

## Select Board Minutes

Monday, January 9, 2023 - 6:30 PM

Meeting to be held as hybrid with both an in-person and with a remote participation option in accordance with Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022.

Present: Scott C. Wrenn, Sara K. Ruffli, Daniel S. Carpenter, and Steven Chambers  
 Also Present: Town Manager Julie A. Jacobson and CFO/Asst. Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz

The Chair called the meeting to order 6:32 P.M.

Mr. Wrenn announced that this Open Meeting of the Town of Auburn Select Board was being operated as a hybrid model under Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022 with in-person and remote participation options. For the public to join the meeting remotely by telephone, 1-408-650-3123 and Access Code 235-235-861. Or, the public can join via computer at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/235-235-861>.

All supporting materials that have been provided to members of this body are available on the Town's website. The public is encouraged to follow along using the posted agenda.

The Chair confirmed that all members that were to be participating were in-person at the meeting:

- Mr. Carpenter - Present
- Mr. Chambers - Present
- Ms. Ruffli - Present
- Mr. Wrenn- Present

There were no board members participating remotely. Mr. Wrenn noted that the meeting was being recorded by Auburn Cable Television. He asked if anyone else was recording the meeting. No one so indicated.

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Public Comments

Doreen Goodrich of 5 Lower Windbrook Drive announced an open house retirement party honoring Town Manager Julie Jacobson for her 37 years in public service. The event will be held on Wednesday January 18, 2023 from 4:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. at the Pakachoag Church, 203 Pakachoag Street, Auburn, MA.

#### Public Hearings/Presentations

Petition by National Grid and Verizon New England for Pole Location on Commonwealth Avenue

At 6:36 P.M. the Select Board voted to open the public hearing (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Ms. Ruffli) voted in favor 4 to 0.

The petition seeks permission for work:

Commonwealth Avenue - National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Commonwealth Avenue beginning at a point approximately 180 feet west of the centerline of the intersection of Oakwood Avenue. Install one new 35ft. class 4 pole (P3) on Commonwealth Avenue to service electricity to newly build home, property of 10 Commonwealth Avenue.

Mr. Rob Greene of National Grid was participating remotely. He explained the installation work to be done on Commonwealth Avenue, which will be to service electricity to the newly built home, property of 10 Commonwealth Avenue.

Mr. Michael Darche of 26 Oakwood Avenue asked if the wiring would be coming down from Oakwood Avenue or coming up from Commonwealth Avenue.

Mr. Greene replied that the wire was coming down from P8 at the corner of 26 Oakwood.

Mr. Darche then said that he noticed a green tag stapled to a tree in his yard and he saw that a few branches were missing from the tree, and he asked if National Grid would be cutting more branches from that tree.

Mr. Greene said that National Grid did not touch any trees and that it would have been on the builders side of things if they had cut the branches to make an aerial.

Mr. Darche stated that he doesn't want any more branches removed. He said that the tree is on his land and they don't have permission to do so.

Mr. Greene acknowledged Mr. Darche's concern and he agreed to contact the builder to make sure that nothing else is being done to that tree.

There were no questions from the Board or Town Administration.

The Board voted to close the hearing (Motion made by Ms. Ruffli; motion seconded by Mr. Carpenter) voted in favor 4 to 0.

The Select Board voted to approve the petition to install 1 JO Pole on Commonwealth Avenue, beginning at a point approximately 180 feet west of the centerline of the intersection of Oakwood Avenue. Install one new 35ft. class 4 pole (P3) on Commonwealth Avenue to service electricity to newly built home, property of 10 Commonwealth Avenue (Motion made by Ms. Ruffli; motion seconded by Mr. Carpenter) voted in favor 4 to 0.

Petition by National Grid and Verizon New England for Pole Location on Chestnut Avenue - 6:30 PM

At 6:40 P.M. the Select Board voted to open the hearing (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Ms. Ruffli) voted in favor 4 to 0.

The petition seeks permission for work:

Chestnut Avenue - National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Chestnut Avenue and Remove 1 JO Pole on Chestnut Avenue beginning at a point approximately 160 feet northeast of the centerline of the intersection of June St. and continuing approximately 40 feet in a northeast direction. Install one new 40 ft. Class 3 pole (P2) on Chestnut Avenue ~ 49 ft. northeast from existing P2 pole, and removing existing P2 pole on Chestnut Avenue.

