

SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF NATICK

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Conducted in the Edward H. Dlott
Meeting Room and via Zoom
March 22, 2023
6:30 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; Deputy Town Administrator-Operations, Jon Marshall; Jillian Wilson-Martin, Sustainability Director; Paul Carew, Veterans' Services Director; William Spratt, Executive Director of DPW and Facilities; William McDowell, Town Engineer; Karis North, Town Counsel; Executive Assistant, Joan McNamara

ABSENT: None.

Chair Joseph called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM

The Chair announced that this meeting is currently being recorded by Natick Pegasus for future viewing.

Chair Joseph stated that the Board will be entering Executive Session and read the one item listed for Executive Session:

A. Pursuant to M.G.L. ch30A s. 21 (a)(10) To discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively-sensitive or other proprietary information: Electricity Aggregation Program

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

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

Open Session reconvened at 7:32 PM.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Announce New England Police Benevolent Association Local 82-Police Superior Officers' Contract

Mr. Errickson stated that at the Select Board meeting on March 8, 2023, the Select Board, in Executive Session, voted to execute a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the New England Police Benevolent Association Local 82-Police Superior Officers. This was one of two outstanding contracts to be negotiated since Mr. Errickson became Town Administrator. This contract will now go to Town Meeting for their ratification and appropriation of funding to cover the contract.

B. Announcement from Natick Recreation and Parks Commission

Athena Pandolf, Executive Director to the Natick Center Cultural District, has secured a handful of Adirondack Chairs that will be painted by local artists and displayed on the Town Common near the Gazebo for the summer. The Commission is in full support of this project as it will be a great addition to the Common as well as supporting local artists.

C. Natick's 2023 Household Hazardous Waste Day May 6, 2023

Natick's 2023 Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held on May 6, 2023, from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the Department of Public Works (DPW) Please see the attached notice for full details as Natick residents must have a ticket purchased in advance.

PUBLIC SPEAK

Ken Noonan, a maintenance and facilities employee with the Town, and Vice President of Local 1116, spoke this evening and wanted the Select Board to know his frustration about not having received a copy of the Maintenance and Facilities written contract after final negotiations occurred prior to last fall's Town Meeting. Mr. Noonan asked why Administration has yet to produce a full contract between the parties.

APPOINTMENTS

A. Reappointment of Veterans' Services Director

Paul Carew, Veterans' Service Director is present before the board this evening. Mr. Carew thanked the Board for taking up this topic. He told the Board that he would continue to do the job that he loved to do by working with veterans and serving the Town.

On a motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. Coughlin, the Board voted 5-0-0 to reappoint Mr. Carew to Veterans' Service Director for a three-year term. Ms. Coughlin asked Mr. Carew to begin succession planning and to provide an update to the Board at some time in the future.

1. **DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

A. Update on Aggregation Procurement

Jillian Wilson-Martin, Director of Sustainability, appeared before the Board this evening to discuss the upcoming aggregation procurement. Ms. Wilson-Martin's full memorandum is attached to this evening's agenda.

The overview of the discussion was as follows:

Natick's current electricity aggregation supply agreement with First Point Power terminates in December, 2023. To continue the program, Natick will need to secure a new contract by or before September 30, 2023.

In recent months, electricity pricing has fallen significantly, and the Town would like take advantage of the improved market and go out to bid for a replacement supply agreement this spring.

To support this procurement, the Director of Sustainability requests a vote from the Select Board that:

1. Authorizes the Town Administrator to execute a competitive procurement and sign a contract on behalf of the Select Board;
2. Clarifies the maximum allowable contract length; and
3. Defines the amount of additional clean electricity that Natick's default aggregation product will include (sourced from Class I Renewable Energy Certificates).

On a motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Sidney, the Board voted 5-0-0, to authorize the Town Administrator to request bids and execute a contract for the municipal aggregation program that is no more than 24 months in length and includes no less than 22% additional class 1 renewable content in the default electricity supply in the calendar year 2024 escalating by 3% in calendar year 2025 if and to the extent applicable.

B. Dissolution of the West Natick Fire Station Committee

Attached to this evening's agenda is a memorandum from Patrick Hayes, Chair of the West Natick Fire Station Building Committee. The Committee wished to thank the Select Board, the Natick Town Administration, the Natick Fire Department, Town Meeting, and all residents and taxpayers for the ongoing support during the lifecycle of the West Natick Fire Station project. At this time, given that the purpose of the committee is done, Mr. Hayes asks the Select Board to dissolve the Committee.

On a motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Evans, the Board voted 5-0-0 to accept the recommendation by the Chair of the West Natick Fire Station Committee to dissolve the Committee with gratitude.

