

SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF NATICK

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Conducted in the Edward H. Dlott
Meeting Room and via Zoom
February 8, 2023
5:30 PM

PRESENT: Paul R. Joseph, Chair; Michael J. Hickey, Jr., Vice-Chair; Bruce T. Evans, Clerk; Kathryn M. Coughlin; Richard Sidney

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator, James Errickson; Chief of Police, James Hicks; William Spratt, Director of the Department of Public Works; William McDowell, Town Engineer; Amanda Loomis, Director of Community and Economic Development; Executive Assistant, Joan McNamara

ABSENT: None.

Chair Joseph called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM and noted that the meeting is currently being recorded by Natick Pegasus for future viewing.

Chair Joseph stated that the Board will be going into Executive Session before Open Session this evening. There are 4 items for Executive Session this evening and he read the following:

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Pursuant to M.G.L. ch30A s. 21 (a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares:
- B. Pursuant to M.G.L. ch30A s. 21 (a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares:
- C. Pursuant to M.G.L. ch30A s. 21 (a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declares: Trustees of Deerfield Forest Condominium Trust v. Incardone et al., No. 2381-CV-00015
- D. Pursuant to M.G.L. ch30A s. 21 (a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to litigation where an open meeting will have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares: Linda Valentin, et al v. Town of Natick, et al, Docket No. 21- CV-10830 (D. Mass.)

On a motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Coughlin, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 5-0-0 to enter Executive Session. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

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Mr. Sidney	Yes
Mr. Hickey	Yes
Mr. Evans	Yes
Ms. Coughlin	Yes
Mr. Joseph	Yes

Open Session reconvened at 6:42 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a Moment of Silence was observed for all who serve.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Natick Center MBTA Station Construction Advisory

The temporary MBTA Natick Center station entrance relocation will occur on Monday, February 13, 2023. For additional information on this and the entire project, kindly view our attachment and click on the link for Natick Center Station Accessibility Improvements.

PUBLIC SPEAK

Roger Scott spoke during public speak regarding the dramatic increase in property values in Natick and how that relates to increases in property taxes.

APPOINTMENTS

A. Interview and Appointment to the Transportation Advisory Committee

1. Edward (Rick) Devereux

Mr. Devereux was present before the Board this evening to interview for the Transportation Advisory Committee. During his interview he noted that he had been in touch with Mr. Ostroff, a previous member of this committee, who had encouraged him to apply. Mr. Devereux is also a Town Meeting member. He has lived in Natick for five years and enjoys getting involved with the community.

On a motion by Mr. Coughlin, seconded by Mr. Sidney, the Board voted 5-0-0 to appoint Mr. Devereux to the Transportation Advisory Committee.

SELECT BOARD UPDATES

A. Select Board Office Hours

The Board has posted a listing of their new office hours for 2023 which is now on our website.

1. **DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

A. Approve Chief Hicks' Recommendations:

- A. To appoint six permanent full-time police officers; and
- B. Promotion of two Lieutenants

Chief of Police, James Hicks, was present before the Board this evening requesting that the Board appoint five permanent full-time police officers; and to promote two Lieutenants. Attached to this evening's agenda are two memoranda:

1. Memorandum outlining the recommendations for the appointments of five permanent full-time officers including their names and bios. Chief Hicks noted that there were originally six candidates but one of the candidates has withdrawn their name. Five candidates were present before the Board.

- Marquise Adams – Effective Date – February 21, 2023
- Raheem Cline – Effective Date February 21, 2023
- Aaron Hayes – Effective Date – February 21, 2023
- Christopher Jean Michel – Effective Date – April 24, 2023
- Matthew Smith – Effective Date – February 21, 2023

On a motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Coughlin, the Board voted 5-0-0, to bypass the candidate Donald E. Anastasi.

