

Board of Selectmen

Date of Meeting: Monday, November 7th, 2022

Time: 6:30 PM – 7:46 PM

Members Present: Chair Seth Ridinger and Selectmen Matt Mecum and Jamie Underwood; and April Steward, Town Administrator

The meeting commenced at 6:30 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Discussion - Speed control measures on Sewell Street: Tim Sheasgreen:**

Resident Tim Sheasgreen has lived on Sewell Street for about 10 years and is concerned about the corner near the school. He has seen multiple people almost get hit at the corner and is here before the board to see if there is an economical solution to this safety issue; speed bumps. There has been an increase in population which increases the traffic. He feels strongly that if nothing gets done soon, something bad will happen. Jamie stated that he understands but would refer to the Police Chief for advice. Matt added that some of this would pertain to the Highway Superintendent as well as the Police Chief. The speed trailer has been used previously and knows the Police have used other radar machines to track speeds. Matt stated that rumble strips could be investigated. Chief Annunziata stated that the corner is a tricky place. He can look into the rumble strips but believes that speed bumps are not the best answer as plows hitting them destroy the road. Tim stated that something is better than nothing and it’s about getting their attention to slow down. Lyndsey and Phil, residents who live on North Sewell came to state that they are concerned with speeding as well. Discussion continued regarding different options that the Board will speak to the Highway Superintendent about to explore.

**Appoint Irving Carter to Waste & Recycling Committee:**

*Matt Mecum made a motion to appoint Irving Carter to the Waste and Recycling Committee, Jamie Underwood seconded. Voted all in favor.*

**Appoint Merrie Gerber to Council on Aging:**

*Jamie Underwood made a motion to appoint Merrie Gerber to the Council on Aging, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.*

**Town Administrators Report to the BOS:**

1. **Special Town Meeting:** I would like the board to schedule a Special Town Meeting for Monday, December 12th, to request the town to approve an expenditure from Free Cash to fund the remaining balance of the Radio Communications project in lieu of borrowing. Bond Anticipation Notes have risen from 1% interest to over 4% interest since spring 2022. Funding the project from Free Cash would save the town $35,000 in interest payments. If the board agrees, I advise opening the warrant this evening and closing the warrant next Monday, November 14th. This vote could happen over a meeting held through Zoom. The final warrant review is scheduled for Monday, November 21st, and would be mailed out to residents the week of Thanksgiving.
2. **WRTA Advisory Board Vacancy:** The WRTA is looking for a representative from the Town of Boylston’s “Disabled Commuter Population” to sit on their Advisory Board. This would be a one-year appointment. The deadline to apply is December 1st, 2022.
3. **Christmas Party:** We have not been able to have a holiday gathering in the office for several years due to the pandemic. I would like to schedule this year’s Christmas party for Thursday, December 15th.
4. **Barnard Hill Estates:** I received correspondence from Paul M. Novak, Attorney at Law, in regard to setting a firm time schedule for completion of the Barnard Hill Estates Subdivision. Attorney Madaus is in attendance this evening at the Planning Board meeting as they discuss the matter. Today, I also received a records request on the same matter which the Building Departments Administrative Assistant is working on compiling. She has 10 business days upon receipt of the request to provide the documents unless she requests an extension.
5. **Time Off:** I will be out of the office Wednesday, November 23 rd through Monday, November 28th.
6. **Town Planner:** We have had two applications come in for the Town Planner position so far. Jeff and I will sit down and review these applicants soon and will begin to schedule interviews. The applications can continue to come in until we find the right person for the opening. I have invited the Planning Board Chair to be part of the process.
7. **Economic Development Bill:** I received phone calls from Senator Chandler and Representative Kilcoyne informing the town that we received $75,000 in the Economic Development Bill that was agreed on by the Legislature last week. The money is set aside to fund the Feasibility Study for the Senior Center and Police/Fire Safety building. The bill now sits on the Governor’s desk awaiting his signature.

**Open STM Warrant:**

A few other items have been added to the Warrant:

1. Invoice received after the fiscal year 2022 was closed – need to appropriate funds to pay off that invoice.
2. Issues with Fire Department Equipment – They will be looking to move funds from their ambulance reserve account to their operating expenses.

