

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021
APPROVED**

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

Also Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Ravilla Garthe, Acting as Executive Assistant;

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

Mr. Haddad informs the Board of an added item to the Town Manager’s report regarding Article 6-A, Article 9 and Article 10 that were reviewed at the Spring Town meeting. One bid received from Oppenheimer & CO with a .428%. The Treasurer/Collector will be speaking with the Board in this matter after the first item on the agenda.

Bud Robertson called the Finance Committee to order at 7:03 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Pine stated the Housing Summit cosponsored by the Task Force and Affordable Housing Trust is happening this coming Sunday June 27th at 2pm at the Senior Center in West Groton as an in person event. Residents are welcome and will have the option to tune in remotely. This is an opportunity to give input and ask questions about the topic of Affordable Housing in Town. Also, Vanessa Abraham, Library Director has requested to announce that the Library has now reopened, their new hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10AM to 8PM, Friday and Saturday from 10AM-5PM continuing to offer curbside pick-up and summer reading has started. Third announcement, Town of Groton will host fireworks in celebration of 4th of July on Monday July 12th.

7:04PM Pine opens the floor to the public for comments.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

2. As the Board is aware, we have been searching for a new Council on Aging Director to replace Kathy Shelp, who resigned last month to become the Council on Aging Director for the Town of North Andover. To assist me with the Search, I created a Screening Committee made up of me, Select Board Member Peter Cunningham, Mihran Keoseian and Richard Marton of the Council on Aging, Human Resources Director Melisa Doig and Executive Assistant Dawn Dunbar. I had asked Bud Robertson, Chair of the Personnel Board, to serve on the Screening Committee, but he was unavailable on the day we did our interviews. We received 24 applicants for the position and decided to interview five (5) of the applicants. Based on the interviews, we narrowed it down to two and had them interview before the Council on Aging. I am pleased to say that during this process, one candidate rose to the top and was the choice of both the Screening Committee and Council on Aging. Ashley Shaheen, the current Director of Elder and Human Services for the Town of Littleton is my choice for Council on Aging Director. She has an excellent background in elder issues, has amazing enthusiasm and is the right person to lead our Senior Center. Ms. Shaheen start date is August 9th.

Mr. Cunningham stated he was very impressed and agrees with Mr. Haddad statement.

Ms. Pine addressed Ms. Shaheen stating, your reputation has come with a lot of enthusiasm from people who participated in the process. Ms. Pine asked about the coverage at the Senior Center until Ms. Shaheen’s start date, which Mr. Haddad responded we have great help from Stacy Jones and Paula Martin who’s on the council and our former Building Department Assistant who has come back to help us with coverage at the Center.

Ms. Shaheen addresses the Select Board stating, she is very excited to serve the community and is excited to transition the Center back to normal after the pandemic.

7:09 PM Mr. Riley moved to ratify the Town Manager’s appointment of Ashley Shaheen as the new Council on Aging Director effective August 9th, 2021. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Mr. Haddad apologized for the short notice on this matter, stating due to timing issues and bills that are owed, we needed to do a BAN for three projects approved at the Spring Town Meeting. Specifically, we needed to temporarily borrow the following:

Water Treatment Plant	\$722,300
Whitney Well	\$300,000
Dump Truck	\$185,000
Total	\$1,207,300

Mr. Haddad stated the two items for the Water Department already started and have bills so we need to bond that money before July 1st and because we are doing short term note for this and for the dump truck it made to include the dump truck into the original BAN as well so that we roll it over next year with 4 years to pay it off. We received 4 bids for the \$1.2 million and the lowest bid was from Oppenheimer & CO for .428%. We have 5 documents for the Board to vote to approve the BAN and sign off tonight if you choose.

Ms. Pine addressed Mark asking, if there any options other than approving and signing off tonight.

Mr. Haddad responded by saying it should be signed tonight because the price is only set for a certain amount of time and if it goes past the due date we will have to start the process all over again.

Ms. Manugian asked what the duration is.

Mr. Haddad stated it is one year, because when the Water Department goes out in the fall for the construction we will float that for another year as well, we will renew this bond next year for one year and then finally we will permanently finance the Water Treatment Plant and the Whitney Well construction in a year and half from now. The Dump Truck will roll over for 4 consecutive years.

Mr. Cunningham clarified that these items were presented and discussed during Spring Town Meeting.

