Conservation Commission discussion of members proposed Acquisition of Parcel for 13 Berkshire Avenue

Sabrina Pooler Conservation Commission Coordinator along with acting chairperson Norm Cheevers discussed 13 Berkshire Avenue with the Board. Sabrina stated that the Conservation Commission met last week, and they agreed to accept the donated property. The property is 1.8 acres, worth \$6500.00, tax on the property is \$104.00. Sabrina stated that part of the conversation was to see what it could be used for, a connection to the Rail Trail, parking and possibly down the road a dock for Town boats. Sabrina shared a map to show the property lines. The Board agreed that this would be a good acquisition, since it is a donation and not a purchase with Town monies. They suggested that Sabrin check to make sure if it is not bought with Town monies that it might not be eligible for CPA funds for future projects. Mr. Stinehart suggested that we have plenty of time to acquire this property and that this would also have to go on a warrant and get approved at a town meeting.

6:10 p.m. Appointments of Boards & Committees

Agricultural Commission:

After a discussion the AgCom Chairman Burt Hansen, recommended that the Board appoint Angelina Simone from an associate member to a full member, Jennifer Bernier as an associate member and Thomas Dziadosz as an associate member.

- **A MOTION** was made by Jason Perron. **Seconded by** Diane Gale (Vote-Unanimous) to appoint Angelina Simone to a full member 7/1/2023 – 6/30/2026, Jennifer Bernier to an associate member 7/1/2023 – 6/30/2023 and Thomas Dziadosz to an associate member 7/1/2023 – 6/30/2023.

Roll Call Vote: Doug Moglin – Yes, Jason Perron – Yes, Diane Gale – Yes.

6:30 p.m. Continuation of Pole Hearing for Eversource #25 Meadow Lane:

Mr. Jeff Ferrero, who represents Eversource, stated that they moved the proposed underground utility structure from Mr. Parentela's property and into a below grade location under the sidewalk. The work should start sometime in the next few weeks if approved.

- **A MOTION** was made by Jason Perron. **Seconded by** Diane Gale (Vote-Unanimous) the close the Hearing for #25 Meadow Lane.
Roll Call Vote: Doug Moglin – Yes, Jason Perron – Yes, Diane Gale – Yes.
- **A MOTION** was made by Jason Perron. **Seconded by** Diane Gale (Vote-Unanimous) the Board approved the Pole and infrastructure for #25 Meadow Lane.
Roll Call Vote: Doug Moglin – Yes, Jason Perron – Yes, Diane Gale – Yes.

Payables, Payroll and Minutes:

The Board accepted the Minutes dated 9/25/2023.

- **A MOTION** was made by Jason Perron. **Seconded by** Diane Gale (Vote-Unanimous) to approve the minutes from 9/25/2023.
Roll Call Vote: Doug Moglin – Yes, Jason Perron – Yes, Diane Gale – Yes.

The Board accepted the Executive Session minutes from 9/25/2023.

- **A MOTION** was made by Jason Perron. **Seconded by** Diane Gale (Vote-Unanimous) to approve the Executive minutes from 9/25/2023.
Roll Call Vote: Doug Moglin – Yes, Jason Perron – Yes, Diane Gale – Yes.

ACTION:

- The Board received bids for the Police Dept. Slate Roof & the Cupola. The Clerk of the Works Arthur Lawler recommends accepting the bid for the Slate Roof repairs from DP Carney for \$31,796.00.
- **A MOTION** was made by Jason Perron. **Seconded by** Diane Gale (Vote-Unanimous) to award the bid for the Police Dept. Slate Roof project repair to DP Carney for \$31,796.00.
Roll Call Vote: Doug Moglin – Yes, Jason Perron – Yes, Diane Gale – Yes.
- Mr. Lawler recommends that we reject all bids for the Police Dept. Cupola, go back to CPC for additional funding since it falls under the Historical project. The Chairman suggested to table this.
- **A MOTION** was made by Jason Perron. **Seconded by** Diane Gale (Vote-Unanimous) to table the Police Dept. Cupola.
Roll Call Vote: Doug Moglin – Yes, Jason Perron – Yes, Diane Gale – Yes.
- The Board acknowledged invitation from the VFW for the Veterans Day Parade to be held on Saturday, November 11.
- The Chairman asked if the Board would mind going out of order to hear from of Darcy Rock, Commander of the American Legion. The Board agreed. Darcy presented the Board with a change in the amount on her calculations sheet she presented last week, it is maintained by the Legion.

