

Select Board Minutes
Monday, March 27, 2023 - 6:00 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. Rufli, Daniel S. Carpenter and Steven Chambers
Also Present: Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz, Assistant Town Manager/Human Resources Director Dori Vecchio

Chair Scott Wrenn called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

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

The Select Board voted to go into executive session, in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (3), to deliberate upon matters, which if done in an open meeting could detrimentally affect the position of the town regarding strategy with respect to collective bargaining (DPW Unions), to come out of executive session and reconvene in an open meeting (Motion made by Ms. Rufli; motion seconded by Mr. Carpenter) roll call vote: Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes - passed 4 to 0.

The Chair then declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body relative to strategy with respect to collective bargaining and that the Board will come out of executive session and reconvene in open session.

Chair Scott Wrenn reconvened the meeting in open session at 6:38 P.M.

Mr. Wrenn 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.

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The 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

Petition by National Grid and Verizon New England for Pole Location on Prospect Street - 6:30 P.M.

The Select Board voted to open the hearing at 6:39 P.M. (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Ms. Ruffli) voted in favor 4 to 0. Abutters were notified about the petition and the public hearing.

Rob Greene was participating remotely on behalf of the petition. He explained the petition, which seeks permission for work on Prospect Street to install 1 JO Pole on Prospect Street beginning at a point approximately 445 feet south of the centerline of the intersection of Booth Road. Mr. Greene described the work plan that one new 40Ft class 4 Pole P#43 would be installed on Prospect Street to serve a new residence across the street.

Mr. Chambers asked why the service couldn't come from Pole #47 or Pole #42. Mr. Greene replied that both would be aerial trespassing over other property owners and they couldn't acquire rights from either.

Mr. Chambers then asked if underground service was considered from either of the existing poles. Mr. Greene advised that it was discussed, but they would have to traverse underground beneath the road and he said that it would not be a proper prospect.

There were no public comments.

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

The Select Board voted to approve the petition as outlined (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Ms. Ruffli) voted in favor 4 to 0.

Presentation of FY22 Audit

Tom Scanlon Jr. of Scanlon and Associates, LLC was in attendance and presented the Management Letter for the Year Ended June 30, 2022 and the Audit Report on the Examination of Basic Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2022. Mr. Scanlon discussed the factors contributing to the Town's strong financial position.

Communications

There were no items.

Select Board General Items

Outdoor Entertainment License and Open Air License on Town Property - Faith Baptist Church "Easter for 508" Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 1, 2023 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at Lemansky Park

Alyssa Maglione was present on behalf of the application and described the event scheduled to be held on Saturday April 1st at Lemansky Park.

The Board received the comments from the Development Coordinating Group (DCG) on the event:

- The applicant shall obtain all necessary permits and inspections from Town Departments, Boards, or Commissions;
- The applicant shall work with the Building Department to obtain any permits and inspections needed for the proposed bounce houses and any other temporary structures;
- The applicant shall work with the Parks Department to identify locations where stakes can be used on the field. This will ensure that the irrigation system is not disrupted;
- The applicant shall contact Auburn Police to schedule police detail if necessary;
- The applicant shall confirm that any trash and septic haulers hired for the event are licensed with the Board of Health.

Ms. Maglione acknowledged the recommended conditions provided by the DCG.

The Select Board then voted to approve the Outdoor Entertainment License and the Open Air License on Town Property (Lemansky Park) for Saturday, April 1, 2023 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., provided that all applicable requirements of the state and town and any of its departments, boards and commissions have been fulfilled. Said licenses are subject to all the conditions stated upon them. Failure to comply with any and all the conditions shall invalidate the licenses and render them null and void, and with the conditions recommended by the DCG to be placed on the licenses (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Ms. Ruffli) voted in favor 4 to 0.

The Select Board voted to waive the fee for the Open Air License as requested by the applicant (Motion made by Ms. Rufli; motion seconded by Mr. Carpenter) voted in favor 4 to 0.

Open Air License on Town Property, Auburn Public Library 369 Southbridge Street, Auburn, MA for Book Sales on April 29, 2023, May 20, 2023, June 24, 2023, July 15, 2023 and September 9, 2023 - Application by Friends of the Auburn Public Library.
Library Director Jean Collins was participating remotely and discussed the application submitted by the Friends of the Auburn Public Library to have book sales at the Library.

The Development Coordinating Group (DCG) submitted the following recommended conditions:

- The applicant shall receive all necessary permits and inspections from Town Departments, Boards, or Commissions;
- The applicant shall contact Auburn Police to schedule police detail if necessary;
- If food is to be served, the applicant shall contact the Board of Health for the required permits.

The Select Board voted to approve the license as outlined, provided that all applicable requirements of the state and town and any of its departments, boards and commissions have been fulfilled. Said license is subject to all the conditions stated upon it. Failure to comply with any and all the conditions shall invalidate the license and render it null and void, and with the conditions recommended by the DCG to be placed on the license (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) voted in favor 4 to 0.

The Board voted to waive the fee for the Open Air License as requested by the applicant (Motion made by Ms. Rufli; motion seconded by Mr. Carpenter) voted in favor 4 to 0.

May 2, 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant -Board Vote to Approve, Subject to Final Review by Town Counsel

Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz presented the warrant for the May 2, 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

The Select Board voted to approve the May 2, 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant as to format, subject to final review by Town Counsel (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) voted in favor 4 to 0.