7:13 PM Mr. Cunningham moves that the board authorize the BAN in the amount of \$1,207,300.00 for the funding of Article 6 Motion A, Article 9 and Article 10 that was approved at the town meeting. Mr. Riley seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously.

4. Mr. Haddad informs the Board of the Fire Chief desire to appoint a career Firefighter (as well as a Call Firefighter) as a Lieutenant to fill a leadership void on the Fire Department. As a Strong Chief, this is within his purview, however, since there is a funding component, we felt this should be brought before the Select Board for your input and support. Fire Chief McCurdy started by saying formal leadership is something that the Fire Department continually work on, the fire department is comprised of folks in very different capacity that manage the personnel that are assigned to. We are looking to add a Career Lieutenant in the Fire Department. The folks who make up the leadership position has really suffered the most. Many are retiring, moving as leadership or moving to another community. The goal is to keep up with other towns so that folks aren't leaving. The Fire Chief reviews 2014 Org Chart as well as New Org Chart (see attached). Looking to increase the number of full time Lieutenants to 3 total, currently there are two. The Captain position was absorbed within the Deputy Chief when Art was promoted two years ago. There needs to be continual of leadership at all times of the day, right now have it about 50% of the time that we can guarantee someone can supervise, and in the times when that is not the case either myself or Deputy Chief fills in which is fine for a short duration however it is not suited for a long term plan. Utilizing the money that has been saved by the loss of other positions which is around \$20,000 we are able to promote a Lieutenant in Lost Lake Station which currently today does not have one, and utilize some of that money to fill a Career Lieutenant position. We did take a cut to the budget this Fiscal Year that was \$11,000 and that takes up the additional money that was there for officers that were needed within the department. Chief reviews last chart Incident Org Chart and explains when an incident occurs is converted to something like this, therefore having a leadership position that has the certification and training as well as experience to fill in different divisions, groups and sectors of the organizational chart is critical. Deputy Chief addressed the board stating, when looking at a chart like this as officers we talk about as span of control and that span of control is between 3 and 5 individuals so looking at this if myself or the Chief is wearing multiple hats then our span is limited to what we can possibly control. The extension to leadership and supervision really comes down to a safety issue in those types of situations.

Ms. Pine confirms with the Fire Chief that the third full time Lieutenant is an existing personnel promoted into the role as well as an on call Lieutenant in the Lost Lake station who is an existing on call personnel who will be promoted into the on call Lost Lake Lieutenant.

Mr. Riley reassures the safety concerns when the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief have to oversee multiple areas during a fire.

Mr. Degen asked if the two proposed individuals who are being promoted to Lieutenant have received the appropriate training in which the Fire Chief responds by saying yes they have.

Ms. Pine asked if those positions need to be posted in which the Fire Chief responded by saying a test is posted for a period of time starting with an exam that run every 2 years, it's pretty much a 6 months run up.

Ms. Manugian ask about lost lake where there will be one Lieutenant and six firefighters. Fire Chief responds Lost Lake is staffed with two different pieces an Engine and a Brush Truck, when there is a fire called depending on what type of fire it is they will take what is appropriate. There is a tiered system, folks who roll out immediately when a call comes in, however, on most fire incidents you need to have those next tiered of services in order to supplement the operation.

Mr. Cunningham asked if the previous position will be filled of the folks who were promoted, in which Fire Chief Replies by saying no, this won't create a new position, it is a promotion of a current employee.

Fire Chief stated he kick started the recruitment of on call folks and it grew the interest of 8 people. I am very happy with the results of our recruitment which included signs, social media and the banner. Many weeks promoting the need of help in the fire station. Also in 2020 was a difficult year but especially for emergency services. With that being said we will start our long-term planning, training, policies, research etc.... We are looking at the next 3-5 years to plan what types of what personnel needs is going to be there emergency, prevention, on call personnel and leadership within the organization, think about having our own paramedic service. We are in the middle of a Grant right now that was acquired two years ago that allowed us to pay for new gear, uniforms and pay for them to go to the academy. I have requested Bud Robertson and Peter Cunningham to be by my side to help us and have respectfully challenged our plan and will be able to help us focus on what we are working on and catch things we may miss.