*Matt Mecum made a motion to open the warrant for the STM to be held on December 12th, 2022, Jamie Underwood seconded. Voted all in favor.*

**Police Chief Report to the BOS:**

October Breakdown:

* + 9 Accidents
  + 21 Criminal Summons/Arrests
  + Conducted 5 Investigations
  + Conducted 107 Motor Vehicle Stops
  + Dispatch Processed 44 Emergency 911 Calls
  + Total Activity was 2,148 calls.
    - Officers continue to make great proactive motor vehicle stops.
      * Notable stop occurred on the overnight shift that resulted in illegal firearms charges.
    - Officers completed their yearly firearms night shoot.
      * Officer Monaghan provided significant updates to the training.
    - Officers are beginning their yearly in-service training.
    - Sgt. Thomas is scheduled to attend his second FBI LEEDA leadership class.
    - Officers attended the Fall Fest and the BES Pumpkin Festival.
    - 10/26/22 Sgt. Thomas was stuck by a motor vehicle. He has since returned to work. We are fortunate that his injuries weren’t more significant.
    - Sgt. Shepard and Officer Monaghan participated in Trunk or Treat.
      * As usual this was a huge success.
    - Continue working with the schools to update their emergency response plans.
    - Sgt. Thomasian has been working with the DPW to prep the radio sites.
      * Should be breaking ground at the PD on the 7th.
      * Working on policy updates for accreditation.

**Approve Time Off Policy change for Boylston Police Officers NEPBA, Local #135:**

*Matt Mecum made a motion to approve the Time Off Policy change for Boylston Police Officers NEPBA, Local #135, Jamie Underwood seconded. Voted all in favor.*

**Fire Chief Report to the BOS:**

Schedule conflict – unable to attend the meeting.

**Acceptance of donated playground compliant mulch for Manor Park, by DJ’s Landscape & Construction and owner DJ Davidian:**

*Jamie Underwood made a motion to accept donated playground compliant mulch for Manor Park, by DJ’s Landscape & Construction and owner DJ Davidian, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.*

**Approve Chair to sign GovHR USA Contract:**

*Matt Mecum made a motion to approve the Chair to sign the GovHR USA Contract, Jamie Underwood seconded. Voted all in favor.*

**Approve and Sign IMA with Water District:**

*Jamie Underwood made a motion to approve and sign the IMA with Water District, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.*

**Review and approve MOU with Town of Sterling for shared Building Inspector position:**

The Board discussed the shared vehicle and how they believe each town should split the maintenance and cost if a new vehicle is needed. It currently reads as having Boylston being responsible for purchasing the vehicle and Sterling paying 50% of any maintenance, but not the cost of the vehicle. They would like Kim to reword it so that in reads in the event that the current vehicle being used must be replaced, Boylston shall purchase the vehicle and Sterling shall reimburse Boylston, a monthly rental fee to be determined at the time of purchase as dependent on the cost of the vehicle.

Seth asked if it should be clearly stated that the Building Inspector is here for 2 hours on Monday nights. The Board decided to have it read “working one evening night each week, while town hall is open, starting no earlier than 5pm and ending no later than 9pm.”

*Matt Mecum made a motion to approve the MOU with the Town of Sterling for the shared Building Inspector position pending approved changes from this evening and authorize the chair to sign, Jamie Underwood seconded. Voted all in favor.*

At 7:46 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*

*Will not return to open session.*

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

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Mack, Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

**Meeting Materials**

Agenda On File in The Board of Selectmen’s Office

Highway Dept Report On File in The Board of Selectmen’s Office

Fire Chiefs Report On File in The Board of Selectmen’s Office

Town Administrator’s Report On File in The Board of Selectmen’s Office

Dragon 88 Inc Hearing Packet On File in The Board of Selectmen’s Office

Police Chiefs Report On File in The Board of Selectmen’s Office

Waste and Recycling Committee Charge On File in The Board of Selectmen’s Office

IRS Standard mileage rate for 2023 On File in The Board of Selectmen’s Office

WRRS COLA Increase Memo On File in The Board of Selectmen’s Office

Northbridge Donation Letter On File in The Board of Selectmen’s Office

09/26/2022 Meeting Minutes On File in The Board of Selectmen’s Office

10/11/2022 Meeting Minutes On File in The Board of Selectmen’s Office