

Select Board Minutes

Monday, February 13, 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: Sara K. Rufli, Daniel S. Carpenter and Steven Chambers

Absent: Scott C. Wrenn

Also Present: Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz

Vice Chair Sara Rufli called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Ms. Rufli announced that this Open Meeting of the Town of Auburn Select Board was being conducted *both in person and remotely*, consistent with Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, which suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible *physical* location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed to participate remotely as long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting.

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 Vice Chair announced that all Board members were present in person and that the meeting was being recorded by Auburn Cable Television.

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Public Hearings/Presentations

Fire Response Recognition - Mrs. Stone

Vice Chair Sara Rufli read a message from Mrs. Debbie Stone expressing her gratitude and recognition of the Auburn Fire Department and EMS for the care given to her and her husband and their response efforts to save her husband Mark C. Stone during a medical emergency on the evening of January 15th. She expressed that the Fire Department team members showed great care and dignity to both of them that night despite the fact that their live-saving efforts were not successful.

Communications

There were no items.

Select Board General Items

Request to Change Name of Owner and Address Information on the Flammable Storage Permit for 17 St. Mark Street, Auburn, MA.

The Select Board reviewed a request from the Town Clerk to change the owner name and address information on the Flammable Storage Permit for 17 St. Mark Street, Auburn, MA.

The Board voted to approve the change in owner name and address information for the permit at 17 St. Mark Street to:

Lundgren Equity Partners, LLC Trustee
c/o Glickman, Kovago & Jacobs Management
1 Mercantile Street, Suite 510
Worcester, MA. 01608

(Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) voted in favor 3 to 0.

Request to Change Name of Owner and Address Information on the Flammable Storage Permit for 209 Washington Street, Auburn, MA.

The Select Board reviewed a request from the Town Clerk to change the owner name and address information on the Flammable Storage Permit for 209 Washington Street, Auburn, MA.

The Board voted to approve the change in owner name and address information for the permit at 209 Washington Street to:

Debjr Neta LLC
c/o Hallomore Corporation
795 Plymouth Street
Holbrook, MA. 02343

(Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) voted in favor 3 to 0.

Board Vote to Open the Warrant for the May 2, 2023 Annual Town Meeting

The Select Board voted to open the warrant for the May 2, 2023 Annual Town Meeting (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) voted in favor 3 to 0.

Board Vote to Close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant on Monday March 6, 2023

The Select Board voted to close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant on Monday March 6, 2023 at close of business (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) voted in favor 3 to 0.

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

The Select Board voted to approve, with gratitude and a letter signed by the Chair, a gift to the Fire/Rescue Department in the amount of \$300.00 from Deanna and John White for the Fire Department Gift Account (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) voted in favor 3 to 0.

Proclamations and Recognitions

There were no items.

Town Manager Items

Public Safety Fiber Network Request through ARPA by Fire Chief

Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz presented the item requested by the Fire Chief and Police Chief.

Police Chief Todd Lemon and Fire Chief Stephen Coleman discussed the request for \$500,000.00 of ARPA funds to construct a Public Safety Fiber Network to connect existing radio sites with fiber that is not currently in place. The additional sites added to the fiber network would form a ring to existing locations for primary and backup radios and repeaters and would allow the installation of additional Microwave dishes and voter sites to improve communications.

The Select Board voted to authorize \$500,000.00 in ARPA funds for the Public Safety Fiber Network as described (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) voted in favor 3 to 0.

Request the Board to Consider and Vote on a Member to Represent the Select Board on a Working Group for the Housing Production Plan Update

There were no volunteers from Select Board members to serve on the working group. The Select Board voted to refer the item to the Planning Board and ask them for a volunteer to serve on the working group for the Housing Production Plan Update (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) voted in favor 3 to 0.

Terms of Development Agreement

Mr. Kazanovicz advised the Board that the last meeting of the group working on the development agreement had to be cancelled due to illness. He said that he expects that the group will be having a meeting this week.

Budget Schedule Update

Ed Kazanovicz reported that the Governor's budget numbers are due to be released March 1st instead of in January as has been customary. He said that 20% of the Town's revenues come from State Aid. Mr. Kazanovicz said that he expects to bring the Manager's recommended budget to the Select Board at the February 27th meeting to transmit to the Finance Committee for their March 1st meeting.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Premium Pay Report

Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz summarized and discussed the administration's report on the final allocations for the Town of Auburn's Premium Pay program as approved by the Select Board. He said that the total ARPA funds needed to fund Auburn's Premium Pay Program as approved by the Board is \$293,495.95 and, including minor adjustments on the vaccination clinic payments, the total Premium Pay to employees will not exceed \$300,000.00.

Town Manager Update on Senior Center Flooding

Manager Kazanovicz gave an update on the flooding at the Senior Center, the status of the center and efforts for remediation. Work is needed to fix or replace the floors, rugs and drywall. The

Senior Center will be closed for 3 or 4 months. Mr. Kazanovicz discussed plans to find a facility to run programs and services while the work is being done.

Tabled Items

There were no items.

Select Board Member Items

There were no items.

Vice Chair Sara Ruffli asked if there were any questions or corrections to the minutes of January 9, 2023. There being none, the Vice Chair accepted the minutes of January 9, 2023.

Select Board member Dan Carpenter stated that he has reconsidered and he will seek the one-year term on the Select Board in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 P.M. (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) voted in favor 3 to 0.

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

The following documents were part of the Select Board's Meeting of February 13, 2023 and are retained in the Executive Office of the Town Manager:

- February 13, 2023 Agenda
- Request from the Town Clerk dated January 26, 2023 to Change Name of Owner and Address Information on the Flammable Storage Permit for 17 St. Mark Street, Auburn, MA.
- Request from the Town Clerk dated February 8, 2023 to Change Name of Owner and Address Information on the Flammable Storage Permit for 209 Washington Street, Auburn, MA.
- Gift Acceptance Form – Fire/Rescue Department \$300.00 from Deanna and John White to the Fire Department Gift Account
- Information dated February 10, 2023 from Fire Chief Stephen Coleman on the Public Safety Fiber Network Request through ARPA Funds by the Fire Chief and Police Chief Todd Lemon
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Premium Pay Report from the Town Manager dated February 9, 2023
- Minutes of January 9, 2023