



Town of Swampscott
Select Board Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2021 – 6:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

TOWN STAFF:

Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator; Allie Fiske, Director of Communications; Ron Mendes, Assistant Town Administrator of Finance & Administration; Marzie Galazka, Community & Economic Development Director; Molly O’Connell, Senior Planner; Michael McClung, Town Moderator; Gino Cresta, Assistant Town Administrator of Operations/DPW Director; Max Kasper, Facilities Director

Meeting was called to order at 6:20PM

SWAMPSCOTT BEACH STICKER

Hadley Elementary School Visual Arts Teacher Rachel Eisenberg joined the Select Board meeting to unveil her new design of the 2021 Beach Sticker – inspired by the Swampscott dory and the sunset at the beach. The Select Board talked about doing a “contest” or exhibit in the future featuring kids’ beach sticker artwork.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A resident spoke about the Police Review and asked for clarification on next steps.

86 BURRILL ST.

Select Board Member David Grishman reviewed the process regarding the Request for Proposals issued for 86 Burrill St. The review group determined that without a new home for Cataldo Ambulance and without enough space at Burrill St. for proposed uses, they have chosen not to accept any of the proposals. In the interim, the Historical Commission will have access to the 2nd floor of the building for ongoing archival work. Building Repair work will continue on the facility and the Town will enter into a short term 12-month lease for the first floor space with Anchor Food pantry. The Facilities Director Max Kasper will work with Big Blue Bargains to reopen existing locations at Swampscott Middle School.

Senior Planner Molly O’Connell added that the Town continues to investigate options to accommodate all applicants in various spaces throughout Town.

There was a discussion about the space at the Middle School for Big Blue Bargains and that it cannot be a long-term solution. The Board talked about the future of Cataldo and the process that went into investigating different options for the company. David will be a liaison to Big Blue Bargains moving forward.

TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Assistant Town Administrator of Administration and Finance Ron Mendes shared the Table of Contents for the Annual Town Meeting. There was a discussion on Article 8 and 9 and preparing a recommendation from the Water & Sewer Rate Committee prior to Town Meeting. It's possible there could be some flexibility in how the warrant article is written.

Chairperson Spellios suggested a use table change to focus on first-floor uses better and minimize first-floor office uses to encourage placemaking services like retail and food. There was a discussion about revisiting some articles that did not get placed on the November 2020 Town Meeting warrant.

Right now the number of warrant articles may result in a 3-night Town Meeting so should potentially be culled a bit. Warrant Articles will be reviewed further at the April 21, 2021 meeting.

FY22 BUDGET

Assistant Town Administrator reviewed several changes to the proposed budget.

- Increase contract field maintenance budget
- Increase Health Insurance line item
- Essex Vocational Tech assessment

Assistant to the Town Administrator of Operations Gino Cresta provided an update and plan for organic field maintenance of select fields in Swampscott.

FY22 CAPITAL PLAN

Mr. Mendes shared a list of the FY22 capital projects. There are two projects still under review by the Capital Improvement Committee. The Board discussed funding sources and reorganizing to ensure free cash is unencumbered particularly as it pertains to unforeseen school repairs. There was a discussion about the Fish House and how projects were prioritized based on "Consequence of Failure".

CONTRACT APPROVAL

1. Vote to authorize Town Administrator to sign contract for Bid #2021-011 (Street Line Painting for 3 years).
2. Vote to authorize Town Administrator to sign contract for Bid #2021-012 (Lawn Mowing & Maintenance for 3 years).
3. Vote to authorize Town Administrator to sign contract for Bid #2021-013 (Fish House Ground Floor Restroom Renovation Project).
4. Vote to authorize Town Administrator to sign contract for Bid #2021-014 (Water Main Improvements, Atlantic Avenue & Jessie Street).

On **MOTION** (Hause) and **SECONDED** (Grishman) it was **VOTED** by roll call to authorize TA to finalize four contracts. Roll call: Titcomb (YES) Duffy (YES) Grishman (YES) Spellios (YES) Hause (YES)

CONSENT AGENDA

- Vote to approve meeting minutes from March 25, 2021 meeting
- Vote to approve funds from Kearsarge Lodge #217 O.O.F as a gift to cover costs of purchasing a new police cruiser radio.

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Walker Rd.
- MRI Police Investigation Report
- Massport Community Liaison
- Upcoming events
- Budget freeze
- Blighted property

There was a brief update on ERAC. Aggregate has filed for the FY22 permit. This hearing will be taken up likely at the end of May or early June.

SELECT BOARD TIME

Mr. Spellios thanked board for participation in the March 24, 2021 conversation about the Police Investigation.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.

True Attest,



Allie Fiske, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Select Board 4/21/21