

Select Board
Meeting Minutes
Town Hall - Select Board's Conference Room
Monday October 16, 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 – Absent
Chief Administrative Officer Assistant, Nadine Cignoni -In person
Select Board Secretary, Lisa A. Anderson- In person

Public Comment:

Ignia Hotaling-Washington, 45 Kline Road, the EDC would like to ask the Select Board for permission to create a face book page for information outbound only, not to be a response back and forth.

6:05 p.m. FY24 Tax Classification Hearing w/Board of Assessors

- **A MOTION** was made by Jason Perron. **Seconded by** Diane Gale (Vote-Unanimous) to open the Tax Classification hearing.
Roll Call Vote: Doug Moglin – Yes, Jason Perron – Yes, Diane Gale – Yes.

The Chairman read the ad for the Tax Classification. There were two pieces of testimony from the following business and town resident. Mr. Moglin read the letter from Shepard Corp that was against raising taxes on business. Mr. Moglin read the letter from town resident Larry Pelletier stating his disapproval of raising taxes on the town residents. See zoom video for more information.

Mr. Moglin asked if there was anyone that wanted to speak regarding FY24 Tax Classification.

Greg Diely stated that if we raised the taxes on business, it would have negative effects.

Assessor Al Hoyt stated that they are recommending that the minimum residential factor be at 1 for the Town of Southwick.

- **A MOTION** was made by Jason Perron. **Seconded by** Diane Gale (Vote-Unanimous) to close the Tax Classification hearing.
Roll Call Vote: Doug Moglin – Yes, Jason Perron – Yes, Diane Gale – Yes.

The Board took a vote to approve the recommendation of the Assessor's and adopt the Minimum residential factor Tax classification at 1.

The Board acknowledged Payables Warrant #2409B, dated 10/3/2023, in the amount of \$343,506.93,

The Board acknowledged Payroll Warrant #2408, dated 10/10/2023, in the amount of \$285,246.80.

- **A MOTION** was made by Jason Perron. **Seconded by** Diane Gale (Vote-Unanimous) to approve the open session minutes from 10/2/2023.
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) to approve Fire Chief to designate surplus for turnout gear and firefighting helmets that have expired per NFPA Codes.
Roll Call Vote: Doug Moglin – Yes, Jason Perron – Yes, Diane Gale – Yes.

The Board acknowledged the retirement invitation from the Southwick Firefighters Association for Dave Smith and Matt Gaugh on November 11, 2023, at Tucker's Restaurant.

Mr. Moglin congratulated the Police and Fire Departments for their successful softball fundraiser Police against Fire that raised \$1285.00 to go directly to Rays of Hope for Cancer.

6:15 p.m. Appointments of Boards & Committees

Cultural Council:

After a discussion Susan Kochanski, recommended that the Board appoint Bruce Kulas, /for his 1st three-year term 6/1/2022 to 6/1/2025. Steven Brudzinski, for his 1st three-year term 9/1/2023 to 9/1/2026 and Patricia McMahon for her 2nd three-year term 11/23/2023 to 11/23/2023.

- **A MOTION** was made by Jason Perron. **Seconded by** Diane Gale (Vote-Unanimous) to appoint Bruce Kulas for 1st three-year term 6/1/2023 to 6/1/2026, Steven Brudzinski for his 1st three-year term 9/1/2023 to 9/1/2026 and Patricia McMahon for her 2nd three-year term 11/23/2023 to 11/23/2023.
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) to approve the Town/Owner Contract Amendment #1 for 457 College Highway for the FY20 Southwick Community Development Program.
Roll Call Vote: Doug Moglin – Yes, Jason Perron – Yes, Diane Gale – Yes.

The Board acknowledged the invitation from the STGRSD for FY25 Budget Roundtable with the Select Board and Finance subcommittee.

- **A MOTION** was made by Jason Perron. **Seconded by** Diane Gale (Vote-Unanimous) to approve the M.O.A. between the Town and the Southwick Police Officers Coalition for Officer Kyle Allen for P.O.S.T. Training duty schedule.
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) to approve the M.O.A. between the Town and the Southwick Police Officers Coalition for Officer Kelly Miller for carried over leave pay for FMLA leave.
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) to approve and accept the \$30.00 donation from Nancy Gay in appreciation of Police services provided by Officer Michael Bridges to be placed in Police Gift Account.
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) to approve the Consultant agreement with Colonial Power for Management of the Towns Municipal Electric Aggregation Program and Energy.
Roll Call Vote: Doug Moglin – Yes, Jason Perron – Yes, Diane Gale – Yes.

The Board acknowledged the flyer from Our Community Food Pantry looking for donations towards an energy efficient walk-in refrigerator/freezer unit.