On a motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Sidney, the Board voted 5-0-0 to appoint the following officers as permanent full-time police officers, contingent upon successful completion of the Police Academy and any other requirements necessary for successful certification with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Human Resource Division:

- Marquise Adams – Effective Date – February 21, 2023
- Raheem Cline – Effective Date February 21, 2023
- Aaron Hayes – Effective Date – February 21, 2023
- Christopher Jean Michel – Effective Date – April 24, 2023
- Matthew Smith – Effective Date – February 21, 2023

2. Memorandum outlining the recommendations for the appointments of two permanent full-time Lieutenants effective February 27, 2023:

- Sergeant Allan W. Graham
- Sergeant Kevin J. Delehanty

On a motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Coughlin, the Board voted 5-0-0 to bypass the candidate Sergeant Brian D. Ingham.

On a motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board voted 5-0-0 to recommend appointments of

Sergeant Allan W. Graham and Sergeant Kevin J. Delehanty to permanent full-time Lieutenants effective February 27, 2023.

C. Update: Fluoride supply for Town of Natick water system

Bill Spratt, Director of the Department of Public Works, was present before the Board to provide an update that the Town now has a 6-month supply of fluoride for the water system. Mr. Spratt noted that we are able to have the fluoride in the water within two to three weeks. It was agreed that it will be communicated through e-communication such as social media and on the Town's website.

D. Bulk pick-up/Recycle Center

Mr. Spratt also provided a memorandum which is attached to this evening's agenda regarding the bulk waste program. The bulk waste program, offered to Natick residents, allows pickup of standard miscellaneous items. Throughout the years, this program grew without a modification to the fee schedule or changing Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) waste regulations.

The DPW has recommended a flat fee of \$50 for a maximum of five items per pickup and that the program be transitioned to an on-line request and payment system.

On a motion by Mr. Sidney, seconded by Mr. Evans, the Board voted 5-0-0 to accept the recommendation of the Dept. of Public Works for the flat fee of \$50.00 for five items per pickup.

E. Five-year roadway improvements plan

William McDowell, Town Engineer, and Bill Spratt, Director of the Department of Public Works, were present before the Board this evening to give a full presentation of the proposed 5-year Roadway Improvements Plan (2023-2027). The full presentation is attached to this evening's agenda. After the presentation, Mr. McDowell and Mr. Spratt looked to the Board for a vote of approval on the plan

On a motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Sidney, the Board voted 5-0-0 to approve the 5-year Roadway Improvements Plan (2023-2027).

F. Update/review of Action Plan for MBTA Communities Report

Amanda Loomis, Director of Community and Economic Development, was present before the Board this evening to give an update on the Action Plan for the MBTA Communication Report.

MBTA Communities are communities that have commuter rail, rapid transit, or bus stations and choose to be compliant to receive state funding like MassWorks. Based on what the state has found, each community would need to create an area that is 15 units per acre and within a half mile of the commuter rail. Natick is fortunate enough to have two commuter rail stations. Based on what the state has found, Natick should strive for 2,352 units based on having two commuter rail stations. Ms. Loomis noted that it does not mean that the Town has to create those units, but we need to have an area that supports that type of density.

Natick's action plan does not need to be fully completed until December of 2024. This means that we have close to two years to maintain compliance.

Attached to this evening's agenda is the Action Plan dated December 31, 2023.

G. Town Seal Review Committee

Joshua Ostroff is present before the Board this evening representing the Town Seal Review Committee. Attached to this evening's agenda is Mr. Ostroff's presentation which shows the Committee's entire process which will culminate at Town Meeting. There are three design options.

H. ARPA Spending Plan update

Town Administrator Errickson stated that he did not have an update with a figure for actual expenditures this evening as planned but would be looking for a vote from the Board at the next meeting when the Board will be provided with those actual figures rather than just the plan.

