



## Board of Selectmen

Date of Meeting: Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Time: 6:30 PM – 7:15 PM  
Members Present: Chair Seth Ridinger, Selectmen Matt Mecum, April Steward,  
Town Administrator; Town Counsel, Stephen Madaus and Alison  
Kennedy, Administrative Assistant to the Board

The meeting commenced at 6:30 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **Town Administrators Report to the Board of Selectmen:**

1. *Budget and Town Meeting Calendar:* It is hard to believe that we are already beginning to plan for the FY24 budget. Here is the calendar for budget planning and town meeting:
  - December 12, 2022, Budget Packets distributed to Departments by Town Administrator.
  - December 29, 2022, Draft Budgets and Articles due to Town Administrator.
  - December 29, 2022, Capital Requests due to Town Administrator.
  - January 9, 2023, Begin Budget Meetings between Town Administrator and Dept. Heads
  - January 17, 2023, Draft Budgets and Articles submitted to Board of Selectmen and FinCom
  - January 23, 2023, Budget Hearings begin with Finance Committee.
  - February 27, 2023, Warrant opens for Articles and Ballot Questions
  - March 13, 2023, Warrant closes for Articles and Ballot Questions
  - March 13, 2023, Board of Selectmen review of Draft Warrant for approval
  - March 27, 2023, Annual Town Meeting Warrant final review w/ FinCom
  - May 1, 2023, Annual Town Meeting
  - May 8, 2023, Annual Town Elections
2. *Compensation and Classification Study:* Jeff, Ali and I have met with GovHR and started the process of the Compensation and Classification Study. It will be tight, but we are hopeful that we will have the necessary information from GovHR before we need to set the budget for FY24.
3. *Holiday Gathering:* We held our Holiday luncheon last week and had around 30 employees in attendance. A good time was had by all that attended.
4. *Time Off:* I am planning on taking some time off from Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> through Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Discussion on Building Inspectors Contract:**

Bill Caldwell, TA for Sterling had a few items that he wanted to address regarding the contract:

1. Sterling would like to note that they have provided a 4x4 vehicle for Tony to get around to work sites and can amend the language regarding fuel. They can review the language about a vehicle for next year.
  - a. If they are going to do something different for the next fiscal year, they need to figure that out soon to budget accordingly.
  - b. Sterling and Boylston have provided Tony with a vehicle.
  - c. Sterling will pay 50% of gas (amend this language if changes for next year)
2. Sterling would like Boylston to consider a sentence regarding vacation time and that each town parodies with each other. Sterling gives 5 and Boylston currently gives 4. The Board decided to stay with four weeks.
3. Exhibit B: Would like it to reference Sterling's job description as well.

*Matt Mecum made a motion to accept the IMA with the Town of Sterling for the Building Commissioner with edits and authorize the chair to sign, Seth Ridinger seconded. Voted all in favor.*

### **Appoint two members to the Council on Aging: Eileen Melican and Lydia Cerce:**

*Matt Mecum made a motion to appoint Eileen Melican and Lydia Cerce to the Council on Aging, Seth Ridinger seconded. Voted all in favor.*

### **Review and Approve Amended Gas/Plumbing Fee:**

*Matt Mecum made a motion to amend the gas/plumbing fees, Seth Ridinger seconded. Voted all in favor.*

### **Review, Approve and Sign 2023 Business License Renewals:**

*Matt Mecum made a motion to approve and sign the 2023 Business License Renewals, Seth Ridinger seconded. Voted all in favor.*

### **Review, Approve and Sign 2023 Alcohol License Renewals:**

*Matt Mecum made a motion to approve and sign the 2023 Alcohol License Renewals, Seth Ridinger seconded.*

### **Vote to Accept the gift of \$200.00 from Christopher Brown of Christos Hot Dogs to Parks and Recreation:**

*Matt Mecum made a motion to accept the gift of \$200.00 from Christopher Brown of Christos Hot Dogs to Parks and Recreation, Seth Ridinger seconded. Voted all in favor.*

### **Vote to Accept the gift of \$8,280.00 from Matt Davidian of MD Landscaping for the work that needs to be done on the basketball hoops/etc.:**

*Matt Mecum made a motion to accept the gift of \$8,280.00 from Matt Davidian of MD Landscaping for the work that needs to be done on the basketball hoops/etc., Seth Ridinger seconded. Voted all in favor.*

## **Selectmen's Miscellaneous/Future Agenda Items:**

Matt thanked Matt Davidian and Christopher Brown for their donations. He also thanked Northbridge Partners for the \$35,000 for the school study.

