

SELECT BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, June 6, 2023 7:00 PM

The GREAT HALL, 10 PEARL ST., 3rd Floor

10 Pearl Street, Stoughton, MA 02072

& VIRTUALLY via GOOGLE.MEETS

In accordance with Governor Baker's declaration of June 16, 2021 granting certain pandemic-related authorizations to Public Board and Town meetings and recently extended until March 30, 2025, this meeting will be conducted both in person and virtually via Google Meets.

A comprehensive record of the proceedings will be posted on the Town's website and/or SMAC as soon as possible after the meeting if live broadcast or livestreaming is unsuccessful. Times are approximate and items may be taken out of order at the discretion of the Chair.

Present: Debra Roberts, Chair, Stephen Cavey Vice Chair, Joseph Mokrisky, Scott Carrara and Louis Gitto.

Also present: Town Manager Tom Calter.

Open Session- Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Roberts called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. The motion to open the meeting was made by Mr. Cavey and seconded by Mr. Mokrisky. The motion passed.

Members Roberts, Cavey, Mokrisky, Carrara and Gitto responded present to the roll call. Chair Roberts read into the record Governor's Baker declaration on Open Meetings.

Chair Roberts moved item # 7 up on the agenda.

Town Boards and Committees Appointments

Board of Registrars- 2 vacancies Aletha Mcfarlane

Select Board Open Session June 6, 2023 7:00 PM

Vice Chair Cavey explained that this matter would be tabled due to an error in the process. Mass General Law, Chapter 51, section 15 in the second paragraph states "as a term expires, the Select Board will appoint candidates who represent the 2 leading parties. No appointment shall be made without outreach to the Republican and Democratic Town Committees requesting a list of applicants from each party. Subsequent to the request, a list shall be received within 45 days. If a list is not received within 45 days, then the Select Board may appoint candidates to the Board". Vice Chair Cavey made the motion to table until due process takes place, motion seconded by Mr. Carrara. The motion passed unanimously, 5 yes 0 no.

Vice Chair Cavey said the current applicant, Aletha Mcfarlane, would be carried forward.

Chair Roberts called for all to stand and pledge allegiance to the flag.

Select Board Comments- none

Town Manager Comments

Town Manager Calter asked members of the Board to review the information received relative to the water and sewer rates and to offer input on a one-on-one basis prior to the public informational session.

Town Manager Calter asked that the period of negotiation with SMAC be extended by two weeks, due to his absence from the office for medical reasons.

Mr. Mokrisky made the motion to extend the negotiation period with SMAC for two weeks. Mr. Carrara seconded the motion. The Board voted 5 yes 0 no to approve.

Town Manager Calter noted that discussion of the 5-year capital plan would be canceled pending receipt of information from the School Department.

Citizens' Comments – none.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Open Session Meeting Minutes of April 18, 2023.
- b. Water connection Application - MJD Excavating, Inc., 19 Camden Street.

- c. Quitclaim Deed of parcel depicted as Map 103, Lot 9 to T.L. Edwards, Inc.
- d. Acceptance of Donation from HarborOne Bank- \$250.00.

Chair Roberts asked if any board member wished to pull an item for discussion. Vice Chair Cavey requested item d. and Mr. Carrara requested item a. be pulled.

Vice Chair Cavey stated that he wanted to thank HarborOne for its donation. Chair Roberts added her thanks as well.

Mr. Carrara referred to page 2 of the minutes for April 18, 2023 and suggested additional language be added to his comment for clarification purposes.

Mr. Gitto made the motion to table item a. of the consent agenda, seconded by Vice Chair Cavey. The Board voted 5 yes 0 no to approve.

Vice Chair Cavey made the motion to approve items b. c. and d. of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Carrara. The Board approved the motion by a vote of 5 yes 0 no.

Interdepartmental Transfer: From Police Salaries to Town Counsel Expenses

Town Manager Calter explained that transfers are permitted from departments with surplus to departments that have deficits. He stated that \$4500 would be transferred to Town Counsel to fund fees for review of the Verizon Contract.

Vice Chair Cavey made the motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Carrara. The Board voted 5 yes 0 no to approve the request.

Town Boards and Committees Appointments

Vice Chair Cavey thanked all who volunteered to serve, noting that there were some committees with vacancies.

Vice Chair Cavey made the motion to appoint all incumbents:

Borderland State Park - Ms. Ardis Johnston to fill one vacancy.

