

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2019
APPROVED**

SB Members Present: Alison S. Manugian, Chair; Joshua A. Degen, Vice Chair; John F. Reilly, Clerk; John R. Giger, Member; Rebecca H. Pine, Member

Also Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Ms. Manugian called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and reviewed the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Degen said that 2 incidents he received word about had struck a nerve with him citing vandalism at the fire tower and a note that was left at a local retail establishment. Mr. Degen read a statement into the record. He said that this was a no place for hate and shouldn't tolerate it adding he hoped that the Board all felt the same way. Ms. Pine thanked Mr. Degen for taking the time to speak about this. She said that these were acts of hate, that hate crimes were against the law and should not be tolerated. Ms. Pine spoke about the Interfaith Council. Mr. Reilly asked people to pay attention, listen to their children and speak up. He said that this was unacceptable. Ms. Manugian said she wholeheartedly agreed with what had been said. Mr. Giger agreed also adding he hated to see this happen. He said that they needed to take care of each other and not tolerate this. Chief Luth said he didn't think this was representative of the Town adding that they investigate everything that comes before them.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chief Luth said that the Groton Police Department was selling pink patches at Grotonfest to support breast cancer awareness.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad said that he appointed Matthew Beal as an Officer. He said that Mr. Beal lived in Townsend and graduated from North Middlesex Regional High School in 2015. He said that Mr. Beal interned with the Groton Police Department in 2016 and was appointed as a Reserve Officer on January 16, 2018 after graduating from the Boylston Reserve and Intermittent Police Academy. Mr. Haddad said that Mr. Beal had just graduated from Fitchburg State University's Criminal Justice Police Concentration Program with a Bachelors in Criminal Justice and full-time certification from the Municipal Police Training Committee. Mr. Haddad said that he was pleased to make this appointment and respectfully requested that the Board consider ratifying this appointment.

Mr. Reilly moved to ratify the Town Managers appointment of Matthew Beal as a Patrolman. Mr. Degen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Mr. Haddad said that he was also pleased to be appointing Bane as the new Groton Police Dog. He said that Bane was 10 months old and came highly recommended. He said that Bane and his Training Officer, Greg Steward, would be attending training sessions for the next several months. Mr. Haddad respectfully requested that the Board consider ratifying this appointment. He said he wanted to thank the great public support and congratulate Mr. Steward for being the new K-9 officer.

Mr. Degen moved to affirm the Town Manager's appointment of Officer Bane as the new K-9 for the Police Department. Mr. Giger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7:15PM – WARRANT PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUATION

Ms. Pine moved to reopen the public hearing on the warrant. Mr. Giger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Article 1 - Mr. Haddad said that there were 2 unpaid bills. The board supported this article. (Mr. Reilly would present this at Town Meeting.)

Article 2 - Mr. Haddad said that the debt service budget increase was for \$70,393 and the software upgrade was for \$13,000. He said that the Finance Committee was recommending that they appropriate \$10K and find the \$3K somewhere within the budget. Mr. Robertson said that the \$10K was a one-time purchase adding that the \$3K was for recurring costs and why they recommended what they had. The Board decided to take \$10K from free cash and find the \$3K within the budget. (Mr. Degen would present this at Town Meeting.)

Article 3 - Mr. Haddad said that he was meeting with DEP and the Water Commissioners on Wednesday. The Board deferred to Town Meeting. (Ms. Manugian would present this at Town Meeting.)

Article 4 – The Board deferred to Town Meeting. (Mr. Reilly would present this at Town Meeting.)

Article 5 - Mr. Haddad asked the Board to support a transfer of \$500K into the capital stabilization fund. The Board supported this. (Mr. Degen would present this at Town Meeting.)

Article 6 – The Board deferred to Town Meeting. (Mr. Giger would present this at Town Meeting.)

Article 7 - The Board supported this. (Ms. Pine would present this at Town Meeting.)

Article 8 - The Board supported this. (Ms. Pine would present this at Town Meeting.)

