



**Town of Swampscott**  
**Select Board Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, February 3, 2021 – 6:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting

**SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**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; Amy Sarro, Town Accountant; Marzie Galazka, Director of Community & Economic Development; Rich Baldacci, Building Commissioner; Fire Chief Graham Archer; Michael McClung, Town Moderator;

The meeting was called to order at 6:06pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

A resident spoke regarding Peter Spellios and Polly Titcomb's submission of a letter to the District Attorney regarding the charges facing Ernst Jean-Jacque and spoke about her experience at the weekly protests. Select Board member Don Hause stated that Select Board members may want to be judicious when using the Town Seal in communication and provided numerous examples.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

In honor of Black History Month, Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald presented a proclamation. The Board was joined by residents Ralph Edwards and David Vera, Fire Chief Graham Archer, as well as DEI Critical Partner Tamy-Fee Meneide. Ms. Meneide provided a brief update on the Town's Black History Month activities and engagement opportunities.

**EVICTIONS/FORECLOSURES**

In order to address a rising number of issues with housing in Swampscott, the Town has compiled a list of helpful resources. Allie Fiske, Director of Communications & Strategic Initiatives presented a few resources and stated that the information would be available on the website. Director of Community & Economic Development Marzie Galazka spoke about the Small Business Grant program.

## **PUBLIC HEARING FOR NATIONAL GRID**

On **MOTION** (Titcomb) and **SECONDED** (Hause) it was **VOTED** by roll call to hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, at 6:15 P.M. in a virtual meeting on Zoom for all parties interested in a request from National Grid for the following petitions /request:

- 179B Burrill St. / Plan# 28596386 - National Grid to install 1 JO pole on Burrill St beginning at a point approximately 25 feet east of the centerline of the intersection of Burrill St. Installation of JO pole needed to relocate electric service to #179B Burrill St. Swampscott, MA 01907. Current service is a non standard configuration and needs to be corrected.
- 367 Forest Ave / Plan # 30068245 - National Grid to install beginning at a point approximately 96 feet west of the centerline of the intersection of Forest Ave and Sherwood Road and continuing approximately 7 feet in a northwest direction. Install approximately 7ft of 1-3" conduit from pole 125 to house 367 Forest Ave for new underground service.
- 1014 Humphrey St. / Plan # 30298408 - National Grid to install beginning at a point approximately 20 feet south of the centerline of the intersection of Humphrey St and Phillips Ter and continuing approximately 10 feet in a north direction. Install 1-3' conduit approximately 10 ft from pole #228 to property line at house 1014 Humphrey St.

Assistant Town Administrator/DPW Director Gino Cresta stated that approving these permits should be contingent upon Burpee Road work being done as requested previously. There was a question about what happens when a company puts a pole in a sidewalk, and how that affects ADA Accessibility. There has been concerns about not patching up the area after work. Gino said he'll monitor this one and make sure it's taken care of.

Chairperson Peter Spellios asked for an update on double-pole removal requirement.

On **MOTION** (Hause) and **SECONDED** (Titcomb) it was **VOTED** by roll call to approve these three petitions with the condition on Petition #28596386 relative to sidewalk clearance, and that issuance of all permits will happen upon confirmation of finishing other work on Burpee Rd. as requested by DPW Director. Roll call: Titcomb *yes*, Duffy *yes*, Hause *yes*, Grishman *yes*, Spellios *yes*

On **MOTION** (Titcomb) and **SECONDED** (Duffy) it was **VOTED** To close the public hearing. Roll call: Titcomb *yes*, Duffy *yes*, Hause *yes*, Grishman *yes*, Spellios *yes*

## **ELM PLACE**

Peter Spellios read the letter to the DHCD to respectfully request that a Determination of Site Eligibility pursuant to 760 CMR 56.04 not be issue for the currently Proposed Project. There was a conversation regarding the traffic study and the need to emphasize how bad the traffic will be. There is also concern about the lack of appropriate timing for communication for last community meeting and that there has been no change to plans as a result of the feedback from the community. There was a discussion about the rail trail and the impact this project will have on

the progress of the trail and ensure accommodations are made. The Select Board expressed appreciation for the thoughtful feedback from the residents which has been very helpful.