Commission on Disabilities - Mr. Michael Hardman and Ms. Charlotte Mullen to fill 2 of 4 vacancies.

Cultural Council - Mr. Max Ponticelli to fill one of two vacancies.

Library Trustees - Ms. Rachel Lazerus and Ms. Susan Zbinski to fill two vacancies.

Norfolk County Advisory Board - Mr. Joe Mokrisky to fill one vacancy.

Zoning Board of Appeals – Mr. Emiel Barbosa to fill Alternate- one of five vacancies.

Mr. Carrara seconded the motion. The Board voted to approve 5 yes 0 no.

Board of Assessors - Mr. Yomajesty Gilmore and Mr. Stanley Zoll.

Mr. Gitto made the motion to appoint Mr. Zoll, the incumbent, seconded by Vice Chair Cavey. The Board voted 5 yes to 0 no to appoint Mr. Zoll.

Constables - Mr. Ben Pinkowitz and Mr. Edward Starr.

Mr. Pinkowitz, 536 Highland Street resident, came forward to clarify that he was a Constable for the Town of Stoughton in the past. Due to a clerical error, when his term expired on 06/30/2022 he did not express his interest in continuing to serve.

Vice Chair Cavey made the motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Pinkowitz, seconded by Mr. Carrara. The motion carried 5 yes 0 no.

Vice Chair Cavey made the motion to table the appointment of Mr. Edward Starr, as he was not present. Mr. Carrara seconded the motion. The Board voted 5 yes 0 no.

Mr. Gitto suggested that the applications for Constables that were public review (like the information in the agenda packet) exclude the Social Security number. The Social Security number can be blacked out or in other ways be excluded. Vice Chair Cavey suggested that Town Counsel be consulted prior a decision. Chair Roberts interjected that the CORI forms include this information.

Council on Aging - Joanne Callanan, Eileen Kirchddorfer, Ellen Lash and Boyd Walls - all incumbents; Lauren Morris and Jane Weiner 5 vacancies.

Ms. Joanne Callanan- commented on her tenure and how much she enjoyed working with the staff at the Council. Ms. Eileen Kirchdorfer spoke of her 10-year tenure on the Board. Mr. Carrara complimented Ms. Kirchdorfer on her service and thanked her. Ms. Ellen Lash, 35-year resident of Stoughton, now serving her third term. Ms. Lauren Morris- Bradford Street resident, stated that she had run for the Select Board in the last election. She is involved with the COA and commented that more needs to be done for senior citizens. She stated that she is a nurse and wants to help with outreach. Mr. Boyd Walls, 111 Birch Street resident, noted that he has served one-year and is hoping to continue. Ms. Jane Weiner, 101 E. Vanston Road resident, said she is looking to volunteer and to serve the Town.

Vice Chair Cavey complimented the COA on the production and distribution of its newsletter, saying that he believed it to be the finest around.

Chair Roberts nominated Ms. Callanan.

Mr. Carrara nominated Ms. Morris, Ms. Kirchdorfer, Mr. Walls and Ms. Lash for the second seat, full term.

Mr. Gitto nominated Ms. Weiner.

Town Manager Calter suggested that each candidate be voted on individually and not as a slate.

Mr. Mokrisky asked if there were term limits and how many vacancies were available.

Vice Chair Cavey responded that there were five vacancies.

Chair Roberts made the motion to appoint Ms. Callanan, seconded by Vice Chair Cavey. The motion passed on a 5 yes to 0 no.

Vice Chair Cavey made the motion to appoint Ms. Kirchdorfer to a three-year term, seconded by Chair Roberts. On the motion, the Board voted 5 yes 0 no.

On the motion to appoint Ms. Lash to a three-year term, the Board voted 4 yes, 1 no. Chair Roberts, Vice Chair Cavey, Mr. Carrara and Mr. Gitto casting yes votes. Mr. Mokrisky dissenting.

On the motion to appoint Mr. Boyd to a three-year term, the Board voted unanimously 5 yes 0 no.

On the appointment for a two-year term, Mr. Mokrisky nominated Ms. Morris. Mr. Gitto nominated Ms. Weiner.

Chair Roberts noted that they were both fine candidates and that it was a difficult decision.

On the nomination of Ms. Morris: Mr. Carrara, Vice Chair Cavey, Chair Roberts, Mr. Mokrisky voted yes.

On the nomination of Ms. Weiner: Mr. Gitto voted yes.