Mr. Degen asked Fire Chief how the town could prevent on call firefighters from leaving to serve other communities in which Fire Chief responds by saying folks are leaving for full time opportunity. We strong with this for my entire career and this is something we are always working on. We have reached out to other communities such as Carver being the best in the Nation, they have a very large on call department. Their source for all these people is Ocean Spray, they have a partnership with Ocean Spray. There are a lot of Grants available to keep people on board, we cannot stop folks from leaving to other communities we need to keep them involved after they leave.

Deputy Chief, the demographic group that stay tend to be the ones who have a family, have been in the community for some time and they are not looking to move. We also have a lot of younger folks who wants to start their career and we train them, however we don't have the ability to allow them to move up as quickly as other departments.

Ms. Pine asked the Fire Chief if there was an attempt to reach out to the larger employers in this area, which Chief responds by saying he has reached to Hollingsworth & Vose and the majority of their employees are out of town for them it was not economically feasible to establish a partnership.

Mr. Haddad reminds the board that there is no vote needed in this matter, this is within his purview, and we felt the Select Board should be made aware in case of any questions or objections.

Ms. Pine affirms there are no objections, as for the long term study, I applaud you for thinking long term. I am aware our attempt at the community wide participation over hiring full time fire fighters did not prove to be very satisfactory from anyone's standpoint but it doesn't mean for me personally anyway that we should abandon the idea of involving the public completely, I think it is great to have Mr. Robertson and Mr. Cunningham as sounding boards and at some point to make an effort to also involve other people and be sure that some of the thinking is being shared before we get ourselves in a position where there is a big surprise.

Fire Chief said he will continue to report back to the Select Board. We are always trying to be within the 5 year plan, typically that is well planned out in advance. We are going back to what we used to do and we are involving new people so we can start working the long term plan.

Ms. Pine asked the benefits of working remotely does that increase the pool of available people in town for those on call positions. Fire Chief responded by saying yes, those 8 people who have showed interest and three of them is due the change in their work.

5. Mr. Haddad stated as I had previously advised the Board, our OPM for the Florence Roche Elementary School Project has recommended that we hire separate Legal Counsel for the Project given the fact that this is the first time we have done a CM-At Risk Project. According to David Saindon, they have worked with Christopher Petrini and Associates and has stated that his past projects have been extremely well serviced by Petrini and Associates. Petrini is currently providing special counsel services for Leftfield's Marblehead Project. Now that the project has passed, David is recommending that the Town engage Chris Petrini to review all contracts for any edits as may be required. The project budget (\$50,000) will cover the cost which will not come out of the Town's budget it is included within the project budget. While the contract is well defined, this is more of a review and refinement. Also, certain WBE/MBE reporting requirements have recently been changed in the Commonwealth that requires legal interpretation. Petrini charges \$300 an hour. Based on this advice from our OPM, I would respectfully request that the Select Board vote to appoint Christopher Petrini and Associates as Special Town Counsel for the Florence Roche Project.

Mr. Cunningham asked if an RFP is needed which Mr. Haddad responded by saying an RFP is not needed for legal services under 30B.

Mr. Haddad clarified that the \$50,000 is enough to cover what Petrini has to do and if any legal issues come up throughout the process. He is being hired at a \$300/ HR rate.

Mr. Degen questions how much the Associates rates are.

Mr. Haddad to obtain the information and resume discussion after item 5.

Mr. Haddad informs the board of the Construction Manager update, we Colby Doody, David Saindon and Steve Michener spent the Thursday and Friday interviewing 9 applicants we will be meeting tomorrow to choose 3 firms to bring back to the Florence Roche Committee to make a decision.

Mr. Haddad stated the Associates rates are as followed:

Principle/ Senior Associate- \$250/HR

Associates- \$225/HR

Clerk/ Paralegal (if required) - \$125/HR

Mr. Doody confirms the firms are very good and any of them could build this building.

Mr. Cunningham asked if the Town's Building Inspector was involved in the process and Mr. Haddad responded by saying no, because it is a prescribed process through the Mass State Building Board on who serves on the screening committee.