- A **MOTION** was made by Jason Perron. **Seconded by** Diane Gale (Vote-Unanimous) to accept and create a gift/grant account for EDC per MGL Ch. 44, Sec 53.
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) to approve the rate change for a provisional and firefighter/EMT to back fill another person on medical leave.
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) to approve the PVPC invoice #12 for \$5,094.42 for FY21 Southwick Community Assistance Program for August 2023.
Roll Call Vote: Doug Moglin – Yes, Jason Perron – Yes, Diane Gale – Yes.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A **MOTION** was made by Jason Perron. **Seconded by** Diane Gale (Vote-Unanimous) to approve the Consultant Service Agreement with Michelle Hill for T/C/C office functions.
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) to authorize the Chair and C.A.O. to seek candidates for T/C/C office vacancy.
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) to authorize contract amendment #1 with Tighe & Bond for \$27,000.00 for Powder Mill Road sidewalk extension design services.
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) to authorize contract with Tighe & Bond for \$57,600.00 for Kline Road Culvert replacement bidding/construction phase services under State MVP Grant.
Roll Call Vote: Doug Moglin – Yes, Jason Perron – Yes, Diane Gale – Yes.

Any other New Business:

Mr. Moglin wanted to just share that Mr. Karl Stinehart threw out the first ball at the Police and Fire softball game, and everybody on the teams were hired during his 35 years with the Town.

OLD BUSINESS:

- American Legion Land License – if there is no added information from the American Legion, then the Board needs to discuss this and if we decide to sell the land to them then we need to get the school involved and then it needs to go to Town meeting for approval. We also need to find a reasonable amount for the land.

Diane Gale asked if we would be able to get this on the Town meeting in December. Mr. Moglin thought we could try that.

- Marijuana dispensary – Jason Perron stated there isn't any update that it is in the hands of the Planning Board and their hearings.
- Municipal Aggregation for Electricity - Mr. Moglin stated that we just approved this so now we can take it off old business and put it on our goals & objectives.

- **Goals & Objectives:**

- Economic Outreach program, EDC has had 3 meetings already. A lot to come.
- Municipal Fiber, Mr. Moglin stated that at the last HSIC meeting they had 2 providers to bring service to our town.
- Establish Channel 15 volunteer network. Mr. Moglin stated that he will mention this at the STRGD round table meeting.
- Review Transportation services for COA. Have Cindy Sullivan give an update.
- Town Hall Roof Replacement/HVAC. This is almost completed.
- SPD Slate Roof & Cupola Bids. Bids went out, chose the applicant.
- Mr. Perron stated that he would really like to see us try and simplify the rules of the Town, bylaws and ordinances.
- Noble Steed, Mr. Perron stated that he dugout sidewalk, filled in a lot of the potholes and did some paving.
- T-Mobile, Mr. Perron stated that he has heard from Chief Landis regarding a garage to store the new police boat, Lisa Anderson regarding a shed/garage for the old cemetery, and Randy Brown and the lighting for pickleball court. Mr. Perron just asked that he would like to find out if they can split the \$50,000 between more than one project.
- DPW Proposed FY24 Sewer Rate Discussion & adoption. After a long discussion the Select Board voted on new sewer rates retroactive to 10/1/2023.

Usage	Rate
0 to 15,000 gallons	\$11.75
15,001 to 30,000 gallons	\$14.38
30,001 gallons +	\$15.44

The Board also wants to adopt the Elderly Rate to match the water Elderly Rate (must meet the criteria and billed at the lowest tier) and to include an Apartment billing rate for the 5 complexes. Each service is capped at the 2nd highest tier with no minimum.

- **A MOTION** was made by Diane Gale. **Seconded by** Jason Perron (Vote-Unanimous) to set the Sewer rate to 15A. (See attached Exhibit A).

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

- STM review items, examine dates to consider & Coordinate with Moderator and schools. The date is set for December 5, 2023.
- Town Administrator Recruitment update: Mr. Moglin stated 4 firms have submitted their proposals. After deliberation, they came to an agreement on two of the firms for interviews. Mr. Moglin asked Nadine Cignoni if she would reach out to both firms and see if they are available for interviews.

Nadine Cignoni stated that she also contacted the four individuals for the Business representative for the subcommittee. Jason gave his choice to Ms. Cignoni today. Ms. Cignoni stated that she received two out of the four responded they would be available. Mr. John Coward and Greg Hamelin.

Mr. Moglin stated it might be too late to get them here for October 23rd, but we are not meeting that day, but if Ms. Cignoni contacts them and they are available then we can set a meeting for October 23rd or that week.

- MGL Ch. 61, 61A, 61B, Right of First Refusal policy review. Mr. Moglin stated no update, that the Board will carry this to our next meeting.
- Protocols – Carry to the next meeting.
- Boards & Committee on boarding and duty statement discussion, Mr. Moglin and Mr. Perron agreed they have no changes to this. Diane Gale can move forward.

- **A MOTION** was made by Jason Perron. **Seconded by** Diane Gale (Vote-Unanimously) to go into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Anderson