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

There were no items.

Proclamations and Recognitions

There were no items.

Town Manager Items

Central Mass Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) District Location Technical Assistance (DLTA) Grant - Vote to authorize and accept the grant for Phase I of the Development of a Regional Heat Resiliency Plan

The Town Manager presented the item and asked the Board to hold it until the next meeting pending notification of the grant amount and any required match.

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

Development Agreement Update - Perry Place

The Town Manager gave an update as to the status of the development agreement negotiations and some outstanding items that he's hoping to have finalized for the next meeting.

Notice on Auburn Cable TV License Renewal Hearing

Town Manager Kazanovicz discussed the Auburn Cable TV License Renewal Hearing that has been scheduled for the Board's April 10th meeting at 6:30 P.M.

The Board voted to move forward item 8f) Communication on Public Safety Cost Estimates and Potential Vote to Schedule Joint Meeting of School Committee, Finance Committee and Select Board (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Ms. Ruffli) voted in favor 4 to 0.

Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz presented updated information on probable project costs for the proposed public safety facility that were a total of \$78,388,309.00.

Mr. Carpenter raised the question if there were any outside sources of revenue available to the Town for the project.

Fire Chief Stephen Coleman and Police Chief Todd Lemon were in attendance. Chief Coleman spoke about proposed state legislation, that has been filed and is pending and getting some bi-partisan favorable reviews, to create a building commission that is similar to the MSBA where they fund 50% of municipal projects for public safety buildings. The Fire Chief said that he has testified before the state legislative bodies on this bill. He said that he read an article about federal legislation filed today to appropriate 750 million dollars of federal money to go towards renovating and constructing fire stations. The Chief said that it does not seem from the article that the appropriation would include joint public safety buildings.

Chief Coleman stated that the estimate is a big number and construction costs will only be rising and impacted by interest rate hikes, but the need will not be going away.

There was additional discussion on the cost estimate and factors contributing to the increase and about having a joint meeting of the Select Board, Finance Committee and School Committee to present the updated cost information and potential financial impacts.

The Select Board voted to schedule a joint meeting open to town meeting members and the public with the Finance Committee, Select Board and School Committee (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Ms. Ruffli) voted in favor 4 to 0.

Update on Camp Gleason

The Town Manager gave an update on the work at Camp Gleason. He said that quotes have been received for the electrical and plumbing work.

Update on Senior Center

Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz updated the Board on the status of the Senior Center closure due to water damage from flooding. He explained the remediation work underway at the center and the current estimated cost of \$165,000.00. Mr. Kazanovicz also discussed insurance coverage for the repairs. The Town Manager said that the expectation is for the senior center to be opening June 1st.

Tabled Items

There were no items.

Select Board Member Items

Ask Town Manager to look into the Establishment of an Agricultural Committee, of 7 Members, to Review Current Bylaws - by Scott Wrenn

Mr. Wrenn presented and discussed his request to ask Mr. Kazanovicz to look into creating an Agricultural Committee to review the current bylaws.

Mr. Carpenter asked why it wouldn't go to the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee and suggested asking the committee if they would take it on. Mr. Wrenn said that there is more to the issue than zoning; there are the numbers and types of animals allowed.

Following additional discussion, the Select Board voted to notify the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee about the proposed Agricultural Committee and ask for an opinion if the committee would like to take on the issue or give their thoughts on the proposal, and that the Board tables the item until a response from the ZBRC and, as the Board feels it's a very important thing to be resolved, request an answer as soon as possible so that the Board can request the Town Manager to create the committee (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Ms. Ruffli) voted in favor 4 to 0.

Chair Scott Wrenn asked if there were any comments or edits to the minutes of February 27, 2023 and March 13, 2023. There being none, the Chair accepted the minutes as drafted.

Mr. Carpenter reminded the members that the volunteer recognition event was on Monday April 3rd at 6:00 PM in the Select Board meeting room.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 P.M. (Motion made by Ms. Ruffli; motion seconded by Mr. Carpenter) 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 March 27, 2023 and are retained in the Executive Office of the Town Manager:

- March 27, 2023 Agenda
 - Petition and Documents submitted by National Grid and Verizon New England for Pole Location on Prospect Street, Auburn, MA.
 - FY22 Audit Reports - Management Letter for the Year Ended June 30, 2022 and Examination of Basic Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2022 prepared by Scanlon and Associates, LLC
 - Application Documents - Outdoor Entertainment License and Open Air License on Town Property for Faith Baptist Church "Easter for 508" Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 1, 2023 at Lemansky Park; Recommendation by Develop Coordinating Group (DCG) dated March 15, 2023
 - Application Documents - Open Air License on Town Property (Auburn Public Library) for Book Sales by Friends of the Auburn Public Library; Approval by Library Director; Recommendations by DCG dated March 15, 2023
 - Draft May 2, 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant
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- Letter from Town Planner dated March 14, 2023 on Central Mass Planning Commission (CMRPC) District Location Technical Assistance (DLTA) Grant Application
 - Legal Notice of Town of Auburn Cable Television License Renewal Public Hearing on Monday April 10, 2023 at 6:30 P.M.
 - Information - Opinion of Probable Project Costs (Public Safety Facility) dated March 16, 2023
 - Minutes of February 27, 2023 and March 13, 2023