



## Board of Selectmen

Date of Meeting: Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Time: 6:30 PM – 7:38 PM  
Members Present: Chair Matt Mecum; Selectmen Jamie Underwood and Seth Ridinger; and Alison Kennedy, Administrative Assistant to the Board  
Not Present: April Steward, Town Administrator

The meeting commenced at 6:30 PM.

Financial Warrants were signed in agreement.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of meeting minutes:** 11/21/2022, 12/05/2022, 12/12/2022, 12/19/2022

*Matt Mecum made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 11/21/2022, 12/05/2022, 12/12/2022, 12/19/2022, Jamie Underwood seconded. Voted all in favor.*

### **Police Chiefs Report to the BoS:**

December Breakdown:

- 12 Accidents
- 15 Criminal Summons/Arrests
- Conducted 21 Investigations
- Conducted 254 Motor Vehicle Stops
- Dispatch Processed 57 Emergency 911 Calls
- Total Activity was 2,685 calls
  
- Conducted an evacuation drill at BES
- Conducted a weather emergency at Tahanto
- Sergeants and I completed our in-service training
- Retirement hearing for Detective Parker
- Had another successful Toys-For-Tots Drive
- Hosted “Effective Policing Skills and Tactics” class
- US Attorney’s Office is hosting a webinar for parents on 1/18/23 @ 1830
  - Keep kids safe and secure online
    - Information is inappropriate for young children
    - Flyer with registration details is on the PD FB and in the Town Hall Lobby
- 12/30/22 – 2340HRS
  - Overnight officers attempted to stop a vehicle
    - Vehicle failed to stop and a chase ensued

- Main - Dewey – Oregon – Cook
  - Finally stopping in the grass behind 75 Cook Street
  - Arrests made with numerous charges including OUI and unlicensed operation
- We have received our Controlled Substances Registration
  - Once the policy is completed:
    - This will allow the police department to dispense Naloxone (Narcan), to anyone who requests it
    - Officers will begin carrying it
- I will be using vacation time 2/27 – 3/3

### **Discussion on reopening the H-Intersection:**

Chief Flanagan, Chief Annunziata and Highway Superintendent Mero attended the meeting. There has been previous discussion on reopening the H-Intersection and this meeting is to gather more information as the board feels like there has been a bit more traffic in that area. Chief Annunziata added that people's GPS's may be directing them this way. Highway Superintendent Mero suggested installing a raised island that pushes you one way, right in and right out. The Board discussed different options for temporary measures but doesn't want to dump money into it if its not going to solve the problem. Matt suggested putting the speed trailer out to grab the data/number of vehicles before making a decision. Seth stated he would like to see the traffic reports that were previously provided for that area. Highway Superintendent Mero stated that the previous traffic study was done before changes were made to Colonial Drive so the data will not be the same. The Board will look at all the data that will be presented to them and decide at a later meeting.

### **Fire Chiefs Report to the BoS:**

87 calls in January

- lots of mutual aid calls – revenue generating
- Final Inspection at Pine Hill Drive
- Burning Season started on the first week of January
- Attended Feasibility Study Committee Meeting on Jan 12<sup>th</sup>
- All employees took part in the job analysis questionnaire – HRGov
- Surveying all surrounding towns to check where their ambulance rates compare
- Spoke to Dragon 88 about Emergency Preparedness Plans
- Quarterly meeting with crisis team at schools
  - Shelter in place discussion.
  - lack of cell service did not help the situation
- ALICE drill planned for this month
- Senior safe grant – purchasing smoke detectors and installing them for seniors
- NARCAN Training

### **Highway Superintendents Report to the BoS:**

- Tree cutting
- Cleaning up debris from east woods
- Plowed roads 4 times and treated the roads 11 times
- Snow budget: getting up there. \$60-\$70K away from the red. Cost has gone up to 30/ton
- DISC Golf – have not personally walked the course yet. Need 6-9 trees removed

### **Discussion on 85 Sewall LLC - Proposed Warrant Article:**

Resident Scott Goddard, partial owner who also represents 85 Sewall LLC attended the meeting to discuss 85 Sewall LLC; 30-acre parcel that is on the town warrant. It was previously on the warrant at the annual town meeting a few years prior and did not pass by a small margin. They moved forward to pursue a residential development since it did not pass at the meeting the years prior, however, there does not seem to be a “flavor” in town for more large single family house developments, which is what this property would be zoned for. The property could easily be cut up into big single-family house lots, but rather than do that, the feedback MR. Goddard has been getting is to consider an age restricted development on this property. It’s close to 140 but on the wrong side of the residential district so they are going to the town meeting to change the zoning through a bylaw change. The Planning Board requested that Scott comes to the Board of Selectmen to consider putting this on the warrant and then go back to the Planning Board to see if they would recommend this project. Scott Goddard would be sponsoring the zoning change. Seth asked Mr. Goddard if he would have any interest in revisiting the subject of the Town purchasing the land if that’s the direction people wanted to take. Mr. Goddard responded that the original intent was for a church to be built on the land, the church held it for a little bit and they decided to part ways with the property. This began a long conversation with members in the town and he previously brought this property to the town to ask what they would like to see happen to the land; the apartments were built, 85 Sewall single family home with 15 acres was sold off, and the remaining 30-acre parcel is what remains to be determined. Mr. Goddard said that he demonstrated his openness, but when it was previously voted down, that put him off a little bit. Jamie believes he would have a better shot at putting 18 houses there than putting in a condensed senior housing development as there’s already been two clustered senior developments put in town in the last two and a half years. Mr. Goddard stated that he has heard the complete opposite from people. Matt advised Mr. Goddard that he would personally still go down this path of putting it on the warrant so he is not waiting another year. Mr. Goddard stated that the zoning board pushed hard for them to do away with a conventional type of project, and to come back with a village style senior development. When he came back with these types of plans, the zoning board seemed to love it, and the planning board seemed to be on the fence as he received mixed messages. He is trying to hear the needs and respond, not create his own needs; affordable, village style, smaller units mixed which would give ranges of options for people. The Board of Selectmen referred the 85 Sewall St property zoning change.

*Jamie Underwood made a motion to accept the article for 85 Sewall LLC to be referred to the Planning Board, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.*

### **Town Administrators Report to the BOS:**

Received in dropbox.

### **Vote to Approve Common Victual License for Bread & Butter Diner:**

*Matt Mecum made a motion to approve the common victual license for Bread and Butter Diner pending their application and payment check, Jamie Underwood seconded. Voted all in favor.*

**Vote to accept the 5% local COLA option proposed by the Worcester Regional Retirement System:**

*Matt Mecum made a motion to accept the 5% local COLA option proposed by the Worcester Regional Retirement System, Jamie Underwood seconded. Voted all in favor.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** (closed to the public): *Per MGL c.30A, §21, (1): To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of a public employee.*

The Board will not be holding an Executive Session as Labor Council was not available. Rescheduled for a later date.

*At 7:38 PM, Matt Mecum made a motion to adjourn, Jamie Underwood seconded. Voted all in favor.*

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Mack, Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

**Meeting Materials**

Agenda	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Town Administrators Report	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Sewall St – Proposed Residential District	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Zoning Article Draft	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Draft Meeting Minutes 11/21/2022	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Draft Meeting Minutes 12/05/22	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Draft Meeting Minutes 12/12/2022	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Draft Meeting Minutes 12/19/2022	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office