9:13 PM Mr. Degen moves the Select Board approve Special Counsel for the Florence Roche project to hire Chris Patrini and Associates at the rates listed by the Town Manager's Report and not to exceed \$50,000 for the life of the project, Mr. Cunningham seconded, motion passed unanimously

6. 7:54 PM Mr. Haddad states we will be receiving a Federal Grant of \$3,385,120 to supplement and support our efforts to deal with the impact of the Pandemic. There are certain items listed on the Finance Committee Proposed Budget Report (see attached) in which that money can be spent. One key part of where the money can be spent is to make up for Educational loss during the remote learning period. The proposed budget for the use of these funds are as followed:

Groton Dunstable Regional School District \$900,000

- This will be used to hire Special Ed teachers, additional teachers and Occupational Therapists to help make up the gap our student feels due to the pandemic. The Town of Dunstable will provide a matching amount

Public Safety Radio Towers \$971,515

- We need to replace two towers and add one tower with a cellular component at the High School. We have been Awarded a Grant from the state for \$429,000 towards this project therefore we will only need \$500,000.

Public Safety Communications Center \$150,000

- The town had previously appropriated \$180,000 through the capital budget, but we do need another \$150,000 to complete this.

Sewer Infrastructure- Nod Rd Pump Station \$520,000

- Nod Road pump station is in need of upgrade. Out of that amount, \$20,000 will be used to put together a plan and design this project. It is going to be a public/private partnership to get his done, so we will join with the developer for the Deluxe Property project to get it done.

Revenue Loss \$508,736

- We go back to FY 2019 prior to the public health emergency as a starting point for estimates of revenue growth absent through the pandemic.

Fill Highway Department Vacancy \$90,000

- We could use some of the Revenue Loss for that.

Water Infrastructure- Taylor St Water Main \$244,869

- This is also tied to the redevelopment of the Deluxe Property project. It is made as Asbestos Cement which is the oldest kind of pipes serving our Water Ratepayers and it leaks constantly.

Total Requested: \$3,385,120

Now we have 429,000 available, it is important that we use this money because if we don't we will have to turn it back to the State. A couple of ideas, we don't have to make a decision tonight. We will receive half of the money within the next 30 days and the other half within the next 12 months. First batch to be dispersed is 450,000 will be the Groton/Dunstable School if the Board approves, 500,000 will be for the Radio Towers and Revenue Loss. The Sewer and Water project can be later on. We have until December 31st, 2024 to spend that money. It also states it is prospective moving forward, if something happens March 1st 2021 and December 31st 2024, we are able to use the money for it. The Board does not need to make a decision tonight, we have three years to spend the money. I have a couple of ideas, one being Tax Relief as a fund for disadvantaged people affected by the pandemic. Second, Potential Affordable Housing Project on Cow Pond Rd it's going to be a project with 11 Affordable Units, I would like to see if some of that money could be set aside to assist with that project. One thing I am really passionate about is in relation to the Revenue Loss, all of our Unions stepped up and agreed to a 0 COLA increase last year. I would like the Board to consider whether or not we should use some of this money to offset the COLA adjustment for our employees who gave us a 0 and they did it to help the Town.

Ms. Manugian asked, in terms of either the School District or the Highway what are their ongoing costs, as well as far as Tax Assistance what information or what indicators are we seeing showing a need for it.

Mr. Haddad answered by saying, my understanding on the district is that it is for the next year, in terms of unemployment with people leaving it could supplement that. We could use the money for unemployment. In terms of the Town, the Highway vacancy would be ongoing. The position itself is 69,000 and the rest is health insurance. We collect 98% of our taxes our residents continue to pay but there are some people that are having a hard time making payments and we want to help them before getting into tax title and over the next few years the Florence Roche Project will add to the hardship. At this time I do not have statics.

Mr. Degen said I agree that the Town employees did step up to the plate and I do think something should be done for that, however I would like to re-open the contract for negotiation as part of the collective bargaining which needs to be done anyway due to the one year contract negotiated and be able to say this is a Onetime increase to pay back the COLA that was not received during COVID. This is to avoid the Town being hit with a 3 year contract increase. This money could be used as leverage to offset those increases, rather than just giving it to the employees I would like to give it in conjunction with contract negotiation. Second I share Alison's concern with the Highway Vacancy, if this money is to be used in this situation I would like approximately 300,000 to be air marked for this position. I would also like to discuss is the 244,000 to the Water Infrastructure plan as well as the 520,000 Sewer Infrastructure plan should be paid by the Rate Payers. The other thing some of the Grant savings set aside one of the provisions of this Grant is for business affected by the Pandemic and possibly set a criteria to see which local business were affected and did not receive any relief from the Government. The last thing is individuals in our community who have lost family members due to Covid-19, survival benefits. I am not against to what is proposed as long as we are careful along the lines of what I said.