Michael O'Brien from Winn spoke to say they're working side-by-side with the Town to make sure that the project can be advanced in a way that all view is positive. They said that they are responding to the community but wanted to make sure they did it in the correct forums.

Community comments: Fire safety could be a compelling argument. Concerns about sound reverberation bouncing off of train going by. Update chart to reflect Machon.

On **MOTION** (Grishman) and **SECONDED** (Duffy) it was **VOTED** by roll call to authorize Peter Spellios to make official revisions and work with Town Administrator and Marzie Galazka to finalize the letter and have it sent out – it will be shared with board to confirm Electronic Signature. Roll call: Titcomb *yes*, Duffy *yes*, Hause *yes*, Grishman *yes*, Spellios *yes*

There was a question about why the Town has not done anything to improve the Housing Authority. Mr. Spellios clarified that these properties are owned by the Housing Authority and he encouraged the public to reach out to the Housing Authority, which the Town also does.

## **TOWN MEETING**

The main premise of the Special Town Meeting on March 1 is an opportunity to engage in robust conversation with Town Meeting members about Town finances. There will be several capital items as well – addressing them now will allow work to start sooner so as to be complete by the new school year.

**Article 2:** Appropriation for capital project: Partial Roof Replacement, Middle School.

There was a comment that approving school items at the regular Town Meeting in May can be challenging before work generally should be happening over the summer, which it cannot based on that timing.

**Article 3:** Appropriation for Capital Project – Miscellaneous Elementary School Repairs.

There was a discussion regarding whether or not this could potentially wait until the Spring Town Meeting.

At the meeting, the administration will present some financials on what has been spent on schools and what anticipated expenses will be moving forward.

Article 4: Amendment to appropriation for Hadley School Feasibility Study.

On **MOTION** (Titcomb) and **SECONDED** (Duffy) it was **VOTED** by roll call to open and close the Special Town Meeting Warrant and remove Article 3. Titcomb *yes*; Duffy *yes*; Grishman *yes*; Hause *yes*; Spellios *yes*

## **QUARTER 2 OPERATING RESULTS**

Town Accountant Amy Sarro provided a presentation on the Quarter 2 Operating Results. Ms Sarro reported that revenue is slightly below target, though everything is based off of 50%. She

stated that majority of motor vehicle excises taxes are billed in February so that revenue will be reported in Q3. All expenses are on-par or below par. There was a discussion about police overtime. At the moment, 85% of the overtime budget has been spent, with 50% of the year still remaining. There was a discussion about engaging the State to help with the cost of police presence.

Town expenses are on track with several key areas of concern: solid waste, police overtime, fire overtime, and health insurance. Overall, revenue and expense are within reasonable ranges.

### **GLOVER PROPERTY**

Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald provided an update on the Glover Property at 299 Salem St. The building has not been used for decades and is blighted. He ran through a timeline of violations over the last several years.

Fire Chief Archer spoke about the property and the current status of the four sections of the property. At one time, one of the properties is currently being used to launder items from the Hawthorne restaurants. It is believed that at the time it may be used as a staging area for the restaurants and potentially is being used for clerical office work. Chief Archer described what recently occurred at the property which was a fire as a result of work being done to the boiler. Fortunately the Fire Department was on the scene when it occurred.

There was a question about whether or not the building has an occupancy permit and whether or not it demonstrates what they are doing in the building and if it's allowed to be done. There was a request that the Administrator provide an update on the property and what is occurring there by next Wednesday.

The next meeting will take place on February 24, 2021 due to School Vacation Week.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Vote to approve meeting minutes from January 20, 2021 meeting
- Vote on appointment to the Affordable Housing Trust. David Grishman will be appointed to the Affordable Housing Trust.

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

### **TOWN ADMINSTRATOR'S REPORT**

- COVID-19 vaccination update
- INTERFACE Referral Program
- Police staffing
- Civil Service Update
- Aggregate Permit
- FY22 Budget

- Seaport Advisory Council
- Staff Meeting
- Town Administrator Coffee Hour
- Senior Center
- Historical Commission Community Preservation Awards

**SELECT BOARD TIME**

**David Grishman:** Reminded people the schedule to run for office by pulling papers on March 5.

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)

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM.

True Attest,



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Allie Fiske, Assistant to the Town Administrator

*Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Select Board 2/24/21*