

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022
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; Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Cunningham said that there was a vaccine clinic held at the Senior Center last week adding it went really well. He thanked Ayer Family Pharmacy for administering the vaccines for them. Ms. Pine said that the CDC was strongly recommending that those over 60 and those immunocompromised get a second booster. Mr. Haddad said that they provided one employee with an extension to get their booster due to a family matter but that all other employees had received their booster.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad said that they had received a recommendation from the Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee on the request for a Certificate of Exemption to remove 55,000 cubic yards of excess earth materials generated by the construction of the new Florence Roche Elementary School and Middle School Track. He said that the Committee held their meeting on April 5th. He said that the Earth Removal Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Select Board grant the exemption with various conditions. Mr. Haddad respectfully requested that the Board grant the exemption with the conditions proposed by the Committee.

Mr. Degen said that there needed to be limitations on trucking hours. Mr. McElroy of Gilbane Construction said that they had a blackout period from 7:30am-9:30am and again in the afternoon from 2:30pm-3:30pm in which they could not truck materials because of school drop off and picks ups. Mr. Haddad said that there was a local developer who was willing to take 30,000 cubic yards as long as the material was clean and Mr. Delaney would be taking approximately about 5,000 cubic yards. Mr. Haddad said that the more material they kept in town, the less trucking costs the project would see.

Mr. Degen moved to grant the earth removal exemption for the Florence Roche Elementary School Project for a quantity not to exceed 55,000 cubic yards. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McElroy said that they would be mobilizing over the next few weeks before they could start the earth removal work which they hoped to start in early May.

2. Mr. Haddad said that as directed by the Select Board at last week's meeting, he reached out to the Park Commission and requested that they conduct testing for PFAS in all fields irrigated by private wells. He said that the cost to do this testing (4 fields) was \$1,600. He said that the Park Commission would conduct and pay for this testing when they activated the wells next month. Mr. Haddad said that the Water Superintendent correctly pointed out that they should be testing the well that supplies drinking water at their DPW Facility at a cost of \$550. Mr. Orcutt said that he collected the samples that day and would have the results back in 3-4 weeks. Mr. Haddad said he would report the results of the tests to the Board when completed.

Mr. Haddad said he sent the Board the response they received from DEP that irrigation could continue to occur. Mr. Orcutt said that PFAS affected water did not grab onto anything when reentering the ground and found its way back to water. Ms. Pine said that the mosquito spraying that they were required to be involved in through the State had PFAS in it. Mr. Haddad said that they would only spray if Groton was a EEE or West Nile Community. Ms. Pine said she wasn't sure if it was feasible to be removed from the program or not but had started to ask.

3. Mr. Haddad said that as voted last week by both the Finance Committee and Select Board, the FY 2023 Operating Budget was finalized and no update or further action was required. Mr. Haddad said that with regard to the Capital

Budget, at last week's meeting, Select Board Member Degen stated that the \$60,000 that they had set aside for the Groton Country Club Pool Deck was not sufficient and they would need substantially more. Mr. Haddad said that Mr. Degen was correct as they received a quote for \$91,000, that did not consider Prevailing Wages in the quote. He said that given the fact that they would like to complete this project next fall as it was sorely needed, they would need another \$50,000. Mr. Haddad said that currently, the Capital Stabilization Fund had a balance of \$680,435. He said that the current proposed budget called for using \$538,000 out of this fund, leaving a balance of \$142,435. Mr. Haddad said that they could increase the deck appropriation to \$110,000, leaving a balance in the Capital Stabilization Fund at \$92,435. Mr. Haddad respectfully requested that the Select Board consider supporting this change in the Capital Budget.

Mr. Degen suggested that they put out one bid for the pickle ball courts and the pool deck to try to save some money. Ms. Manugian asked when they were going to consider making the Country Club an enterprise fund. Mr. Haddad said that they had many internal conversations about this but wanted to have more years under their belt to analyze first.

Mr. Cunningham moved that they increase the budget number for the pool deck at the Country Club to \$110,000 to come from the capital stabilization fund. Ms. Pine seconded the motion.

Mr. Degen said he was tired of numbers coming forward for projects that were not correct. He said it was important to have the correct numbers before them the first time. Ms. Pine said she couldn't dispute this adding the pandemic and world events were still impacting the costs of everything with numbers changing dramatically every week. Mr. Haddad said that with regard to this, this was put into the capital budget 5 years ago and took responsibility for not updating this. Mr. Haddad said that they had always gone to Town Meeting with bids in hand but couldn't control what the CPC required as they came to him after they had gone through their process. Mr. Haddad said that they had always done a good job with bidding out projects. Ms. Pine suggested scheduling a meeting with the CPC to discuss improvements to their process.

The motion carried 4-1 with Mr. Degen opposed.

4. Mr. Haddad reviewed the Board's meeting schedule.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Mr. Haddad said that they had a last-minute request for the addition of a warrant article from the Water Department. He said that the article amended the Zone II Water Resource Protection Overlay District Map to add their new well. Mr. Haddad said that the Board needed to vote to open the warrant, add the article, close the warrant and issue the warrant.

Mr. Degen moved that they open the town meeting warrant. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Degen moved to add a new article 14 to add the Water Resource Protection Overlay District Map to the April 30, 2022 warrant. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Degen moved to close the town meeting warrant. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board was in favor of this warrant article.

Mr. Degen moved that they authorize the Town Manager to issue the warrant as amended that evening. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Mr. Haddad respectfully requested that the Board make a decision on whether or not to require masks at Town Meeting. He recommended that the Board follow the same protocol currently instituted at Town Hall, whereas, masks were not required and were at an individual's personal preference.

Ms. Manugian moved that they require masks at Town Meeting. Ms. Pine seconded the motion.

Ms. Pine said she didn't think they would require masks but with the recent uptick thought they should consider it. Ms. Collette said that the Board of Health wasn't aware of this discussion but said she had been at three different forums recently where masks were required. She said that when you get in an indoor situation, where it could be crowded it seemed prudent to ask people to wear masks. She said that this was her own opinion.

The motion carried 3-2 with Mr. Reilly and Mr. Degen not in favor.

3. Mr. Haddad reviewed the proposed warrant article assignments of the Board.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Haddad said that the Board authorized him to issue an RFP for a feasibility study to be done on Broadmeadow Road. He said it was a daunting task but would have it ready to go this week. He said that they received word from Congresswoman Trahan about earmark requests for Community Project Funding. He said that they received a similar email from Senator Warren's office. He said that they submitted the request to Congresswoman Trahan that day and would be submitting similar emails to Senator Markey and Warren tomorrow.

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Degen said that the Sign Committee met that day to discuss a sign that had been erected along a windscreen in between abutting properties. He said that the sign had vulgarity on it over a dispute between neighbors over a construction site. He said that they asked Town Counsel to review their sign bylaw to see if they could address this. He said it was rude and vulgar language and asked the homeowner to take down the sign and just try to get along with each other. Ms. Pine said that she thought a sign with profanity on it was not a sign of good behavior.

MINUTES

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting on April 4, 2022. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm.

Approved: _____
Peter S. Cunningham, Clerk

respectfully submitted: Dawn Dunbar,
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

Date Approved: 4/25/2022