Article 9 - Mr. Haddad said that this was a placeholder. He said they would receive bids on October 16th. He said that the CPC needed to agree to appropriate funding and asked the Board to defer to Town Meeting on this. (Ms. Pine would present this at Town Meeting.)

Article 10 - Mr. Haddad said that this would cover cyclical inspections and come from free cash. The Board supported this article. (Mr. Reilly would present this at Town Meeting.)

Article 11 - The Board supported this. (Ms. Manugian would present this at Town Meeting.)

Article 12 - The Board supported this. (Mr. Giger would present this at Town Meeting.)

Article 13 - The Board supported this. (The Conservation Commission would present this at Town Meeting.)

Article 14 - The Board supported this. (Ms. Manugian would present this at Town Meeting.)

Article 15 - Ms. Manugian did not support this. Mr. Degen was at Town Meeting. Ms. Pine, Mr. Giger and Mr. Reilly supported this. The Council on Aging would present this at Town Meeting.)

Article 16 - The Board supported this. (Mr. Giger would present this at Town Meeting.)

Article 17 – The Board deferred to Town Meeting. (Ms. Manugian would present this at Town Meeting.)

Mr. Degen moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Giger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT - CONT.

3. Mr. Haddad said he, Mr. Robertson, and Mr. Degen had met to review and update the proposed Charge for the Capital Planning Advisory Committee. He said that should the Board approve the amended Charge; they would advertise the vacancies and send it to the original applicants to see if they were still interested in serving on the revised Committee. He said that they also discussed how to deal with Major Initiatives as discussed in the previous Charge. Mr. Haddad said that Mr. Robertson proposed a process to the Board that the Finance Committee thought was the best way to address this issue. He said that he had provided to the Select Board and Finance Committee a memo outlining this process and reviewed the memo and new initiatives form.

Mr. Giger suggested adding the Library and Enterprise Funds to item number 4. Mr. Haddad said he agreed with the Library and Enterprise funds but disagreed with the suggestion that Nashoba Tech be added. He said that any capital from Nashoba Tech was included in their overall assessment. Mr. Giger suggested removing item #5 from the charge.

Mr. Degen moved to approve the charge as amended. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Pine said she wanted to avoid one pitfall adding that it wasn't enough to just start talking about needing more people, should that be the request, but that they needed to look at the financial analysis and data to do that.

Mr. Giger suggested that the enterprise funds be required to submit 5-year budget projections also.

ON-GOING ISSUES

A: Mr. Haddad said that the punch list would be done at the Senior Center the next day.

B: Mr. Haddad said that he was glad they started the flooring at Town Hall on Friday although it was not enough time still. He said that there would be 2 weekends more of work.

F: Mr. Haddad said that the energy audit started last Tuesday and were well on their way.

H: Mr. Degen asked for an update on the Charter. Mr. Haddad said that he would get one and get back to the Board.

J: Mr. Haddad said that he attended the MSBA meeting last week in Boston. He said that they had 8 applicants which were narrowed down to 4 applicants which they would interview next Tuesday. He said that one would be selected next week.

K: Mr. Haddad said that the roof repair was going well.

L: Mr. Haddad said that the highway garage was moving along. He said that they decided to fill in the pit and purchase a lift.

LIAISON REPORTS

Ms. Pine said that she attended an affordable housing workshop in Ayer last week.

MINUTES

Mr. Degen moved to approve the meeting minutes of September 9, 2019. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Degen moved to approve the meeting minutes of September 16, 2019. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to enter into Executive Session Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a) Clause 3 – “To discuss strategy with regard to collective bargaining or litigating if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declares.” Ms. Manugian declared adding the purpose of this Executive Session was to discuss the Town's filing litigation against a party, the name of which party was not to be named at this time to prevent any detriment to the Town's litigating position. Ms. Manugian added that they would not return to Open Session.

Mr. Degen made the motion at 8:05pm. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. Roll call: Pine-aye; Degen-aye; Reilly-aye; Giger-aye; Manugian-aye

Approved: _____
John Reilly, Clerk

_____ respectfully submitted:
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: 10/7/19