Mr. Rob Greene of National Grid explained the installation work to be done on Chestnut Avenue.

There were no questions on the petition.

The Board voted to close the hearing (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) voted in favor 4 to 0.

The Select Board voted to approve the petition to install 1 JO Pole on Chestnut Avenue and Remove 1 JO Pole on Chestnut Avenue beginning at a point approximately 160 feet northeast of the centerline of the intersection of June St. and continuing approximately 40 feet in a northeast direction. Install one new 40 ft. Class 3 pole (P2) on Chestnut Avenue ~ 49 ft. northeast from existing P2 pole, and removing existing P2 pole on Chestnut Avenue (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) voted in favor 4 to 0.

#### Communications

There were no items.

#### Select Board General Items

##### Gift Acceptances in Accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 53A

The Select Board voted to approve gift acceptances to the Auburn Public Library from Margaret Post in the amount of \$50.00 in appreciation of children's program, to be used at the Director's discretion, and a gift from Janice Frank in the amount of \$40.00 in memory of Gloria McTighe to be used to purchase 2 knitting books (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) voted in favor 4 to 0.

#### Proclamations and Recognitions

There were no items.

#### Town Manager Items

##### Potential Vote on Premium Pay - ARPA Funds for Municipal Employees

Town Manager Julie Jacobson discussed the information provided to the Board at the November 28, 2022 meeting. She asked the Select Board to consider approving one of the recommended options.

CFO Ed Kazanovicz discussed the payout of premium pay through the payroll process. He advised that premium pay would be subject to applicable taxes, but not to retirement as it's not part of base wages.

The Select Board discussed the options outlined by the Town Manager and each member voices their preferences. Members generally expressed support for Option C with some adjustments.

The Select Board voted to continue the item for two weeks to the next meeting (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Ms. Ruffli) voted in favor 4 to 0.

Vote to Accept and Expend Grant Awards from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Department of Fire Services in the amounts of \$4,381.00 for Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) and \$2,277.00 for Senior SAFE

Town Manager Jacobson discussed the grant items submitted by the Fire Department.

The Select Board voted to accept and expend grant awards from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Department of Fire Services in the amounts of \$4,381.00 for Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) and \$2,277.00 for Senior Awareness of Fire Education (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Ms. Ruffli) voted in favor 4 to 0.

Vote to Accept and Expend State Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant award in the amount of \$12,382.30.

The Fire Chief informed the Board that the award would provide funds to assist the department in purchasing new turnout gear for the new members.

The Select Board voted to accept and expend a State Firefighter Safety Grant award in the amount of \$12,382.30 (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Ms. Ruffli) voted in favor 4 to 0.

#### Tabled Items

There were no items.

#### Select Board Member Items

There were no items.

Chair Scott Wrenn asked if there were any questions or concerns about the minutes of November 28, 2022. There being none, the Chair announced that the minutes of November 28, 2022 were accepted.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 P.M. (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Ms. Ruffli) voted in favor 4 to 0.

Submitted: Sharon A. Kwiatkowski  
Adm. Assistant to the Town Manager

The following documents were part of the Select Board's meeting of January 9, 2023 and are retained in the Executive Officer of Town Manager:

- January 9, 2023 Agenda
- Petition and Documents submitted by National Grid and Verizon New England for Pole Location on Commonwealth Avenue, Auburn, MA.
- Petition and Documents submitted by National Grid and Verizon New England for Pole Location on Chestnut Avenue, Auburn, MA.
- Gift Acceptance Forms - Auburn Public Library
- Report by Town Manager dated November 28, 2022 on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Premium Pay
- Letter dated December 27, 2022 from the State Office of the Governor on Grant Awards to Auburn Fire Rescue Department of \$4,381.00 for Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) and \$2,277.00 for Senior SAFE Grants
- Email from Fire Chief Stephen Coleman dated January 5, 2023 on FY23 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Award through the MA Department of Fire Services of \$12,382.30
- Minutes of November 28, 2022