Mr. Haddad stated as he mentioned on his Memo, he is looking to implement the Highway position into FY23 Budget to make it recurring. I understand your concerns with the Sewer and Water Infrastructure, however, the Federal Law specifically states that one of the main purposes of this Grant is to be used for Water and Sewer Infrastructure, if we use this money in partnership with the developer and the property is redeveloped the tax payer will benefit from the new growth that comes in from those projects, it is an investment in the future.

Ms. Pine addressed Mr. Haddad by saying; I like all of your ideas but the fact that we have some time to think about this is beneficial.

Mr. Haddad said there are two rushes; the School District and Radio Towers. We should receive the first half in the next couple of weeks we will need to start thinking about that. I suggest that I put this on a future agenda so once we have the money we will have the authorization from the Board to spend it accordingly. This is a Grant, it does not go on the Recap Sheet, it does not go for approval and it does not go to Town Meeting, this is at the discretion of the Select Board.

Ms. Manugian asked what the original pricing was for the Radio Towers and how the scope has changed. I want to make sure what are the needs and wants

Mr. Haddad responded by saying, the original estimate price when we had spoken about this was \$650,000 and that was we carried in the capital budget when we brought in the state and the experts to design it and follow the state bid list. Because of equipment that is needed on the 3rd Tower at the High School, that added approximately \$150,000 to the budget alone. This is definitely a need. I will have the Police Chief as well as the Fire Chief come in and explain everything.

Mr. Degen asked Mr. Haddad if he has spoken to the Dunstable Administrator regarding their share out of the \$900,000 for the School District.

Mr. Haddad said Dunstable is getting 900,000 and they are supposed to match what Groton is giving. We cannot give all the money if Dunstable cannot match.

Gary Green, member for the Finance Committee said, in regards to the Revenue Loss, is it likely that most of that \$508,736 ends up in free cash? I also like the Public Safety Radio Towers as well as the Communications Center project I would like to look at our capital plan over the next several years, I think we need to prioritize anything that we have bonded over the next 5-10 years anyway that we can leverage these funds so that we can reduce the impact on the tax payers over the next 5-10 years.

Mr. Haddad responded, yes the money could end up in free cash.

David Manugian, Member of the Finance Committee said on the Radio Towers has Town looked at leasing space for wireless carriers, what is the backup plan for the Sewer and Water plan if the Deluxe Property project does not go through and is the Highway Vacancy a new benefitted position?

Mr. Haddad responded by saying The Town has reached to carriers especially for the high school because that is a dead spot in Town. We would still have to do the Nod Rd pump station and probably would not have to upgrade the pipe so that could free up more money for other projects if we don't reach an agreement with the developer. The Highway position was always benefitted eligible.

7. 8:22 PM Section 5.1 of the Groton Charter reads as follows: "Organization of Town Agencies - The organization of the town into operating agencies for the provision of services and administration of government may be accomplished by any method consistent with law and this charter, including the adoption of by-laws, appropriation of funds or adoption of rules and regulations by appropriate entities. The town manager may, with the approval of the select board and consistent with law and this charter, establish, reorganize, consolidate or abolish any department or position under the town manager's direction and supervision." To that end, I would like to propose a change in operation. As you know, Margot Hammer has decided to retire as the Zoning Board of Appeals Office Assistant. This position is currently budgeted at 15 hours a week. I would like to rearrange our office and take Park Commission from Kara Cruikshank who is the Building Administrative Assistant and assign Zoning Board of Appeals to her because it makes sense with her current title. There are two options for this rearrangement, In addition to this 15 hour a week position, we have budgeted a new 15 hour a week Clerk position in the Treasurer/Collector's Office. We have advertised this new position for the last two weeks and have very few applicants. Filling a 15 hour a week position is proving difficult. I would like to propose that we increase the 15 hour per week Treasurer Clerk's position to 25 hours. This position would then handle the Treasurer and Park Commission responsibilities. This overall proposal would make our operation much more efficient and allow us to advertise a position with more appeal (15 hours versus 25 hours). However, there would be a cost factor by creating a benefitted position. While I understand that \$11,337 is an increase in the Budget, it may not be that much depending on who we hire, whether or not they take Health Insurance and what the final numbers are for Health Insurance after open enrollment.

Ms. Manugian said it make sense to merge the Building and ZBA into one assistant, however Parks Commission and Treasure/Collector Clerk is far and wide. Is there any other current positions who have the extra time?

