



Town of Swampscott
Select Board Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2021 – 3:30 PM
Virtual Meeting

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

TOWN STAFF:

Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator; Allie Fiske, Director of Communications

POLICE INVESTIGATION REPORT

Chairperson Spellios stated that the Municipal Resources, Inc. Report has been reviewed by select people include Town Counsel and that it includes private personnel information and other private information. Ms. Titcomb and Mr. Spellios shared that they believe the board should make the decision about whether or not to release the report. Mr. Spellios stated that he believes it is appropriate to release a redacted report.

Select Board Member Don Hause agreed that the report should be released but suggested it be held until the hearing on March 29th so as not to interfere with criminal investigation. Select Board Member David Grishman agreed it should be released but sooner if possible. Select Board Member Duffy agreed that it should be released but not before the hearing as he does not see how an open dialog can occur with pending legal matters.

Select Board Member Polly Titcomb feels that the report can be redacted with the assistance of Town Counsel and believes under those circumstances that it can be released.

There was a discussion regarding calculating the balance of the importance of public transparency with the potential risk to the Town of releasing a report directly related to a pending legal matter.

Murat Erkan, Attorney representing the defendant in a criminal case related to the investigation spoke. He clarified that there has been no court order prohibiting the dissemination of the form. He asked several questions about MRI and Mr. Spellios stated that he would hold off answering and more information would become available.

The board discussed the timing of the release of the report to be followed by a public meeting for MRI to present findings and for the board to discuss how to move forward. Mr. Spellios

commented that it's important to have a meeting to provide context to the report when it is released.

The Select Board decided to adjust the upcoming Select Board schedule: Release the report at 5pm on Tuesday and hold a public Select Board meeting on Wednesday, March 24 at 6:00pm to discuss the report. The regularly scheduled Select Board meeting on March 24th would then be rescheduled to Thursday, March 25th.

On **MOTION** (Grishman) and **SECONDED** (Titcomb) it was **VOTED** by roll call to release redacted report by close of business on Tuesday, March 23 with subsequent meeting of the board on March 24 with a rain date of the 25 if MRI is unavailable. David, Polly.
Titcomb (YES) Hause (YES) Grishman (YES) Duffy (NO) Spellios (YES)

On **MOTION** (Hause) and **SECONDED** (Grishman) it was **VOTED** by roll call to adjourn the meeting. Titcomb (YES) Hause (YES) Grishman (YES) Duffy (NO) Spellios (YES)

Meeting adjourned at 4:34 PM.

True Attest,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allie Fiske". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Allie Fiske, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Select Board 3/25/21