*Communication at Town Hall:* need to look into.

- News Letter
- Blog
- Email Blast

*Knocking on doors/Solicitors List:*

Matt has seen a lot of people complaining about people knocking on doors. Clinton passed a no knock list for spam calls, maybe this is something to look into.

*Partner with WPI:*

- Look into partnering with WPI about helping with the Hillside Plan
- Dick Prince may be the best point of contact

*New Growth Spending Ratio:*

- Any new big projects, a certain percentage is put towards reducing the tax rate and the other percentage goes towards something else. Something to look into.

*Cape Cod Board of Health:* The State is going to be requiring homeowners down on the Cape to replace their septic systems. Believes that we need to get ahead of this and be proactive about this.

- Need to discuss with our State Reps

## **II) Citizens' comments: (Except in unforeseen or emergency circumstances, any matter presented for consideration of the Board by a member of the public shall neither be acted upon, nor a decision made the night of the presentation. A scheduled time on a future agenda may be necessary, at the Board's discretion.)**

*Radio Communications Tower on Stiles Road:*

Ralph Viscomi – Resident – Stated he is very confused about the exemption that was given by the Building Inspector. He was on the Planning Board when Verizon came to town and tried to put a cell tower near the Townhouse; it was turned down by the Planning Board because of the proximity to neighboring properties and the Townhouse and ice secretion. He doesn't understand why we are putting a tower on a piece of land that is so small.

Seth stated that this is not on the agenda so they cannot respond but they do hear what people are saying and take their concerns very seriously.

Another resident asked what the update is regarding the project. Stephen Madaus, Town Council stated that an appeal has been filed by the abutters and they are represented by Council. April added that there is some information on the Board of Selectmen's webpage. Stephen Madaus spoke to the process; the vote occurred at the Annual Town Meeting. There was a presentation and information given out at the Annual Town Meeting. Warrants are drafted broad for a purpose; they are not specific because they could limit it.

Ralph V – Resident – Commented that some comments he heard from people who attended the meeting were that they felt they were voting for the communication system, but they didn't know it was a tower and going to be located on Stiles Road. They thought that they would have an opportunity at a public hearing to comment about the tower. People felt the last decision was at the Annual Town Meeting and that is a problem.

Seth reiterated that they cannot go into discussion with residents on this as it is not on the agenda. They have an Executive Session scheduled for after this meeting and will discuss it then but reiterated that he hears what people's concerns are and takes them very seriously; our hands at this particular juncture are tied due to litigation.

Matt Mecum stated that the Boylston Area Neighbors Connect Facebook page is not the official page of information from the Town. They try to answer any questions that they can but there are lawyers involved. Communication at Town Hall was discussed.

*Tahanto Intern:* Look to Tahanto for interns regarding communication with Town Hall; journalism.

At 7:15 PM Matt Mecum made a motion to go into Executive Session for:

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** (closed to the public): ***Per MGL c.30A, §21, (3):** To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares. – Police and Dispatchers Union*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), Purpose (7), to comply with or act under the authority of the Public Records Law and the holding in Suffolk Construction Co., Inc. v. Division of Capital Asset Management, 449 Mass. 444 (2007), to review an attorney-client privileged communication.**

*Will not return to open session.*

*Roll call vote: Matt Mecum: Yes, and Seth Ridinger: Yes.*

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Mack, Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

### **Meeting Materials**

Agenda

Town Administrators Report

IMU Agreement – Building Inspector

Gas/Plumbing Fee schedule

On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office

On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office

On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office

On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office