C. Public Hearing: Proposed Cable Television Renewal License for Verizon New England, Inc.

On a motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Sidney, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 5-0-0 to enter into the public hearing. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

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

William Solomon, acting as special cable counsel for the Town, was present before the Board this evening to review the basic points of the license. A copy of the full Cable Television Renewal License with Verizon New England, Inc. is attached to this evening's agenda. Mr. Solomon stated the following major points:

- The license is with Verizon New England, Inc.;
- It is a 5-year license;

- The License has a 3-year unilateral “out” clause which Verizon has the right to exercise;
- In exchange for Verizon receiving the unilateral “out” clause, the Town receives 5 years of the Public Education Government Channel as well as Verizon cable service to public buildings.

On a motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Sidney, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 5-0-0 to grant the subject Cable Television Renewal License with an effective date of March 22, 2023, to Verizon New England Inc. (“Verizon”). All terms and conditions contained in the Renewal License have been agreed to by Verizon, by and through its authorized representative, and we will execute this Renewal License (Agreement) as set forth on the signature page. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

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

On a motion by Mr. Sidney, seconded by Mr. Evans, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 5-0-0 to close the public hearing. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

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

D. Public Hearing: Grant of Location - 235 West Central St.

On a motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Sidney, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 5-0-0 to enter into the public hearing. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

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

Attached to this evening’s agenda is a public hearing notice as well as a full packet of information from Eversource Energy and the Town of Natick’s Town Engineer, William McDowell. Eversource Energy is requesting a grant of location this evening at 235 West Central Street, to install one (1) stub pole (#196/1158). The support pole is necessary to provide additional system stabilization for a drop connection to a new solar array. Ms. Duffy is the Eversource representative who joined the meeting this evening to confirm the details.

On a motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Evans, the Board voted 5-0-0 to approve the Grant of location for 235 West Central Street with the stipulation that the work either be done prior to April 10th or after April 17th, 2023, so that final preparations and safety protocols for the Marathon are not disturbed. Also noting, for the record, to remove the double pole.

On a motion by Ms. Coughlin, seconded by Mr. Sidney, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 5-0-0 to close the public hearing. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

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

E. Public Hearing: Modification and/or amendment of the Rules & Regulations for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages

On a motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Sidney, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 5-0-0 to open the public hearing. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

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

Attached to this evening's agenda is a copy of the Town of Natick Rules and Regulations for the Sale of Wine and Malt Beverages and Liqueurs and Cordials in restaurants with a seating capacity of not less than 100 persons.

Katie Sugarman from Natick 180 was also present before the Board noting that she appreciated the collaboration on this policy.

The Board reviewed the policy and suggested a change in Section 8 in the second to last line. It will now read "attendance or non-attendance at the bi-annual Alcohol Education Seminar sponsored ...".

On a motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Sidney, the Board voted 5-0-0 to approve the modification and/or amendment to the Rules & Regulations for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages.

On a motion by Mr. Sidney, seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 5-0-0 to close the public hearing. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

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

F. Reconsideration of 5 Auburn Street RFP Deliberation and Vote

Mr. Sidney asked Town Counsel: "Are we allowed to condition the negotiation of the Development

Agreement as part of the Award Motion.” Ms. North, Town Counsel, responded: “Yes, you are.”

Mr. Sidney read the following statement: “I am making the reconsideration motion because subsequent to the March 15, 2023, meeting it was determined that I should have been allowed to propose an amendment to the award motion. That amendment would have allowed the Board to define conditions that would be required to be met by the subsequent Development Agreement. I am no longer inclined to request such conditions. The primary reason for withdrawing this request is that the risk of negotiating with such conditions could fail leaving the Town in a position of having to start from scratch in this process with no guarantee of success. I also wish to state that the Select Board made the correct decision in choosing MetroWest Collaborative for this award.”

After Mr. Sidney read the statement, he made the following motion:

On a motion by Mr. Sidney, seconded by Mr. Evans, the Board voted 1-4-0 to reconsider the March 15, 2023, finding that the MetroWest Collaborative RFP response is the most highly advantageous.

Mr. Evans	No
Mr. Hickey	Yes
Ms. Coughlin	No
Mr. Sidney	No
Mr. Joseph	No

G. Process for Unaccepted Roadways

Bill Spratt, Executive Director of the DPW and Facilities and Bill McDowell, Town Engineer, were present before the Board this evening for this topic. Mr. Spratt gave a full presentation which is attached to this evening’s agenda in addition to three other documents:

1. Roadway Criteria;
2. Street Acceptance Criteria Revised; and
3. Street Acceptance Initiation Request

Mr. Spratt stated that the purpose of tonight’s meeting is to present a draft process and methodology for the Board which would eventually become the backbone of a future policy.