Diane Gale suggested that we could sell the property to the American Legion if they were interested in \$1. Mrs. Gale asked how it ever went from \$1 to \$5k, what happened that made that change. Darcy Rock stated that she wouldn't say names but believes it was a vendetta against them from an individual and that it is just a sand parking lot.

Mr. Moglin stated that since the land is leased to the school, they would have to be included in any change to the Agreement. Mr. Moglin asked Darcy if she would be interested in getting the land if that is an option, Ms. Rock stated the Legion would be. Mr. Jason from the Legion suggested if we can't buy the property from the Town, then why can't it go back to \$1 for 100 years. Mr. Moglin stated he would get more data for future decisions.

- The Board acknowledged and accepted the donations totaling \$1040.00 from Sandra D - \$15.00, IBS- \$111.00, Carey L.-\$50.00, Tina M.-\$50.00, Rotary Club of Swk-\$30.00, Stop & Shop-\$109.00, Summer House & Misc.-\$475.00, John W.-\$200 to be deposited in the Animal Control Medical Gift account & Animal Control Gift Fund.
 - **A MOTION** was made by Jason Perron. **Seconded by** Diane Gale (Vote-Unanimous) acknowledged & accepted the donations totaling \$1040.00 to be deposited in the Animal Control Medical Gift account & Gift Fund.
Roll Call Vote: Doug Moglin – Yes, Jason Perron – Yes, Diane Gale – Yes
- The Board approved the SPD Officer Provisional Status MOA between the Town and Southwick Police Officers Coalition.
 - **A MOTION** was made by Jason Perron. **Seconded by** Diane Gale (Vote-Unanimous) approve the Chair to sign the SPD Officer Provisional Status MOA between the Town and Southwick Police Officers Coalition for Officer Steven Pinnett
Roll Call Vote: Doug Moglin – Yes, Jason Perron – Yes, Diane Gale – Yes.
- The Board accepted and approved the MA DEP Grant Award (\$6k) for Sustainable Materials Recovery Program
 - **A MOTION** was made by Jason Perron. **Seconded by** Diane Gale (Vote-Unanimous) to accept and approve the MA DEP Grant Award (\$6k) for Sustainable Materials Recovery Program.
Roll Call Vote: Doug Moglin – Yes, Jason Perron – Yes, Diane Gale – Yes.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The Board acknowledged the receipt of C.A.O. Karl J. Stinehart's retirement notice for 5/10/2024 in which his last day in the office would be 3/29/2024. The Chairman stated we owe Mr. Stinehart a debt of gratitude for all you have done for the Town for the last 3 decades. Mrs. Gale said that she appreciates all the help that you have given her in her first year. Jason Perron said he knows where Mr. Stinehart lives so he will be all set.
- The Board acknowledged the receipt of Treasurer/Collector/Clerk Michelle Hill's resignation notice effective 1/04/2024. The Board thanked her for her 17 years of service to the Town. Mr. Stinehart stated that they are still waiting for the Legislature to approve the splitting of the job. Southwick is one of the last Town's to still have it all under one title. Mr. Moglin asked to carry this under Old Business as vacancy.

Other New Business:

Mr. Stinehart: Stated that Mr. Stinehart, Diane Gale, certain department heads and PVPC will meet regarding the Green Community Grant and to determine eligible items for submission to MA DOER.

Mr. Perron: Stated that he would like to know how many Liquor Licenses are out there, that are not being used. Mr. Perron said he knows of a business opportunity that just failed because they could not get a liquor license. Mr. Perron would like to see what the process is to start if they are not using the license. Mr. Stinehart informed the Board that a letter went out to 141 Congamond Road and he has sent in a reply. Mr. Moglin stated that those are called pocket licenses, and they are not allowed. Mr. Moglin knows of one business that just failed and closed recently and that the license would probably go back to original owner. He knows that this was a similar situation just addressed in the Town of Northampton.

Mr. Perron brought up a meals tax. With the shortages we are looking at in the budget, after researching it, it is three quarters of a cent on every dollar, so for every \$100 dollar restaurant bill it comes to .75 cents. This also includes prepared foods like at the grocery store. We don't have commercial real estate here like other towns around us to be able to offset those hard hits. He looked at other surrounding communities and it could bring in several hundreds of thousands of dollars. He would like to not put the burdens on the business owners, property owners and homeowners. Westfield and Agawam have a meals tax. Mr. Moglin stated for the record he is not in favor of a meals tax. Diane stated that she would rather reduce the waste in the town budget.

