

## Select Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday August 20, 2019 held in Community Room, Swampscott Police Station, 531 Humphrey Street

Members Present: Spellios (Chair), Dreeben, Titcomb

Members Absent: Hause, Spathanas

Others Present: Sean Fitzgerald (Town Administrator), Ronald Mendes (Asst Town Administrator/Admin & Finance), Marzie Galazka (Community Development Director), Gino Cresta (Asst Town Administrator/DPW Director), Kelley Stevens (Asst Engineer), Natalie Swanstrom (DPW Admin Asst), Maria DiStephano (Massachusetts Office of Business Development), Will Dowd (Swampscott Reporter)

Mr. Spellios called the Select Board meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

No Public Comments were made.

The Select Board and others present conducted a site tour of the Community Gardens on Humphrey Street, Blocksidge Field, the fields at Phillips Park and the main Sewer Pumping/Lift Station. Board members praised the work of community members on creating the garden as a place people can come together to promote gardening.

The Select Board meeting reconvened in the Community Room of the Swampscott Police Station at 8:10pm and Mr. Spellios asked Ms. DiStephano to address the Board. Ms. DiStephano then addressed the Board describing the various programs offered by the Massachusetts Office of Business Development that are largely designed to encourage economic development throughout the Commonwealth. These programs include the Economic Development Incentive Program (EDIP) that incentivizes business development through state tax credits and local property tax incentives in exchange for job creation, job retention and private investment commitments. Ms. DiStephano also explained the parameters of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) program, and the Special Tax Assessment (STA) program, that allow municipalities to defer property taxes on all or a portion of the new growth attributable to new investment. There followed some discussion and questions from board members.

Mr. Spellios then asked Mr. Cresta and Ms. Stevens to present to the board on proposed Stormwater Rules & Regulations. Ms. Stevens presented to the board on the Town's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System whereby stormwater runoff drains into the ocean and local waters, and sewer wastewater is pumped to the Lynn Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Cresta and Ms. Stevens presented the draft proposed Rules & Regulations to the board for approval. Mr. Spellios said the the board members will review the draft Rules & Regulations and bring them up again at the next board meeting for consideration.

Mr. Spellios then asked Mr. Fitzgerald to discuss the proposed water & sewer rate adjustments. Mr. Fitzgerald stepped the board through a prepared presentation explaining that there was a deficit in the Sewer Enterprise Fund from FY2019 and we are projecting a deficit in the Sewer Enterprise Fund in FY2020 that necessitates a modest increase in sewer rates. The deficit in FY2019 was largely due to a roughly 22% increase in the Lynn Water & Sewer Commission (LWSC) assessment that we get from sending wastewater to the LWSC Sewage Treatment Plant. These increases are largely due to the unexpected closing of the Garelick Farms industrial plant on the Lynnway. Garelick was LWSC's largest commercial customer and reduced Lynn's share of wastewater flow into the plant from 76% to 70%. Therefore, the proportional share of wastewater flowing into the plant from the towns correspondingly increased. Swampscott's share increased from roughly 7% of wastewater flows to 8.65% and our assessment increased in tandem.

There are also other issues that are going to necessitate further increases in costs on the coming years, including the need for LWSC to negotiate a new operating & maintenance contract for operating the LWSC sewage treatment plant (the current 20 year contract expires in 2021). O&M costs are expected to increase by at least 30%. LWSC also has CDM conducting an exit audit of the current O&M contract to determine how much capital investment is going to be required in the plant to bring the plant to a "full-risk" standard where firms will be able to take on a "full-risk" contract when the O&M contract goes out to bid. There are also other potential issues, including the deteriorating outfall pipe, the issue of grit removal from the wastewater that is degrading the treatment plant, and the potential capping of the ash landfill.

The current intermunicipal agreement between LWSC and the Towns of Nahant, Saugus & Swampscott expires in September 2020 and we will need to begin the process of negotiating a successor agreement soon. The following is the recommended motion to adjust water & sewer rates:

I Move to follow the recommendation of Town Administrator and Asst. TA/DPW Director to:

- Increase the Sewer Consumption Rate by 3% to \$5.44 per 100 cubic feet ( \$0.16/100 c.f. increase)
- Increase the Annual Base Sewer Fee to \$50 per year (\$15 annual increase per account)
- Increase the Water Consumption Rate by 2% to \$6.94 per 100 cubic feet (\$0.14/100 c.f. increase)
- Increase the Annual Base Water Fee to \$50 per year (\$6 annual increase per account)

The above recommended **MOTION** was made (Titcomb) and **SECONDED** (Dreeben) and **VOTED** (unanimous).

Mr. Spellios indicated that due to the late hour, any further discussion on goals will be deferred to the next meeting.

Mr. Spellios then explained the consent agenda and read aloud the consent agenda items as follows:

- Approval of "Miles for Kyle" 3.1-mile annual fundraising run
- Approval of JCC North Shore 5K Road Race
- Approval of Swampscott-Nahant Youth Basketball banner in Phillips Park

A **MOTION** was made to approve the Consent Agenda items (Dreeben) and **SECONDED** (Titcomb) and **VOTED** (unanimous).

Mr. Spellios then initiated a discussion about the meeting schedule, which has historically been the 1st & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month. This would mean that the September meetings would be held on September 4<sup>th</sup> & September 18<sup>th</sup>. There was a consensus of the board members that these would be the meeting dates in September.

**MOTION** was made to adjourn (Dreeben) and **SECONDED** (Titcomb) and it was **VOTED** (unanimous) to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned 9:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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M. Ronald Mendes, Asst Town Administrator, Admin. & Finance

Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Select Board 10/17/2019