H. Approval of 2023 MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) Statement of Interest Resolution - School Department

Peter Gray, ED. D, Assistant Superintendent for Finance for the Natick Public Schools, was present before the Board.

Dr. Gray stated that attached to this evening’s agenda are the following documents:

1. 2022 MSBA Statement of Interest;
2. 2023 MSBA Process; and,
3. 2023 MSBA Resolution.

Dr. Gray stated that this is a very long process with the Massachusetts School Building Authority and it can take up to seven years before an actual “ribbon” is cut on a building. Dr. Gray is seeking Board approval to move forward again with the process. On March 6, 2023, the School Committee voted 7-0 to submit another application.

Chair Joseph read the following Resolution/Vote into the record:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on March 22, 2023, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the Select Board of Natick, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 14, 2023 for the Memorial Elementary School located at 107 Eliot Street which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:

- Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments
- Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility
- Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements

With the closure of the Johnson Elementary School scheduled for June 2025 and consistent with several studies that have concluded that due to the age, lack of ADA accessibility and required serious code upgrades, makes further investment in the building financially cost prohibitive. The Natick Public Schools is seeking funding to either modernize and upgrade their existing Memorial Elementary School to accommodate potential increases enrollment with upgrades to the school facility systems along with the construction of an additional educational wing to accommodate both enrollment and Pre-K needed classroom space or explore the possibility of construction of a new elementary school at a site to be determined; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of Natick to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. On a motion by Mr. Sidney, seconded by Mr. Evans, the Board, by a vote of 5-0-0, approved the Resolution.

I. Approve Order of Taking for 60R Harwood Road

Attached to this evening’s agenda are a Certificate of Donation, Order of Taking, and Memorandum regarding Harwood Road. Ms. North, Town Counsel, stated that this is a “redo” of a previous vote of an Order of Taking for 60R Harwood Road. The previous Board has already voted on this Order of Taking but unfortunately the documents have been misplaced. As a result, this Board will need to revote the Order of Taking this evening.

On a motion by Mr. Sidney, seconded by Mr. Evans, the Board voted 5-0-0 to Approve the Order of Taking for 60R Harwood Road and authorize the Chair to sign the Certificate of Donation on the Board’s behalf.

J. Select Board policy: Naming of public places - proposed revision/update

Attached to this evening’s agenda is the DRAFT 3/29/23 Town of Natick Select Board Policy – Naming of

Public Places which has been completely redrafted by Mr. Hickey and is up for review this evening by the Select Board for final approval.

On a motion by Ms. Coughlin, seconded by Mr. Sidney, the Board voted 5-0-0 to accept the proposed policy for the Naming of Public Places proposed by Mr. Hickey.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Amvets Post 79, Natick, Inc.: Application for an Amendment to a S.12 All Alcohol Club License - Change of Manager
- B. Procurement Officer Award Contracts
 - 1. Award - ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan
 - 2. Award - On-Call Water/Sewer Consulting Engineering Services
- C. Approve 2023 Flammable storage registration renewals
- D. The Kinder Group: Application for a taxi, livery, limousine license
- E. Approve Meridian Lodge's Request to Occupy a Public Way on Saturday, May 13, 2023, for a Blood Drive at 24 Main St., Natick, MA
- F. Approve Recreation and Parks Commission Recommendation of Approval for use of the Natick Common for:
 - Charles River Rotary Club to host their annual Scoopapalooza event on Saturday, June 24th, 2023 from 10:00 am-3:00 pm with a rain date of Sunday, June 25th.
 - The Natick Health Department (Natick 180) to place a table and tent on the Natick Common during the Boston Marathon on April 17th, 2023 from 9:00 am-1:00 pm.
 - Natick Center Cultural District to host a Juneteenth event on Monday, June 19th, 2023 from 12:00 pm-4:00 pm.
- G. Approve Spark Kindness' Request to hang a banner for Kindness Week from November 7, 2023, through November 19, 2023
- H. Approve Natick Common Request:
 - Boston Marathon Common Request: Monday, April 17, 2023
- I. U.S. Army Combat Capability Development Command (DEVCOM) would like to setup a 20 x 32 tent on Monday April 17th, 2023 that would "Celebrate Patriotism on Patriots Day." This would include a display of historical uniforms, body armor and MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat).

Item A. was removed from the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Sidney, the Board voted 5-0-0 to approve the Consent Agenda Items B-I.

Item A will be pushed to a different date.

March 22, 2023

On a motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Sidney, the Board voted 5-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 PM.


Richard Sidney, Clerk

March 22, 2023, Select Board Meeting Minutes Approved by the Select Board on August 30, 2023.

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

<https://naticktown.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/MeetingView.aspx?MeetingID=1117&MinutesMeetingID=-1&doctype=Agend>