Mr. Haddad said we have other offices who have different departments that do not go together but it works. All other departments Assistants are 40 hrs with no extra time. Depending on the time of the year Kara spends between 8-15 hrs/week doing Parks Commission related work.

Mr. Degen said creating a benefitted position right now doesn't make sense. I would suggest both positions be filled at 15/hrs a week.

Mr. Robertson said he agrees with Mr. Degen's statement.

Mr. Haddad said I will request Melisa Doig to ask applicants for the 15/hrs position if they would be willing to increase hours to 25/hrs. a week and take on Parks Commission, only downside is weekly night meeting.

8. I have appointed Jessica Goodman-Leong as a Camp Counselor and Shawn Czado as a Lifeguard at the Groton Country Club. I would respectfully request that the Board consider ratifying these appointments
Mr. Degen moved to ratify Town Manager's Appointment of Jessica Goodman-Leong as Camp Counselor and Shawn Czado as a Lifeguard at the Country Club, Ms. Manugian seconded the motion passed unanimously.

9. Mr. Haddad reviews the Meeting Schedules. One additional item regarding remote meeting participation, we received an email from the Chair of the Sewer Commission to continue to allow to meet through Zoom. There are some Board members who are still at risk. People would be able to attend meetings on Zoom but it will not be broadcast live on cable, it will be recorded.

Ms. Pine said in some ways the public are better served if the meetings are on Zoom, recorded and later broadcasted. I don't think we lose anything by allowing committees to choose at their own discretion, particularly the ones that do not need to be broadcast live it is different for those who do.

Mr. Degen said I do not support that, if you are appointed officials you should be meeting live, there is no state of emergency anymore. I understand the Sewer Commission concerns and I think we can make an exception for the time being until we develop a Hybrid meeting.

Mr. Cunningham states he agrees with Ms. Pine, we have time to see how it works and we should be flexible.

Mr. Reilly said we want to make more accessible to the public, but a hybrid is no good we should go one or the other.

Ms. Pine said remote participation is and has been allowed for 10 years and you have to have a quorum present, we are hoping to improve the technology rather than calling in. We should allow some communities to meet through Zoom, the public does not lose anything and we do not lose anything.

8:55 PM Mr. Cunningham moves that the Board following the new State law will allow virtual meetings for the next three months until September 2021, with the exception of Selectmen, Board of Health, Planning Board and Conservation who will still need to meet in person, Ms. Pine seconded, motion passed in favor 3 Opposed 2 Ms. Manugian and Mr. Degen

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

-The Park Commission has voted unanimously to request that the one-way street at Veteran's Memorial Common (approximately 300 feet in length with no homes facing it) that connects Martin's Pond Road and Hollis Street, be named "Sawyer Way in honor of the Sawyer Family. Don Black is present today to speak to the Board.

Mr. Black said we were looking for longtime residents who have lived in Town. Names that were in common places as well as looking for family who have devoted time to not only the town but the country as well. The Sawyer family has been in town for well over 100 years. Their contributions to our town and country are as follows:

John Sawyer grew up in town and served in WW1, Elmer and Ruth Sawyer both Gold Star parents, Raymond Sawyer WWI, Frank Sawyer WWII, Alvin Sawyer WWII and founder of Groton Baseball Travel Leagues, Richard Sawyer US Air Force, William Sawyer lifetime US Navy, Ronald Sawyer Air Force, Ronald Sawyer Honorable servant to Groton Town Government and Helen McCarthy Sawyer teacher, author, married to Roland Sawyer and lived to 110 years of age.

Mr. Cunningham confirms there isn't a name assigned to the road.

Ms. Manugian said I am just wondering if there is anything that may show associated to the family that would be concerning.

Mr. Black states the family was born here, educated here, they worked here and lived here.

Ms. Pine I want to thank you for the suggestion and the research, I do have a concern about process. We don't know if there are other interested or did this street have a name, did it have a name that has been lost through history. I would like a little bit more research so we can make sure there isn't more to consider. We do have a policy on naming streets Chapter S268-5B as well as 258-7A. I would like us to take this under advisory and if the Historic Society could provide any more information.

Mr. Black said I would like if a decision could be made by Veteran's Day.

Mr. Haddad to work with Mr. Black on the research.

