

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

Swampscott, MA 01907

Attendance: Chairman, Naomi Dreeben, Vice Chair, Laura Spathanas, Selectman Don Hause, Patrick Jones, Peter Spellios, and Town Administrator, Sean Fitzgerald, Assistant Town Administrator, Town Treasurer, Ron Mendes.

Member of the Finance Committee were in attendance, Chairman Marzi Galazka, Members Cinder McNerney, Mary-Ellen Fletcher, Mary Polly? Jill Sullivan.

Moment of silence was observed for the passing of Mr. Nelson Kessler and Music Teacher Phyllis Gotlib. Condolences to both families were expressed.

Resident Comment:

Residents Ms. Dina Maietta and Mr. Ricky Prezioso addressed the board on the following concerns they have with the Towns Recreational programs:

- meeting minutes not being done on time,*
- filed open meeting law violation,*
- Inquired why an employee who she was questioning was not present at meeting.*
- Asked for an update on a request for an audit*
- Asked what the cost of the audit is costing the Town.*
- Request of a meeting was requested.*
- Requested to address funding of events*

Selectman Dreeben stated that accusatory items are not the forum at a Selectman's meeting.

Town Administrator, Sean Fitzgerald spoke on past conversation and meetings on the above issues and feels his position is to protect the employees and what's in the best interest of those employees, an audit has been completed and a response and or report will be given in a week and will share this information, trying to find a resolution.

Selectman Spellios read aloud meeting minutes that were questioned by Ms. Maietta.

Selectman Spellios suggested he would be happy to meet with all parties, substance might mean you might not like the end results, suggested after this meeting it would be best to put the past behind us and move forward, one board member will join the meeting, set up the meeting to be a success, invited guest could be invited.

Selectman Hause suggested to meet and he would be willing to participate in that meeting, come with a solution and put the past behind them. Meeting has been scheduled for Friday, January 19, 2018 with Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator, Selectman Hause, Ms. Dina Maietta and Mr. Rick Prezioso

Acknowledgment:

A resident of Muriel Road acknowledged and recognized Gino Cresta, DPW Director and his department for the recent snow clean up in Town.

Liquor License Planning:

Pete Kane, Director of Community Development spoke on liquor license planning -spoke on small selection of main commercial selections in Town,

Selectman Dreeben commented that the Communications Committee could be a good resource on helping with liquor license planning.

Traffic Study Recommendations:

Pete Kane, Traffic Study Advisor Committee Chair spoke on the Recommendations of the Traffic Study.

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Jones to approve the following Traffic Study Advisory Committee recommendations, No Parking restrictions near crosswalk on Nason Road, 'Caution sign w/ flashing lights on Burpee Road, Speed table in front of St. Johns Church with Engineer drawings to be done, seconded by Selectman Hause.

Selectman Dreeben requested the Traffic Study Committee look at the Burpee Road intersection.

Selectman Spathanas asked if residents from Nason Road are aware of the No Parking and were any in attendance at the meeting.

Selectman Spellios inquired if any of the Machon Litigation money could be used in the future for traffic updates/ improvements.

Selectman Jones inquired about the twenty-five miles an hour speed limit.

New & Old Business / Appointments:

The Board voted on the recommendation and motion of Selectman Spathanas to appoint Ralph Edward to the Commission on Disability at the Board of Selectman's liaison, seconded by Selectman Hause.

The Board voted on the recommendation and motion of Selectman Dreeben to appoint Mr. Frank Cavallaro to the Communications Committee, seconded by Selectman Spathanas.

Mission on the Bay / Entertainment License Update:

Entertainment license for Mission on the Bay that has been on hold, some areas have been worked out, decimal meter to be used with a setting of no higher than 85 decimals and enforced regarding the deck music, Building Inspector will be the code enforcer. The Board requested a new permit be written up to be signed at the next meeting. Selectman Dreeben commented she is happy with the new measurement in place.

Votes of the Board:

The Board voted on a motion by Selectman Jones to approve issuance of \$5,875,000 in general obligation bonds to finance capital projects previously approved by Town Meeting, seconded by Selectman Spathanas.

The Board voted on a motion by Selectman Jones to approve the following meeting minutes from October 25, 2017, November 29, 2017 and December 13, 2017, seconded by Selectman Spathanas.

The Board voted on a motion by Selectman Jones to approve an application for a Common Victualler's from Be Good Restaurant, 450 Paradise Road, Swampscott, Mass seconded by Selectman Spathanas.

Budget Discussion:

Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator spoke on the following:

- *New Growth*
- *Levy & Excess Capacity*
- *Long term plans with the Master plan*
- *Cherry Street reports*
- *Chapter 70 reimbursements*
- *Town still strong with State Aid -Improvements*
- *Manage tax growth*
- *Rating / Bonding Agencies -likes to see reasonable spending*
- *Planning on all future capital projects including school projects*
- *Policy discussion*
- *Enterprise funds*
- *Free cash -goal is to not use any free cash for the budget*
- *Revenue first is the priority*

Selectman Spellios spoke on the following:

- *Based on revenue-budget -budgeting with more on revenue and tax levy*
- *Formally change the budget process going forward.*
- *Increases every year in the levy should not be a surprise*
- *Decrease our spending*
- *Ideas of policy & goals / tax levy*
- *Zero based budget -long overdue*
- *Discipline & structure policies will be a decision by the Board*
- *Local receipts an offender*
- *What procedures can be completed between budgets*
- *3% increase Cherry Street funding / only a guess*
- *2 ½% Tax levy increase -which is low*
- *Past Town Meetings budgets not discussed in length*
- *Highlight choices to be presented to Town Meeting*
- *Accountability for Town expenses*
- *Goal is to give the Finance Committee some guidance*
- *Collaborate dialogue*
- *Town's and school budget all being put together.*
- *2.5% growth increase for the school budget was recommended by the Superintendent*

- *The School recognizes they should be in the whole budget with the Town -both together.*
- *Contract negotiations*
- *School is on Board with going forward together as one budget*
- *Mr. Fitzgerald was asked if a conversation on local receipts below or above should be discussed no.*

Finance Committee Chair, Marzie Galazka, stated it is refreshing to hear what the Selectman have to say about the ongoing process for the tax setting, budget ideas and process, interested in being true partners with the Board of Selectmen going forward,

Finance Committee member Maryellen Fletcher what the risk would be if the Town decided not to be too conservative with the budget numbers, good conversation to continue to have in the budget process, inquired on the School budget and how it plays in the budget numbers

Town Administrator's Report:

- *Draft financial policies*
- *How to estimates revenues*
- *Budget development*

Executive Session / Adjournment:

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Spathanas to open executive session, GL 30A s21 (a) purposes 1 and 7: open meeting law complaint-Dina Maietta-review, discuss and respond to Open Meeting Law complaint, received on or around January 5, 2018, seconded by Selectman Hause. Roll call vote was taken -Attorney Darren Klein, Kopelman & Paige, P.C. was present. The Board will not be returning to open session

True Attest:

*Maureen Shultz,
Administrative Assistant*