Mrs. Gale:

- We did get approval for a local technical assistance grant from the PVPC for the Green Communities Energy project.

Mr. Moglin:

- MMA Conference was just announced and that is January 19, 2024, and this is very informative and very useful in our roles.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Marijuana – Jason says no updates this week. Mr. Moglin stated there was an update out of the C.C.C. that they exert their authority over host community agreements including existing post community agreements that parties enter to in good faith and sign, and now they have the right to bust those up if they so choose.
- Aggregation for Electricity – Jason left a message with Town Counsel, nor have we heard anything back from Mrs. Greenblatt at this point.
- SB Goals & Objectives – Jason wants to add Revenue, identifying excess town property that is underutilized to use for solar. Ms. Gale stated that groups are beginning to stall ground solar project they want them on buildings/houses not taking out the trees and farmable land.
- Noble Steed update – Mr. Perron stated there is progress being made and Mrs. Pooler had some issue that he will go hear her out.
- MGL Ch. 61,61A, 61B, Right of First Refusal – Mr. Moglin has not heard back from Town Counsel and asked if this Board would make a motion to send it to the Town Counsel if it has not been sent.

- **A MOTION** was made by Jason Perron. Seconded by Diane Gale (Vote-Unanimous) to send MGL Ch. 61,61A, 61B, Right of First Refusal to Town Counsel.
Roll Call Vote: Doug Moglin – Yes, Jason Perron – Yes, Diane Gale – Yes.
 - Search RFP development to assist with Town Administration Recruitment – Mr. Stinehart stated that there have been two packages that came in today so far more anticipated. Now the board needs to pick the firm and then turn the firm over to the selection panel. You need to pick the schedule for this, and you might want to sit through the interview process so you should be looking at dates. Mr. Stinehart stated that the Select Board will be interviewing the firm. Mr. Moglin stated we will find a night that works for everyone.
- The Screening committee: After a brief discussion, the Board agreed upon the following people, Select Board Chair, Police Chief Landis, Town Moderator, send an invite to Mr. Putnam, Steve Presnell former business manager for the schools, the Planning Board Chair. The Board will each pick a business leader to agree on one.
- T-Mobile Hometown Grants Application – Jason did get a response from Chief Landis regarding possible boat storage for the Police Boat. He is the only one that came forward right now. Mr. Moglin suggested that we could try for the lighting for Prifti park for the Pickleball court.
 - Protocols update – Mr. Moglin said we should carry this to the next meeting for discussion.
 - STM Dates – Town Moderator sent back dates she will be out of town, Mr. Moglin sent back dates he will be out of town for one of the suggested dates. If we don't have warrants soon, November 14th will not work so then we are looking at the first week in December 5th. We need to make sure the Town Counsel is also available. We need 14 days plus 1 prior to the meeting. Moderator St. Jacques will contact the school and ask about Tuesday Dec. 5th and get back to Mr. Stinehart.
 - Boards & Committees on-boarding discussion – Ms. Gale is waiting for feedback from the Board members. Mr. Moglin didn't have changes he would just like to see it as a website off of the town web page and then have it available and then you can just update it.
 - DPW Proposed FY24 Sewer Rates Discussion & adoption – Mr. Moglin stated that we received Mr. Browns recommendations and that we have always carried a portion of the sewer on the tax rate, and he doesn't see us not doing that. In theory it's supposed to be paid 100 percent by the users, but this was a health issue and clean up and maintain Lake Congamond. We do not have enough users in phase I and phase II to cover this. We are going to be in that range of the subsidy. A 10 or 12 percent increase will be needed to help contribute. Diane received data from Randy and would like to come back on the 16th meeting with maybe a proposition.
 - **Other Old Business:**

Diane Gale : Karl Stinehart and Ms. Gale met with the housing authority with regards to a potential new housing project.

Doug Moglin: Just want to remind everyone that Saturday, October 14, is the Battle of the Badges between Southwick Police and Southwick Fire Departments at Whalley Park at 12:00 noon. Donations are welcome, all proceeds go to support Breast Cancer Research.

- **A MOTION** was made by Jason Perron. **Seconded** by Diane Gale (Vote-Unanimously) the Board agreed to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Doug Moglin – Yes, Jason Perron – Yes, Diane Gale – Yes.

- There is no Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Anderson