



Town of Swampscott
Joint Board of Assessors and Select Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 16, 2020 – 6:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Peter Spellios (Chair), Polly Titcomb, Neal Duffy, David Grishman, Don Hause

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT

Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator; Ron Mendes, Assistant Town Administrator of Administration and Finance; Allie Fiske, Director of Communications & Strategic Initiatives; Marzie Galazka, Director of Community & Economic Development; Chief Ron Madigan, Police Chief; Graham Archer, Fire Chief; Max Kasper, Facilities Director

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Board Member David Grishman presented a new program to promote businesses in Swampscott – a Gift Card Challenge. He encouraged everyone to make a video and let everyone know which business you are supporting, and challenge 3 friends to buy a gift card and make their own video.

Chairperson Spellios shared images of the new lights and mural at the Burrill St. bridge. Artist Laura Reeder spoke about her inspiration for murals depicting Swampscott's history, landmarks, and notes/letters from neighbors. Artwork was contributed by Debora Kennedy, Liz Smith, and others. Peter Wright from Lewis Lighting Design and Dan Carnevale from Apex Lighting who designed the lighting spoke briefly about his process and design.

RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald introduced Diana Eddowes. She looks forward to bringing her sustainability passion to the Town and looks forward to engaging the public in sustainability and the Climate Action Coalition.

On **MOTION** (Hause) and **SECONDED** (Grishman) it was **VOTED** by roll call to appoint Diana Eddowes to a 3-year term for the Renewable Energy Committee. Duffy (YES) Grishman (YES) Hause (YES) Spellios (YES)

HADLEY SCHOOL REUSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chairperson Spellios reviewed the history of the formation of the Hadley School Reuse Advisory Committee. In the case that the Hadley School becomes considered excess due to the construction of a new school, a committee will be convened to investigate possibilities for the building. This committee was voted upon by Town Meeting.

Board Member Neal Duffy spoke about the applicants. 17 candidates applied to be on the committee. The suggestion is to appoint 4 voting members and 3 ex-officio non-voting members. The four voting members being recommended are Steve Perdue, an architect involved in real estate development; Laurie Lebbon, who works in Historic Preservation, is an interior designer, and lives in Hadley neighborhood; John Peterson, architect; Adrian Rodriguez, artist and co-owner of MiraMar Print Lab

Mr. Duffy's recommendation for Ex-Officio members are Ryan Conner, architect; Brian Rooney, experience with financing real estate and development projects; and Lydia Scott Muolo, background in construction and planning. Mr. Spellios and Mr. Duffy will serve as the liaisons to the board to help facilitate.

On **MOTION** (Duffy) and **SECONDED** (Hause) it was **VOTED** by roll call to appoint Steve Perdue, Laurie Lebbon, Adrian Rodriguez, and John Peterson as members and Ryan Conner, Brian Rooney, and Lydia Scott Muolo as ex-officios for a 1-year term. Roll Call: Hause (YES) Grishman (YES) Titcomb (YES) Duffy (YES) Spellios (YES)

CLASS II CAR DEALER LICENSE

Director of Community & Economic Development Marzie Galazka presented two car dealerships applying for a renewal of their 2021 Class II Car Dealer License.

There are two existing car dealerships up for renewal. Paradise Auto Sales is located at 219 Paradise Rd. and is licensed to sell no more than 4 vehicles. Four Seasons Motor group located at 460 Humphrey St is to sell no more than six vehicles. Although Four Seasons is requesting to amend their license to increase the number of vehicles for sale, this will be addressed in January.

There was a question regarding how many vehicles can be sold vs. how many vehicles can exist on the property. Essentially the primary way a car can be identified as "for sale" is that it has a Lemon Law sticker on it. Mr. Spellios asked if the Town can require that all vehicles in the lot that are not for sale can have a sign in the window that say "Not for Sale".

The Board requests that the Administration confer with Town Counsel to provide clarity on what the Town is permitted to do in terms of ensuring the applicant adheres to the terms of the license.

On **MOTION** (Titcomb) and **SECONDED** (Hause) it was **VOTED** to grant Class II Dealer License extensions to Paradise Auto Sales and Four Seasons Motor Group through January 31, 2021. Hause (YES) Titcomb (YES) Spellios (YES) Duffy (YES) Grishman (YES)

The Board confirmed that the reason the license is only extended for 1 month is to provide an opportunity for the board to ensure the conditions of the license are adequate to enforce the limited vehicle sales.

ANIMAL CONTROL FUNCTIONS

The Town has seen an increase in calls for animal control. The Town would like the Animal Control Officer (ACO) to work under the Police Dept. and emulate the same type of public safety function as the Police Department. Police Chief Madigan spoke briefly about the benefits of having the ACO have police support as needed, for instance for investigation purposes.

On **MOTION** (Hause) and **SECONDED** (Grishman) it was **VOTED** by roll call to accept the Town Administrator's recommendation to transfer the function of Animal Control Officer from the Health Department to the Police Department. Titcomb (YES) Grishman (YES) Duffy (YES) Hause (YES) Spellios (YES)

POLICE AND FIRE UNION MOU

The MOUs outline a one-year extension for their collective bargaining agreements. The MOUs outline a change to a non-Civil Service system and eliminates some minimum manning requirements. Chief Archer and Chief Madigan expressed support.

Fire Union President spoke about minimum manning. Town Administrator will return to the board in February in advance of the Town Meeting with a process update.

On **MOTION** (Grishman) and **SECONDED** (Hause) it was **VOTED** by roll call to authorize the town administrator to affix electronic signature to MOUs in the board packet. Titcomb (YES) Hause (YES) Grishman (YES) Duffy (YES) Spellios (YES)

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Assistant Town Administrator Ron Mendes provided a review of the process for Capital Planning. The Capital Improvement Committee (CIC) has reviewed the 16 projects. This assisted the CIC determine the schedule to prepare for Town Meeting. Mr. Mendes explained the process of what to do if the cost of the project exceeds what was allotted.

Select Board Member Neal Duffy asked if there were notes on the spreadsheet that explained why a project might be at 0% (not started, abandoned, etc.) Town Administrator Fitzgerald stated that the spreadsheet will be developed to have more information.

Facilities Director Max Kasper provided a brief update on the status of school projects, specifically ventilation

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Vote to approve National Grid petition #28087333 to excavate the public highways and run and maintain underground electric conduits, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary for the transmission of electricity, and underground conduits to be located substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked: Littles-Point Road – Swampscott Massachusetts
- Vote to approve National Grid petition #28087333 to erect and maintain poles and wires, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked – Littles-Point Rd. Swampscott, MA
- Vote to approve meeting minutes of December 9

On **MOTION** (Hause) and **SECONDED** (Grishman) it was **VOTED** by roll call to approve the Consent Agenda. Hause (YES) Titcomb (YES) Duffy (YES) Grishman (YES) Spellios (YES)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Capital Planning
- Finance Committee
- New Auditors
- OPEB Valuation
- Fire Dept. Interviews
- Assistant Assessor Interviews
- Animal Control Transfer
- MOU for Fire and Police
- Weather

On **MOTION** (Grishman) and **SECONDED** (Hause) it was **VOTED** by roll call to adjourn the meeting. Roll call: Grishman (YES) Titcomb (YES) Duffy (YES) Titcomb (YES) Hause (YES)

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

True Attest.



Allie Fiske, Director of Communications & Strategic Initiatives

Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Select Board 1/6/21