



TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT
SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 30, 2022
SWAMPSCOTT HIGH SCHOOL, 200 ESSEX STREET, ROOM B129

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator, Marzie Galazka, Director of Community & Economic Development; Chief Graham Archer, Fire Chief

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- COVID Update: Large number of residents are vaccinated with an increase in those getting boosters. Continue to use best practices
- New Fire Fighter: London Spain was introduced and sworn in by Chief Archer
- Interim Town Clerk: Michael Sullivan will be acting as the Town Clerk until such time that a full-time Clerk is hired. An offer has been made & accepted. TA Fitzgerald will make a recommendation to the Board next week. Director of Admin & Finance Sarro has been acting as the Town Clerk. It is helpful to appoint Mike Sullivan so he can act officially.

Upon **MOTION**, duly made by David Grisham, seconded by Peter Spellios, it was unanimously **VOTED**: To approve Michael Sullivan as the interim Town Clerk: All in favor Yes. Any opposed No. Motion passes.

- Retirement Board: TA Fitzgerald has asked that they reconsider their vote
- FY22 Budget Freeze: Dept. heads must get approval before making purchases. TA Fitzgerald & Director of Administration & Finance Sarro will continue to monitor
- Veterans Services: Patrick Burk and Mike Sweeny are putting together a calendar of programs and initiatives to support veterans
- Kings Beach: TA Fitzgerald met with Lynn Mayor Nicholson regarding scope of work options. They also discussed encouraging the MBTA to electrify the commuter rail
- Senior Center: the Center is planning a town-wide walking challenge and hope to kick it off April 1st. This is a great way to engage seniors and get healthier. TA Fitzgerald met with Director Whear to discuss the purple triad program

NEW AND OLD BUSINESS:

1. Swearing-in Ceremony: Fire Chief Archer swore in new firefighter London Spain. London comes highly recommended from Swampscott Firefighters who met him while he was working as an EMT for Cataldo Ambulance. The Chief commented that London personifies Swampscott and meets the mark in every category. He is committed to public service and is already fitting in.

2. Opening of 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant: The warrant has to be closed by the end of April – 21 days before the Town Meeting. Some items will be added over the next few weeks including a request to rename Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day.

Upon **MOTION**, duly made by Peter Spellios, seconded by Donald Hause, it was unanimously **VOTED**: To write a letter to the Swampscott Retirement Board and request that they resume discussions to mitigate the FY23 schedule, before Town Meeting so new figures can be included in the FY23 budget: All in favor Yes. Any opposed No. Motion passes.

Discussions:

- a. When the financial articles will be finalized (not until rates have been set)
- b. The impact of the retained earnings transfers (TA Fitzgerald will get back to them with implications, some assumptions have already been made)
- c. Home Rule Petition (has been filed)
- d. Communications to other committees, specifically the Planning Board, is a concern for Peter
- e. The Warrant has to be at the printer no later than 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 26th
- f. Town Moderator McClung urges the Board to consider holding the Town Meeting to three nights
- g. Fin Comm is wrapping up except for Schools
- h. TA Fitzgerald will have the 2022 Warrant significantly established for next week's meeting (4/6). The Board can run through the standard articles and make sure the language is correct at that meeting

3. FY23 Operating Budget:

- a. TA Fitzgerald expressed disappointment in the Retirement Board's decision. This will cost the town \$91,000 that could be used for other things. The Finance Committee is aware of this decision. No retiree will suffer if they voted to extend the schedule. He suggested that the Board advocate for the Town

Upon **MOTION**, duly made by Peter Spellios, seconded by Neal Duffy, it was unanimously **VOTED**: To open the 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant: All in favor Yes. Any opposed No. Motion passes.

- b. Director of Admin. & Finance Sarro is looking into health care and is reviewing different plans.
- c. Funding from beach stickers goes to the Recreation Revolving Account
- d. Temporary bathrooms with running water to be located at Eiseman & Phillips beaches is cost prohibitive. Community & Economic Development Director Galazka is looking into more affordable options
- e. There was a brief discussion about salaries and if they will change in the budget (yes, due to new hires and being competitive). TA Fitzgerald was asked to wait until employees have been hired and their new salaries are included in the budget.

4. Select Board Handbook:

- a. Peter would like to see articles deleted if they are in another handbook to prevent the possibility of inconsistencies should the other handbook be changed.
- b. There was a page by page discussion with suggested changes. Polly will make those changes and resend the handbook

5. Hadley School Update: Director of Community & Economic Development Galazka did a short presentation based on the results of the Hadley Reuse Advisory Committee. They have decided on three uses: commercial mixed use including arts & culture, affordable housing or a boutique hotel. She will meet with Neal & Peter to discuss the RFQ for release in September

VOTES OF THE BOARD/CONSENT AGENDA: N/A

SELECT BOARD TIME:

1. Neal Duffy: Lynn is lobbying the MBTA to electrify the commuter rail and include that in their 5-year plan. He asked TA Fitzgerald to submit a letter of Swampscott's support
2. Polly Titcomb: We're at the end of Women's History Month, celebrating the contribution of women but, while we have made progress, we still have a long way to go. March 15th was marked as Equal Pay Day. Currently, women make .79/\$1.00 compared to men and, despite comprising 51% of the population, are not represented in congress (25%) or the legislature (30%). She encourages everyone to talk to your daughters, nieces and other women in your lives to find and use their voices
3. Peter Spellios has a few concerns:
 - a. There is a vacant storefront on Humphrey St. He would like the ZBA to change by-laws regarding use of first floor space
 - b. The Humphrey St. Overlay District has been in place six years. It might be time to review this
 - c. Uno in Vinnin Sq. is closed and is being replaced by a bank. Bank's pay the most rent but it's time to help find other uses that people want
 - d. The city of Boston has limited times for protesting in front of a private residence although there is still a twelve-hour window
 - e. Several communities have filed home rule petitions to create new vehicles to fund affordable housing. Peter has asked TA Fitzgerald to look into these various vehicles and return to the Board with suggestions

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

True Attest,



Dianne Marchese, Executive Secretary to the Town Administrator & Select Board