-Assign Select Board Member to Represent Board at Housing Summit on June 27th

Ms. Pine stated because I am a Chair of the Affordable Housing Trust I am already speaking at the summit. Mr. Degen is a member of the Task force. Mr. Cunningham is a member of the Housing Partnership and will be speaking at the Summit. Ms. Manugian will not be in Town to attend the Summit.

9:16 PM Mr. Degen moves that the Select Board appoint Mr. Reilley as the speaker at the Housing Summit working in conjunction with Ms. Manugian, Mr. Cunningham seconded, motion passed 4-1 Mr. Riley abstained.

-Annual Appointments of the Select Board

9:23 PM Mr. Degen Moves that the Select Board Appoint the following Committees and Commissions as presented. Mr. Cunningham seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Affordable Housing Trust
Capital Planning Advisory Committee I Vacancy
Commemorations & Celebrations Committee
Community Preservation Committee
Complete Streets Committee
Conservation Commission

9:24 Mr. Cunningham moves that the Select Board Appoint the following Committees and Commissions as presented. Ms. Manugian seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Council on Aging
Housing Partnership
Invasive Species Committee
Local Cultural Council
Lowell Regional Transit Authority
Montachusett Joint Transportation Committee
Montachusett Regional Planning Committee
Sargisson Beach Committee

9:26 PM Ms. Manugian moves that the Select Board Appoint the following Committees and Commissions as presented, Mr. Cunningham seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Scholarship Committee
Sustainability Commission
Zoning Board of Appeals

9:29 PM Ms. Manugian moves that the Board Appoint Paul Fitzgerald and Marvin Caldwell to the Board of Registrars and ask that Ms. Pine and Mr. Haddad draft a letter to the State requesting to change the law and allow us to appoint an unrolled individual. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

-Consider Appointment of Town Counsel

Ms. Pine said I called Town Administrators/Managers while Mr. Cunningham contacted Select Board Chairs for their review. I heard very positive reviews about both firms. Called Lauren Goldberg on some of the issues that we had some concerns with. With Indian Hill they were trying to facilitate what their understanding was about what the Board wanted to do. She said she was very disappointed on the Attorney General Decision.

Mr. Haddad said the Attorney General never contacted David Doneski for his side before ruling on matter.

Mr. Cunningham said I contacted Select Board Chairs for their review, I spoke with Carlisle they were happy with Harrington, Reading Chair for Harrington is pleased with the firm, spoke with Chair in Littleton very pleased with counsel. Spoke with Chair in Grafton and they use O'Connell for labor and very satisfied with service. Spoke with Dunstable Chair is very satisfied with O'Connell. Both firms are very good.

Mr. Degen having labor, real estate and government within the same firm has its benefits. Everything under one roof. Impressed with both firms but lack of labor with Harrington.

Ms. Manugian thought Harrington was a better fit.

Ms. Pine said O'Connell can do everything, the land is big and having a counsel very strong on zoning and land use and having all the services in-house I would go with O'Connell.

9:58 PM Mr. Degen moves that the Board authorize the Chair and Town Manager to negotiate with Mirick O'Connell to become new Town Counsel for all matters pending approval of the fee structure, Mr. Cunningham seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

9:59 PM Ms. Manugian moves that the Board give the Town's current Counsel 30 days' notice, Mr. Degen seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

10:00 PM Mr. Degen moves that the Board Hire Mirick O'Connell ending in 3 years, June 2024. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion, the motion passes unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Invoice from Town Counsel on Kent Ventures Appeal

Ms. Pine felt they should be paid.

Mr. Haddad stated all outstanding bills that are not under dispute are paid.

Ms. Manugian moves that the Board approves the payment for Town Counsel on Kent Ventures Appeal, Mr. Cunningham seconded, and motion passed in favor 4 opposed 1 Mr. Degen.

Ms. Pine reminds the Board to have Goals in by next week and Board's schedule availability

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Diversity Task Force would like cosponsor with the Select board and the Commemorations Committee working with the two chiefs in the 9/11 event. It will be a commemoration of 20 years anniversary of 9/11. We may look into a fundraiser, the Hanson park in honor of youngest 9/11 victim is deteriorating. We should put together funds to restore that park.

MINUTES

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the meeting minutes of June 7th, 2021 as corrected. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Mr. Degen abstaining.

Ms. Pine adjourned the meeting at 10:15pm.

Approved: _____
Peter S. Cunningham, Clerk

_____ respectfully submitted:
Ravilla Garthe

Date Approved: 7/12/2021