

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Town Hall - Select Board's Conference Room

Monday July 26, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m.

All meetings of the Select Board are recorded

ATTENDANCE: Chairman, Joseph J. Deedy - Auditorium
Vice-Chairman, Russell S. Fox - Auditorium
Clerk, Doug Moglin - Auditorium
Chief Administrative Officer, Karl J. Stinehart – Auditorium
Acting Administrative Assistant, Robin A. Solek – Auditorium

Location: Town Hall Auditorium

All meetings of the Select Board are recorded except Executive Session

Date of this meeting: July 26, 2021

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

Notice: This is our first time holding a hybrid meeting and with limited technology until new equipment comes in the future. In the event of any technical difficulties, we will ensure a recorded tape of the proceedings is placed upon 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 Joe Deedy at 5:30 p.m.

Chairman roll call attendance of Board Members present for meeting. All present

Public Comments:

Three public comments Diane Gale, Point Grove Road, John Vaillancourt, 12 Renny Avenue and Joanne Leblanc, 38 Reservoir Road. For a verbatim dialogue please log on to southwickma.org under Select Board page and click on audio minutes dated 7/26/2021.

- **Acknowledge Payroll Warrant #2202, dated 07/20/21 in the amount of \$293,281.57.**
- **Acknowledge Payables Warrant #2202B, dated 07/12/21, in the amount of \$680,054.54.**

5:30 p.m. ACO Officer for 102 Mort Vining Road, Continuance of Dog Hearing for Langan related to non-compliance with earlier decision:

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Moglin (Vote: Unanimous) to open the continued hearing at 5:35 p.m.

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

Mr. Deedy read the notification letter in its entirety.

The Langan's were served the notice of the continued hearing and did not show.

Lizanne Bennett, ACO reported that the Langan's have not complied with any of the conditions the Select Board imposed. Theo has been relocated, with no known location. It has been told that the Langan's will be moving out of state very soon.

There were no other statements to be entered in.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Moglin (Vote: Unanimous) to close the hearing at 5:40 p.m.

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

Mr. Fox stated it is obvious the owners have no intentions to comply. There is no certification of training. The Town has communicated back and forth with Town Counsel. **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Moglin (Vote: Unanimous) to begin proceedings to impound Theo until the Langan's relocate.

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

5:45 p.m Regional School Committee (Southwick Members) joint interview to fill a vacancy:

The following 3 candidates were interviewed jointly by Southwick Members of Regional School Committee: Jeff Houle, Robert Stevenson, Jonathan Schantz and Ryan Korobkov along with Select Board Members: Joseph Deedy, Russell Fox and Doug Moglin.

- Anna Katherine Johnson
- Chelsea Berry
- Patrick Jubb

All 3 candidates were asked the same 7 questions.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Houle, Ryan Korobkov seconded the motion to nominate Chelsea Berry to fill the vacancy.

Roll Call Vote (by hand):

A MOTION was made by Mr. Stevenson, to nominate Patrick Jubb, Mr. Schantz seconded the motion.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Moglin, to nominate Anna Katherine Johnson

Roll Call Vote for Chelsea Berry: Jeff Houle, Ryan Korobkov and Joseph Deedy

Roll Call Vote for Patrick Jubb: Robert Stevenson, Jonathan Schantz and Russ Fox

Roll Call Vote for Anna Katherine Johnson: Doug Moglin

First Vote = Tie

Roll Call Vote for Chelsea Berry: Jeff Houle, Ryan Korobkov and Joseph Deedy

Roll Call Vote for Patrick Jubb: Robert Stevenson, Jonathan Schantz, Russell Fox and Doug Moglin

Second Vote = Chelsea Berry 3 Votes: Patrick Jubb 4 Votes

Final Roll Call Vote for Patrick Jubb: Jeff Houle, Ryan Korobkov, Robert Stevenson, Jonathan Schantz, Joseph Deedy, Russell Fox and Doug Moglin.

The Select Board thanked the candidates and commended each of them for their willingness to serve on the STGRSD School Committee.

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. Fox, seconded by Mr. Moglin (Vote-Unanimous) to approve the Open Session Minutes dated 07/12/21.
Roll Call Vote: J. Deedy: Yes, R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes.
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Moglin (Vote-Unanimous) to approve the Executive Session Minutes dated 07/12/21.
Roll Call Vote: J. Deedy: Yes, R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes.

- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Moglin (Vote-Unanimous) to adopt ambulance borrowing vote per MA DOR Asset Useful Life guidelines. Please see the attached vote read by the Chief Administrative Officer.
Roll Call Vote: J. Deedy: Yes, R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes.
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Moglin (Vote-Unanimous) to accept the retirement for the DPW H.E.O. Charles Wolfe and to post vacancy. The Board wishes Chuck the best and appreciates his years of service and commitment to the Town of Southwick.
Roll Call Vote: J. Deedy: Yes, R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes.
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Moglin (Vote-Unanimous) to approve Chairperson sign-off on SPD MOA for Provisional Officer Extension.
Roll Call Vote: J. Deedy: Yes, R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes.
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Moglin (Vote-Unanimous) to accept of E.O.P.S.S. Fire Grant for \$8,475.00.
Roll Call Vote: J. Deedy: Yes, R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes.
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Moglin (Vote-Unanimous) to accept the resignation letter for Historical Commission member, B. Phelps. The Board requested a certificate of appreciation to be sent to her.
Roll Call Vote: J. Deedy: Yes, R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes.
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Deedy (Yes : 2; Abstain : 1 D.M.) to approve a one day Liquor License to the Southwick Inn for the Block Party to be held on 8/7/21.
Roll Call Vote: J. Deedy: Yes, R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Abstain.
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Moglin (Yes: 2; Abstain: 1 J.D.) to approve the Monster Truck event for the Wick 338, August 20, 21, and 22, 2021.
Roll Call Vote: J. Deedy: Abstain, R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes.
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Moglin (Vote-Unanimous) to approve a grant acceptances for the Southwick Public Library \$310.00 for Sarah Gillett Services for the Elderly Inc. and \$7,500.00 for Pathways to Success.
Roll Call Vote: J. Deedy: Abstain, R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes.
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Moglin (Vote-Unanimous) to approve a request from the Council on Aging for a basket donation for Welcome Back Day. Chairman and CAO will handle it.
Roll Call Vote: J. Deedy: Abstain, R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes.
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Moglin (Vote-Unanimous) to approve the Board of Appeal's request to increase the application fee from \$225.00 to \$300.00.
Roll Call Vote: J. Deedy: Abstain, R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes.
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Moglin (Vote-Unanimous) to designate the C.A.O. as the primary FRTA Representative and COA Chair Paula Leblanc as the alternate.
Roll Call Vote: J. Deedy: Yes, R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes.
The Planning Board requested to re-appoint Jessica Thornton, Alternate.
Mr. Moglin commended Ms. Thornton's dedication to the Planning Board.
A MOTION was made by Mr. Doherty, seconded by Mr. Moglin (Vote – Unanimous) to re-appoint Jessica Thornton as Alternate to the Planning Board.
Roll Call Vote: J. Deedy: Yes, R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes (Select Board Vote)
Roll Call Vote: M. Doherty: Yes, M. Phelps: Yes, D. Sutton: Yes (Planning Board Vote)

New Business:

- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Moglin (Unanimous.) to approve the Letter of Understanding for the Select Board Office Administrative Assistant, R. Solek
Roll Call Vote: J. Deedy: Yes, R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes.
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Moglin (Unanimous.) to accept a donation in the amount of \$100.00 for the Southwick Fire Department.
- Mr. Stinehart will provide Trust Fund reports from the Bartholomew Group.
- Mike Nargi from 5 Oak Street would like the Select Board, as Sewer Commissioners resolve a grinder replacement cost. This would be the second replacement as the homeowner is covering the grinder pump with debris. Mr. Fox was authorized to address the issue with Mr. Nargi up to its conclusion.

Old Business:

- Mr. Fox update the Board with details from meeting with DOT regarding the construction of the bridge in Westfield and the impact on various roads and the expenses incurred. DOT will review. Completion is expected in 2025. Discussion of Congamond Road and remaining issues. There will be no additional charges, the Town is still disputing some of the charges.
- Road Name Change Southwick Hill Road to Iron Horse Hill waiting for Town Counsel and Public Session.
- ConCom Coordinator job description update. Chairman, J. Deedy will contact C. Pratt, Chairman Conservation Commission and work on updating the job description and vacancy posting.
- Green Energy receiving input from Town Departments. (Police Department to send information to PVPC.
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Moglin (Unanimous.) to appoint Erik Davidson, Kirk Sanders and Mark Rankin to the Historical Commission.
Roll Call Vote: J. Deedy: Yes, R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes.
- The Town is seeking interest for occupancy for the vacant medical building on College Highway. The Board is continuing to reach out for any interest in renting the building for a medical practice.
- Appointments for Town Boards/Committees will continue to be addressed.
- The Select Board will hold a work session to update their Goals & Objectives.
- Town Roof RFP's open this Thursday. There was another issue that occurred with the roof and water leaking into the vault area. Mr. Stinehart emphasized the significance of the Town Hall roof replacement as it has exceeded its life expectancy and it is vital to maintaining the integrity of the Town Hall.
- Ch. 15 Consultant working with our IT managed service provider in finalizing the specifications to outfit 3 rooms at Town Hall.
- August 6th Southwick Night at Starfires game at Bullens Field.
- DPW Roads/projects identification and selection of locations. R. Fox and D. Moglin along with DPW Director Randy Brown visited various locations to identify road repairs. Please see attached detailed list and priorities.
A MOTION was made by Mr. Deedy, seconded by Mr. Moglin (Unanimous.) to adopt Mr. Fox's recommendation as attached.
Roll Call Vote: J. Deedy: Yes, R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes.

- Mr. Moglin discussed with the Select Board the inconsistency of Town Board & Committee Meetings ie: in person only, hybrid, zoom only. Town residents are confused on how to attend meetings. There needs to be consistency and clear instructions how to attend.
- Mr. Stinehart and Mr. Moglin met with Westfield Gas & Electric on Regional Dispatch and Whip City Fiber Optics.
- Mr. Moglin would like to re-introduce High Speed Internet and request a meeting with a new presentation and a financial plan on Westfield opportunity.
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Deedy (Unanimous) to set a future meeting for the High Speed Internet Pilot Program.
Roll Call Vote: J. Deedy: Yes, R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes.

A MOTION to go into Executive Session Pursuant to M.G.L. Chap. c. 30A, S21 (2) & (3) Ch. 214, Section 1B and; CMR 20.03 (1) B at 7:35 p.m.

RE: Police Union Negotiations, Non-Union Strategy Collective Bargaining and Planning Board and Town Counsel
Re: Litigation

Executive Session RE: M.G.L. Chap. c. 30A, S21 (2) & (3) Ch. 214, Section 1B and; CMR 29.03 (1)(b).

RE: Police Union Negotiations, Non-Union Strategy Collective Bargaining Planning Board and Town Counsel re:

Litigation

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Robin A. Solek
Administrative Assistant