

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 6, 2019
Swampscott, MA 01907

ATTENDANCE: Selectmen Naomi Dreeben, Chair Peter Spellios, Vice Chair Pat Jones, Selectmen Laura Spathanas, Town Administrator, Sean Fitzgerald,

Pledge of Allegiance 7:06pm

No Resident Comment

*Cheryl Stella and Ron Mendes presented **Expenses and Revenues** for this quarter.*

Looked at historical vs. actuals.

Revenues are on track at 48.5%

General Fund expenses are on track at 53%

Expenses are above the expected 40% due to a number of one-time annual payments that are made in the 1st and 2nd quarter.

Overall revenues are above expense by about \$300k

Property Taxes- 48.6% collected

State Aid- 50.2% collected

Local receipts 29.7% collected

Expenses:

Town Expenses- \$16,942,708

Legislative/Town Meeting Budget- on track

Admin. & Finance Budget- \$1,846,680

Community Development Budget- \$244,038

Public Services Budget - \$1,306,455

Human Services Budget- \$455,164

Public Safety Budget- \$3,794,655

Debt, Employee Benefits, State Charges Budget- \$9,305,451

Expenses and Revenues will continue to be closely monitored and adjustments to departmental spending will be made as necessary. The town will continue to monitor health and solid waste budgets given the impact on the overall budget.

Update on Eastern Coyotes in Swampscott- Chief Madigan and Jeff Vaughan including

Dan from Animal control, Cha/is Byrd and Patricia Huckery both from the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife were present to speak.

Health director Jeff Vaughan spoke about the meeting last night and how informative it was. Chief Madigan spoke about some past coyote encounters and getting the word out to the public and to call the police if there are any incidents.

Patricia spoke about the Girl Scouts participating in the presentation yesterday and their demonstration on hazing and thanked them for that.

All Information can be found in Masswildlife.org.

Coyotes are in every town in MA except the islands.

Coyotes do not hibernate, and they are out and about anytime. Right now, is breeding season for coyotes. Coyotes will attack smaller dogs and larger dogs, not humans. Coyotes who attack people either are rabid or are habituated.

Coyotes will feed on anything that is easily accessible such as garbage left on road, compost, berries, nuts, and road kill.

Residents should be aware that they may be unintentionally feeding coyotes by having bird feeders.

To protect your pets, do not let them out through the screen and have them on a leash.

If you have a coyote in your backyard, 1st thing to do is haze and show your dominance by making lots of noises, spraying the hose, scream and shouting, pots and pans. These techniques will train the coyotes.

Hazing should be a community wide effort.

What's normal and abnormal behavior of a coyote? Moving around resident area anytime of day is normal behavior.

Nighttime or daytime attack on pets is normal behavior. Attack on a short leash pet is not normal and police and ACO should be called. If the coyote does not flee and follows you closely that warrants a call.

Put away extra food sources and hazing are two takeaways.

ACO is yet to see a coyote in Swampscott or Marblehead.

Suggesting putting material on Facebook or on the Town Website with Helpful Material.

Selectmen Spathanas spoke about tracking coyotes, which is only really done when reported.

Selectmen Spellios spoke about being more vigilant on how and asked the health director to put out notices on this. Public Health do have requirements on how trash is put out.

Recommendation for appointment of Community Development Director- Town Administrator

TA recommends Marzie Galazka as the Director of Community Development. TA spoke about her years of working in Everett in the dept. planning of development.

Selectmen Spellios spoke about how keen she is on issues and her commitment to the town. She has 25 plus years' experience in other communities and just a joy to work with. Sean has recommended making the dept. Community and Economic development. Selectmen Spathanas spoke about her experience and dedication to the town which will make for a smooth transition and loves to see women leaders in the town.

Marzie stated this is an exciting time to be in Swampscott and working with an amazing staff and volunteers. Synergy is just amazing.

Selectmen Dreeben spoke about the possibilities and interesting work that is going to be done. She is happy that she will bring her leadership.

Selectmen Jones agreed she is a fantastic recommendation.

TA spoke about filling the Senior Planner Decision.

Motion by Selectmen Spellios to move to affirm the recommendation of the Town Administrator and appoint Marzie Galazka to the position of motion seconded by Selectmen Spathanas all BOS members were unanimously in favor.

Selectmen Spellios spoke about the Swampscott Conservancy and the wonderful things they have been doing.

Discussion of Preliminary proposed 40R District Boundaries (no votes)- Town Administrator

Selectmen Spellios spoke about the 40R and the consultant that was brought in to assist with discussions (2 meetings).

Sean Fitzgerald and Angela Ippolito will assist with any questions on the 40R district.

TA spoke about the 40R and stated he has concerns on housing authority properties- and the need on an investment. Traffic, safety and impact are important questions. 40R is another overlay of zoning.

40R allows specific design guidelines and provides financial incentives.

With the 40R program we can look at best practice examples. Important meetings have to happen in the next 2 weeks including a public meeting.

TA spoke that we may need more time to move the 40R forward.

TA walked through the map on where the 40R would run and gave the BOS an overview.

Housing is being included in the 40R and housing will be rebuilt and renewed.

TA spoke that this an exciting opportunity to be innovative.

Revitalizing the neighborhood is important.

Revisited the Water and Sewer presentation given at the 12/19/18 BOS meeting.

Selectmen Spellios mad a motion to increase Water/Sewer rates by 1.5% in Feb 2019 with expected additional rate increase July 2019 TED- Current rates =water \$6.70 per hundred cubicfeet (HCF)

Sewer \$5.20 per (HCF) Proposed new rates: Water \$6.80 per (HCF) Sewer \$5.28 per (HCF) the motion was seconded by Selectmen Jones all BOS members were unanimously infavor .

Motion made by Selectmen Dreeben to approve a 1-day liquor licensefor the Reach Arts- Oscar Nights Event on February 24, 2019 motion seconded by Selectmen Spathanas all BOS members were unanimously infavor .

Town Administrator gave a week in review along with department head updates.

CHAIR REPORT

Final terms of the TA contract extension have been done and final contract will be signed tonight.

Selectmen Spellios spoke highly of TA Fitzgerald. Selectmen Dreeben spoke of the confidence they have in the TA. Selectmen Spathanas spoke of how he is moving things along and things are happening.

Selectmen Jones spoke talked about Sean 's proactiveness and his leadership.

Blue Ribbon award celebration will happen tomorrow, and Swampscott is one of 62 HS that received this honor. Selectmen Spellios spoke about the school committee and superintendent and how they have done an incredible job on supporting all groups.

SELECTMEN TIME

Selectmen Dreeben- working on Women's meeting tentative date is 6/6/19.

Selectmen Spathanas- crosswalks in town Essex Street and Paradise Road -no one is stopping

Possibly create a subset to the Traffic Study Committee and invite the Traffic Study Committee to a future BOS meeting

Discussion on finishing the decorative lights and how to raise additional funding

Asked residents if they are interest in donating time/Plants/flowers and to work together in hanging on the poles

Joint meeting on 2/27 BOS-FINCOM-CIC

Motion to adjourn by Selectmen Spellios the motion was seconded by Selectmen Dreeben all BOS members were infavor.

