



Town of Swampscott
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 24, 2021 – 6:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Peter Spellos (Chair), Polly Titcomb, Neal Duffy, David Grishman

MEMBERS ABSENT

Don Hause

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT

Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator; Allie Fiske, Director of Communications & Strategic Initiatives; Ron Mendes, Assistant Town Administrator of Finance and Administration; Gino Cresta, Assistant Town Administrator of Operations; Marzie Galazka, Director of Community & Economic Development; Michael McClung, Town Moderator; Patrick Luddy, Assistant Town Accountant; Sue Duplin, Town Clerk; Amy Sarro, Town Accountant; Alyce Deveau, Library Director; Danielle Strauss, Recreation Director; Gino Cresta, Assistant Town Administrator of Operations; Fire Chief Graham Archer; Ricardo Flores, Human Resources Director; Police Chief Ron Madigan; Tim Dorsey, Finance Committee Chair

The meeting was called to order at 6:13pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald shared an update on the Harbor & Waterfront Plan. The Seaport Economic Council has awarded the Town \$80,000 grant for work on the pier at the Fish House.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDED FY22 BUDGET

Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald introduced the budget and provided some information about the process, which started with a 10-year financial forecast. He reviewed the long range planning goals which are based on an increase of no more than 2% to the base tax levy plus and additional \$425,000 in new growth.

Assistant Town Administrator of Administration of Finance presented information about revenue. Net local aid is anticipated to go down 1.5%.

The Select Board would like Sean to draft a letter to State legislators regarding concerning trends in local aid. This topic can be taken up at the Wednesday, March 3 meeting.

Mr. Mendes did emphasize that this is not an austerity budget – the budget does add some staff and functions, including a Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Mr. Mendes walked through an overview of different Departmental Budgets and emphasized the individual departmental goals. The Board reviewed the Administration department budgets and provided opportunities for the board members to ask additional questions. There was a conversation about the Director of DEI. Several Select Board members emphasized the importance of making sure that job description is clearly defined and the Town is ready to implement this position effectively.

There was a discussion regarding the Community Development office and the board acknowledged how successful the fundraising has been. There was an interest in making sure this department budget supported the work of the department.

There was a request that the budget footnote some changes that may need some contextual conversation that may not be initially clear.

The Select Board discussed the Police Department COLA and the importance of it being in the budget. There was also a conversation about the DPW Budget and whether or not it reflects the needs of the department and peer communities. The Board wants to ensure that organic lawn maintenance is also being addressed in the budget.

The Board reviewed the Solid Waste budget and requested that they be appraised of an update at the next meeting. The Board wants to ensure that the fees coming in from overflow bags is being used in part to fund some waste reduction initiatives.

The Select Board decided to table Enterprise Funds until March 3 to provide more opportunity to discuss. The Board will also discuss some of the items that require follow-up.

VOTING MACHINE

The voting machines that Swampscott utilizes are 13 years old and are no longer being manufactured. There are 9 voting machines that are waiting for shipping pending a board vote.

On **MOTION** (Duffy) and **SECONDED** (Grishman) Pursuant to MGL Chapter 54, Section 34, it was **VOTED** by roll call to authorize the Town of Swampscott to discontinue use of the AccuVote Optical Scan Tabulators and to start using the ImageCast Precinct Optical Scan Tabulators beginning with the April 27, 2021 Town election.

Roll call: Polly Titcomb, yes; David Grishman, yes; Neal Duffy, yes; Peter Spellios, yes

TOWN MEETING WARRANTS

On **MOTION** (Duffy) and **SECONDED** (Grishman) it was **VOTED** to recommend favorable action on Article 2

Roll call: Titcomb (YES) Duffy (YES) Grishman (YES) Spellios (YES)

On **MOTION** (Grishman) and **SECONDED** (Duffy) it was **VOTED** to recommend favorable action on Article 3

Roll call: Titcomb (YES) Duffy (YES) Grishman (YES) Spellios (YES)

TRAFFIC STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Traffic Study Advisory Committee's first recommended is to put "No parking here to corner signs" at intersection of Cedar Hill Terrace and Humphrey Street. This request was placed by the business across the street and the abutting residence, though there was a discussion regarding the reasoning behind these requests. The request was tabled and Marzie will return to the Traffic Advisory Committee to better define the request.

The next request is to install "No Right Turn on Red" sign at intersection of Reddington and Humphrey St. in front of Mission on the Bay.

On **MOTION** (Grishman) it was **SECONDED** (by Titcomb) to approve this recommendation.

Roll call: Titcomb (YES) Grishman (YES) Duffy (YES) Spellios (YES)

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

Senior Planner Molly O'Connell provided a presentation recapping the Open Space & Recreation Plan, which is required to be kept on file by DCS in order to be eligible for park grants. She outlined the sections of the plan that had been updated since the first reading.

The Select Board will vote to support the submission of the draft. The State will comment as well and the plan will return to the Select Board for a final vote.

There was a conversation about ADA Accessibility.

On **MOTION** (Grishman) it was **VOTED** (Duffy) to draft a support letter from the Select Board for the Open Space & Recreation Plan

CONSENT AGENDA

- Vote to appoint George Delegas to the Commission on Disability
- Vote to approve Alteration of Premises application for G Restaurant LCC located at 254-256 Humphrey Street

- Vote to approve Change of Manager Application for Bertucci's Restaurants, LLC located at 450 Paradise Rd. Swampscott, MA 01907
- Vote to approve meeting minutes from February 3, 2021 meeting

On **MOTION** (Grishman) and **SECONDED** (Duffy) it was **VOTED** by roll call to approve the consent agenda. Roll call: Grishman (YES) Titcomb (YES) Duffy (YES) Spellios (YES)

TOWN ADMINSTRATOR'S REPORT

- FY22 Budget
- Special Town Meeting
- Year to Date Expenses
- Glover Property
- Recommendation for Zoning Update
- Seaport Advisory Council
- Recreation Department Update

There was a conversation about the Glover Property and the Board would like to hold a non-public Executive Session meeting regarding the property.

SELECT BOARD TIME

David Grishman: Saturday, March 6, the Baker Daughter's Diner will celebrate its reopening.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

True Attest,



Allie Fiske, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Select Board 3/3/2021