



Town of Swampscott

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Room B-208 Swampscott High School, 200 Essex St. Swampscott, MA

MEMBERS PRESENT

Peter Spellios (Chair), Naomi Dreeben (Vice Chair), Donald Hause, Polly Titcomb

MEMBERS ABSENT: Laura Spathanas

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Sean Fitzgerald (Town Administrator), Allie Fiske (Assistant to the Town Administrator), Marzie Galazka (Director of Community Development), Max Kasper (Building Commissioner) Ronald Madigan (Police Chief), Jeff Blake (Town Counsel), Jeff Vaughan (Director of the Health Department), Gino Cresta (Assistant Town Administrator – Director of DPW).

Mr. Spellios called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

On **MOTION** (Dreeben) and **SECOND** (Titcomb) the Board conducted a roll call to enter into Executive Session. (Hause)Yes (Spellios) Yes.

On **MOTION** (Dreeben) and **SECOND** (Titcomb) to exit Executive Session and return to public meeting. (Hause) Yes (Spellios) Yes.

SHOW CAUSE HEARING – FOUR SEASONS MOTOR GROUP, LLC

On **MOTION** (Dreeben) **SECOND** (Hause) the Board conducted a roll call to open a public show cause hearing regarding Four Seasons Motor Group, LLC. (Spellios) Yes (Titcomb) Yes

On **MOTION** (Hause) **SECOND** (Dreeben) the Board conducted a roll call to table the show cause hearing to 7:30pm (Spellios) Yes (Titcomb) Yes

PUBLIC COMMENT

Regarding the issue of dangerous dog(s) on Puritan Lane, a resident provided a report on her experience of a recent attack on her dog. She and other residents expressed concern that although one dog has been removed, three additional pit bulls remain on the premises and that they were fearful about passing the residence. Many residents expressed that a bylaw should be created to address dangerous dog situations in the future.

Chairmen Spellios stated that a resident must provide a written request for a Dangerous Dog hearing and an investigation would begin and a hearing scheduled. The Select Board commented that the order of operations on how to handle this type of issue has not been well explained and stated that educational tools will be provided by the Town in the future for residents to address these types of situations. The Town Administrator stated that the Town will create forms for people to file a complaint and request hearings.

Spellios stated that the Town is looking into an update to the bylaw that will allow the Town – to the extent that it can – address dangerous dog situations in the future. He asked that the Police can be given authority to investigate the case of dangerous dogs moving forward. Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald confirmed that this change would be put in place.

The owner of a second dog that was attacked spoke, expressing concern that the process for requesting a Dangerous Dog Hearing was not made known to the residents. Another resident raised a question regarding how potential animal abuse can be reported, and it was confirmed that this can be reported to an Animal Control Officer or Health Director Jeff Vaughan.

On a separate animal control issue, a resident expressed concern about the turkey in Vinnin Square and asked if the Town can safely remove it.

Regarding the VFW located in Town-owned property at 8 Pine Street, residents and members expressed concern about the Town's lack of communication regarding a lease renewal, and fears that the Town will not sign the lease moving forward. Malcolm Maloon, the VFW's post commander provided some background information about the center, explaining that it is made of memberships of American Legion, Marine Corp League, and Disabled American Veterans.

When asked whether or not the VFW was the only entity whose rolls were check by the Police, Spellios clarified that due to a Memorandum of Understanding, the police are permitted to perform the checks.

Several residents and members of the VFW expressed support for the VFW, stating the large number of current and past military families that provide on its support. One person in attendance encouraged the VFW and the Town to consider the former Police Station at 86 Burrill St. as a potential location for operations.

Chairmen Spellios stated he believes the Town should invest more into veterans than offering rent-free space at this location. Spellios stated that he is supportive of finding a longer solution at this particular site but wants to ensure that the Town partners with the VFW, DAV, and American Legion in finding ways together to do more with the property and provide additional services. Select Board members agreed that a demonstration of enhanced services is necessary moving forward. Community & Economic Development Director Marzie Galazka and the Town Administrator will continue the conversation with the expectation of entering into a lease extension, while discussing how the Town and VFW can leverage each other.

It was the consensus of the Board to authorize the Town Administrator and Marzie Galazka to continue conversation with the VFW with the expectation of entering into a lease extension, and engage in conversation about how the Town and VFW can leverage each other.

SHOW CAUSE HEARING – FOUR SEASONS MOTOR GROUP, LLC

On **MOTION** (Hause) and **SECOND** (Dreeben) the Board conducted a roll call to remove Show Cause Hearing for Four Seasons Motor Group, LLC from table. (Titcomb)Yes (Spellios) Yes.

On **MOTION** (Dreeben) and **SECOND** (Titcomb) the Board conducted a roll call to continue the Show Cause Hearing on February 5 at 6:30 PM in Room 208 at the Swampscott High School.

PUBLIC COMMENT *Continued*

Joe Douillette made an announcement about the Swampscott Big Band's second concert on February 8 at First Church at 2:00 PM – free for seniors and youth.

POLICE STATION

The response deadline for the RFIs for the former Police Station at 86 Burrill St. will be pushed back to the end of March. Marzie will confirm with Polly before publishing. The response can include the entire space, including the area where the ambulances are located – understanding that the vehicles can be relocated.

On **MOTION** (Dreeben) **SECOND** (Hause) it was **VOTED** (unanimous) to authorize the Town Administrator to issue the RFI subject to proposed changes.

AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES

A resident spoke requesting that Aggregate Industries issue a notice 24-hours in advance of a blasting. She stated that she only received notice 2.5 hours before the blasting, though Spellios confirmed an email had gone out the previous day. The resident also requested that a timeline be set for when Aggregate Industries responds to a damage claim. She also asked how prior damage would be addressed. Marzie confirmed that a community meeting will be taking place in the Spring prior to any agreement being signed for the next year.

Spellios requested that Marzie report back when these questions have been posed to Aggregate Industries.

CONSENT AGENDA:

On **MOTION** (Dreeben) **SECOND** (Hause) it was **VOTED** (unanimous) to approve the consent agenda.

TOWN ADMIN REPORT

Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald provided a summary of his Town Administrators Report including an update on the Middle School Assessment and a draft assessment describing the current conditions and providing priority recommendations and budget estimates. Once finalized, the report will be presented to the Board and School Committee. TA also updated the Select Board on the status of the budget which will be preliminarily recommended on January 27 in advance of initial presentation to the board; a possible Community Development Block Grant to help advance some efforts for the Housing Authority to improve their facilities; MAPC Technical assistance opportunity for the General Glover Property; MBTA Lease Agreement update; an upcoming meeting with the City of Lynn and DCR regarding the Rotary at Nahant St.; ADA Self-Assessment and Transition Plan, Fire Department Grievance, and blighted property enforcement.

SELECTIMENS' TIME

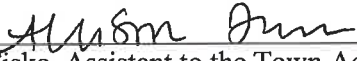
- Naomi referred to the OPED statement in the Select Board Packet and Spellios explained it was included in the packet for the purpose of keeping the Board fully informed.
- Don Hause provided an update about a meeting to look at a plan and study of repairs of the Fish House and intention to schedule a future meeting. Spellios requested a list of repairs (urgent and long-term) with a timetable and funding.

- The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 22 at 3:00pm at Senior Center. It will not be televised live but will be recorded.

On **MOTION** (Dreeben) **SECONDED** (Hause) it was **VOTED** (unanimous) to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned 8:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Allie Fiske, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Select Board 02/6/2020