I. Appoint Special Counsel to handle H-1B visa application

Mr. Errickson stated that the H-1B visa is new to the Town. This is a program through the federal government which allows employers to sponsor workers to legally work for an employer. One of our current employees, Gloria Huang, is an integral part of our finance department. Ms. Huang is currently able to work via her student visa which will end sometime in the fall of 2023. The H-1B visa is an annual lottery which starts in March. It is Ms. Huang's responsibility to get her name into the lottery, but if the Town would like to keep Ms. Huang as an employee, we would sponsor her through that process.

Mr. Errickson is asking the Board to authorize the use of outside counsel, Getech, from Chicago, Illinois. This firm specializes in this process. The contract states that services will not exceed \$5,000. We will not start paying any legal fees until Ms. Huang is accepted into the lottery system.

On a motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. Coughlin, the Board voted 5-0-0 to appoint special counsel to handle the H-1B visa application for Ms. Huang.

J. Town Administrator Review

Chair Joseph stated that the Town Administrator review represents the calendar year 2022. The full review is attached to this evening's agenda.

Chair Joseph stated that the Board feels privileged to have Mr. Errickson in this position for over a year now. At one time, the Board used a numerical rating system, but that system is no longer used. The Board has found that a more qualitative review is more useful. Each Board member provides feedback to the Board Chair and the Board Chair stitches together a comprehensive summary.

On a motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. Coughlin, the Board voted 5-0-0 to accept the Town Administrator Review for calendar year 2022.

K. Consideration of potential Select Board Sponsored 2023 Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles

1. Article to Rescind Club Licenses

Mr. Errickson stated that legal counsel is still working on the final article.

2. Disposition of 4 Pine Ridge Road/0 Shore Drive

Town staff did a comprehensive site visit to this property. Mr. Errickson stated that once a full review is conducted, an Article will be brought back to the Board or Mr. Errickson will give the Board an explanation as to why now may not be the right time to prepare an Article.

3. Co-sponsor of Zoning Articles

There are several zoning Articles that are currently being reviewed by the Planning Board in addition to a few others.

Mr. Errickson noted that these Articles, including Citizens Petitions, will be brought back to the Board at a later date.

Consider any other warrant articles to discuss for the 2022 Spring Annual Town Meeting

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Procurement Officer Award Contracts
 - 1. Award Evergreen Well and Pump Upgrades (W163)
 - 2. Award Dug Pond/Pegan brook Water and Treatment/Analysis Services (3 Years)
 - 3. Award Recreation Transportation Services (3 Years)
- B. Weekly Warrant Review
 - January 31, 2023
 - February 1, 2023
- C. Reappoint Richard Subber to the Council on Aging
- D. Approve letter to State Legislature for 2022 Fall Annual Town Meeting Home Rule Petition
Home Rule Petition: Remove Minimum Seating Capacity Requirements for All Alcohol and Wine and Malt Beverages on Premises Licenses (Select Board)
- E. Reappoint Greg Bazaz to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board
- F. Reappoint Glenn Kramer to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board
- G. Approve Family Promise Metrowest's Request to hang a banner from April 17-23, 2023, for the 2023 Walk to End Homelessness
- H. Approve One Day Liquor License for Exhibit "A" Brewing Company Fundraising Event, March 3, 2023, at the Morse Institute Library
- I. Reappoint Terri Evans to the Open Space Advisory Committee
- J. Approve Natick Elks Lodge's Application for a Weekday Entertainment License

Chair Evans wished to remove Item I from the Consent Agenda in order to recuse himself.

On a motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board voted 5-0-0, to approve the Consent Agenda items except for item I.

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On a motion by Mr. Sidney, seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board voted 4-0-1, to approve item I on the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Ms. Coughlin, seconded by Mr. Hickey the Board voted 5-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 PM.


Richard Sidney, Clerk

February 8, 2023, Select Board Meeting Minutes Approved by the Select Board on July 12, 2023.

All documents used at this Select Board meeting are available at:

<https://naticktown.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/MeetingView.aspx?MeetingID=1114&MinutesMeetingID=-1&doctype=Agend>