Ms. Morris was appointed to the COA on a vote of 4 yes 1 no.

The Board thanked Ms. Weiner for her interest and asked her to continue to be interested.

Ms. Morris pointed out that there was confusion as to the number of vacancies and suggested a clarification be placed on the website. Vice Chair Cavey asked Ms. Pereira to confirm.

Equal Opportunity Committee - 2 vacancies

Ms. Maggie Giusti and Ms. Bettye Sabree both incumbents; Ms. Jacqueline Hardy-Lassiter'

Ms. Giusti, 66 Stratford Avenue resident, said she is a current member of SEOC and wants to continue making Stoughton a welcoming community. Ms. Sabree, 35 Ronald Way resident, also incumbent, commented that it is a privilege to have served for the last 2 years. She said it is important to create space for difficult conversations. Ms. Hardy-Lassiter was not present.

Mr. Carrara nominated Ms. Giusti. Chair Roberts nominated Ms. Sabree.

Mr. Carrara made the motion to close the nominations, seconded by Vice Chair Cavey. The motion carried.

Mr. Mokrisky made the motion to appoint the 2 incumbents, Ms. Guisti and Ms. Sabree to the Stoughton Equal Opportunity Committee, seconded by Mr. Carrara. All Board members responded yes to the roll call vote.

Mr. Mokrisky commented that the application for Constable appeared to be missing key information and lacked specificity. Town Manager Calter agreed to review.

The Board noted that the following committees continue with vacancies:

Open Space Committee- one vacancy

Planning Board- one vacancy

Self Help, Inc.- one vacancy

Traffic Improvements - Walnut Street, Plain Street and Pleasant Street

Mr. Carrara asked the procedure for adding a street to the agenda.

Mr. Tisdelle, Town Engineer, aided by a power point presentation, reviewed the revised plans for Walnut Street that Town meeting had approved. He explained the need for new striping, signage, and re-design of the bump-outs, and speed tables. The re-design of the speed bump-outs at the crosswalk would need re-approval of the Board. Mr. Carrara asked if the changes would impede the snowplows. Mr. Tisdelle responded that he had consulted with DPW, and they were willing to try the new design and added that the Police Department was in complete agreement.

Mr. Gitto made the motion to approve alternative 2 as presented, seconded by Vice Chair Cavey. The Board voted 5 yes 0 no.

Plain Street - Mr. Tisdelle said excessive speed has caused accidents. He noted that there are also sight issues, lighting and crosswalk issues. He has met with residents, and the police. A series of signs will be added to solve the problem, including a dynamic curve warning system, fresh striping, radar dynamic curve sign to monitor speed. All will warn the driver to slow down.

Mr. Carrara made the motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Gitto. The Board voted 5 yes 0 no

Pleasant Street/Lowe Avenue

Mr. Tisdelle reminded the Board of an accident that occurred 2 years ago. He noted that the crosswalk was not compliant, there is speeding, the school zone is not identified. Improvements will include pavement markings, a narrowing of the lanes. re-alignment and installation of the crosswalk, and a pedestrian-crossing sign ahead. ADA accessible crosswalk/ solar powered rectangular flashing beacon will be installed. There will be signs “do not block the intersection”, and the ramps to Bento Street will be ADA compliant. A safety audit had been done, the schools had been consulted and the residents had been invited to provide input.

Mr. Gitto made the motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Mokrisky. The motion passed 5 yes 0 no.

Mr. Carrara spoke of traffic problems in the Willow/Page Street Area. He had personally observed the extensive truck traffic on Willow Street, which is only 22’ wide. He believes it to be a good idea to consider no-truck access. Mr. Mokrisky agreed, noting that a public hearing would be necessary and in the interim a request should be made to the traffic officer to review the area. After the review, an application can be sent to Mass Highway.

Mr. Mokrisky made the motion to ask the traffic officer to review and then to schedule a public hearing. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Cavey. The motion passed 5 yes 0 no.

Mr. Gitto asked if traffic counts should be done. Mr. Tisdelle agreed, stating that MassDot will require traffic counts and that OCPC could assist in this area.

Mr. Mokrisky made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice Chair Cavey. The open session of the Select Board, Tuesday, June 6, 2023 was adjourned by unanimous vote at 8:45 PM.

Approved on:

07 / 25 / 2023

Signed by:

Debra Roberts

Debra C. Roberts, Chair