

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Town Hall - Select Board's Conference Room

Wednesday, February 15, 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: February 15, 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
Assistant C.A.O., Nadine Cignoni - Present
Administrative Assistant, Robin A. Solek – Present

Chairman roll call attendance of Board Members present for meeting.

Mr. Fox addressed Public Comments and future written protocol on attendee etiquette during the Select Board Meetings. Mr. Fox emphasized there will be no personal attacks, civil, and no back and forth dialogue. He is researching other towns and with the assistance of Town Counsel to bring forward new language on the Agenda's.

6:00 p.m. Public Comments:

There were none.

Zoom: There were none.

6:05 p.m. Rick Johnson Re; Wick 338 Motocross Schedule for 2023:

Mr. Johnson updated the Select Board with its successful 2022 Race Season. It was the best run best season in the past 8 years. Southwick National is the only National Race in the country to be named after the town where the race is held. The 2023 race schedule is pretty much the same with the exception of a couple of extra open practices. The Southwick National Race will be held on July 8, 2023. Fire and Police are working with him on ambulance issues. The Town and the Wick 338 have a good working relationship and will continue to do so.

- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Moglin, seconded by Mr. Perron (Vote: Unanimous) to approve the Wick 338 2023 Race Season Schedule as submitted.

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

6:15 p.m.: Interview Candidates for Southwick Housing Authority (until 5/23 Annual Election):

This appointment was postponed until 2/27/23

Payables, Payroll and Minutes:

- Acknowledge Payables Warrant #2320B, dated 2/7/23, in the amount of \$296,749.73
- Acknowledge Payroll Warrant #2319, dated 2/14/23, in the amount of \$259,407.34
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Moglin, seconded by Mr. Perron (Vote: Unanimous) to approve the Open Session Minutes 2/6/23/23

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:

- The Select Board received a notification by Mass DOT Related to Route 10/202 Culvert Replacement over Pearl Brook
- A first reading for the Professional Conduct Policy recommended by MIIA
- Review changes to SB Goals & Objectives. Select Board will continue to update
- A notification for STM & ATM Warrant Articles due on 3/31/23
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Moglin seconded by Mr. Perron (Vote - Unanimous) to award Tighe & Bond preliminary design contract for Powder Mill Sidewalk Extension
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 donations in the amount of \$435.00 for the Southwick Library Gift Account
Roll Call Vote: R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes, J. Perron: Yes
- R. Brown, DPW Director drafted a letter to Mass DOT on Route 10/202 for needed maintenance activities
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 \$10,000.00 for Legal Ad/Job Postings
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 \$10,000.00 for Streetlight Account
Roll Call Vote: R. Fox: Yes, D. Moglin: Yes, J. Perron: Yes
- The Select Board received a copy of the Select Board's Annual Town Report to be reviewed and proofed.
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Moglin seconded by Mr. Perron (Vote - Unanimous) to approve a one day Liquor License for the Cultural Council Art Show to be held on 4/21/23 from 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.

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

New Business:

CAO and Mr. Perron met with new State Senator Paul Mark's District Director John Gould to review different goals and projects for the Town of Southwick including the split of TCC position, Congamond Lakes, roads along with others.

Mr. Fox reported his interview on Ch. 15 with Mr. Mueller, Lake Management to go over various topics on Congamond. Mr. Fox stated how valuable and fortunate we are to have Mr. Mueller and his knowledge on the Lake Management Committee and recognition to Mr. Grannells too. Mr. Grannells is submitting a grant that if approved funds will be available where Lake Management can withdraw \$45,000.00 FY 24 Budget Request for bathymetric measurements around the Lakes.

A dedication in memory of George LeBlanc was held on February 9, 2023 at the STGRSD. Mr. LeBlanc was highly regarded not only in his capacity as an educator but in the community as well.

Mr. Moglin discussed the survey results for recreational cannabis.

A yes tally was = 45.15%. A no tally was = 54.85%

There would still need to be a vote at ATM with a majority vote along with a zone change vote with a 2/3 vote.

More consideration will be needed.

Mr. Perron expressed his concerns and thoughts on the Public Comment from the 2/6/23 Select Board Meeting. It was not fair and agrees the Chair runs the meeting.

Discussed resources for First Responders and coping with fatalities.

Old Business:

- North Pond violations site waiting for Fish & Game Agreement – meeting in February
- 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.
- Cannibas Survey results presented. Please see Attachment A.
- Opening on Housing Authority – 2/27/23 Agenda
- Speed limits in Deer Run area
- Research Veteran's Tax Break
- Municipal Aggregation for Electricity
- Greens West Road Acceptance
- Flag Policy

A MOTION to go into Executive Session at 7:00 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 IAFF, , 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