



## Board of Selectmen

Date of Meeting: Monday, April 24, 2017  
Location: Town Hall, 221 Main Street  
Time: 6:30 PM – 7:33 PM  
Members Present: Chairman James Wood; Michael May; James Underwood; Marty McNamara, Town Administrator; April C. Steward, Administrative Assistant to the Board

The meeting commenced at 6:30 PM.

Financial Warrants were signed in agreement.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

- **Gravel Pit RFP:** The RFP for the sale of the Gravel Pit was advertised on Wednesday 4/19. We have only received one request for the package thus far. I would expect we will receive more as time goes by. The deadline for submittal of proposals is May 22 @ 11:00am.
- **Tour of 40B Proposed Site:** On Wednesday 4/19, a group consisting of Chairman Wood, Fire Chief Flanagan, Planning Board Member Bill Manter, ZBA Chair Bill Filsinger, Health Agent Dennis Costello, Highway Supt. Steve Mero, and myself toured the 85 Sewell Street site with Michael Busby from MassHousing, the proposed Developer Scott Goddard, and Engineer James Tetreault from Thompson – Liston. We have 30 days to submit comments on the project to MassHousing. After the tour, I sent an email to all boards, commissions and others asking that they prepare letters to MassHousing expressing their comments. The Developer and Engineer are willing to attend meetings of any board or commission to explain the project if needed.
  - I have sent a request for information to MassHousing regarding a \$15K Grant for hiring qualified consultants to assist the ZBA in their decision-making process.
- **40B Legal Expenses:** I have had conversation with the Chair of the FinCom regarding funds for possible legal expense associated with the 40B project. We agreed to a \$40K transfer from the FinCom Reserve Account into the Town Counsel Expense line. It is my understanding that the ZBA has used a particular Attorney for these type matters in the past, however I plan to speak to Town Counsel for a recommendation
- **Vacant Buildings Insurance Coverage:** We have been notified that MIIA will no longer be offering insurance coverage for vacant buildings. As such, the Gough House will not be covered by MIIA. They have made a recommendation for new coverage through Cabot Risk of Woburn, MA. The new coverage will be somewhat lower in cost than what we have been paying. I did notify Patrick Healey of the HRP, who questioned the fact that it was a vacant building. I then questioned our Insurance Rep. who verified that due to the state of the building it had to be classified as a vacant building. Patrick also questioned the amount of insurance which is \$230,000.00 up a few thousand from what it was. His thought was that because of the work that was done it should be higher. My thought is that much of that work was infrastructure repair and didn't add to the value of the building. If the board feels we should increase the amount, it would be very easy to do.
- **Town Meeting Transfer Requests:** In your packet is a listing of transfers that we will be asking for at the Town Meeting next week.
- **Chapter 90 Funding:** On Friday, The House and Senate agreed to a \$200M Highway Spending Bill. This is in addition to the already announced Chapter 90 funding. If this bill is enacted it would mean about \$200K in additional funding for roadwork for Boylston.

Resignation from Tina Potenti from the Parks and Recreation Department has been received. That brings the Parks and Recreation Department Board down to two. They do not have a full board and will not be able to

hold meetings until they have a minimum of three board members. Write-in candidates during annual town elections are welcomed.

**Appointments to Council on Aging Van Drivers:** Kevin Prendergast and Greg Tivnan. Kevin has been a resident of Boylston for three years, formerly from Shrewsbury. Greg lives in Holden and works for the Holden COA two days a week. *Jamie Underwood motioned to approve Kevin and Greg to the position of Council on Aging Van Driver; James Wood seconded the motion; voted all in favor.*

**Discussion on the H Intersection:** Chief Sahagian, Chief Flanagan, and Superintendent Mero  
Selectmen May had inquired that the three department heads come in to discuss what can be done about the safety issues around the H intersection. Each of the department heads had submitted a report to the Town Administrator and the TA thought it best if the three of them came in and could discuss face to face rather than through report. Steve went first with his thoughts. It all comes down to safety. East Temple St would have difficulty accommodating more traffic than is currently on the road due to the narrowness of the road. Previously there were multiple accidents at the Cyprian entrance which has been rectified, to a point. At this point Steve feels the only way to close the H would be to add the fourth leg into the intersection that is currently slated to be a 3 way light at the end of the Scannell Road. Forcing the traffic up to Colonial Dr. would create an even bigger hazard. Chief Flanagan agrees with Steve. He feels that the site distance at East Temple St. is much better, but the road is just not wide enough to accommodate an increase in two way traffic. Unless we can widen the road, cars pulling in and out at the same time will become an issue. Unfortunately there are a lot of accidents there as well. Signage has helped but there is still a lot of accidents. Chief Sahagian stated the line of site north leaving East Temple St. onto School St, back up towards the center of town, because of the curve and slight rise in elevation, is limited. At 35, which is often 45 or 48 mph, the cars are on top of each other really quick. That is what has caused the majority of accidents in the past. With Steve's help it has been restriped and additional signs have been added, and the stop sign has been moved. We have seen a pretty marked reduction in accident at that intersection. From April 1, 2016 to April 1, 2017 we had one accident at the entrance to Cyprians. From '06 to '13 there were 12 at that location. The measures talked about above were able to clear out the accidents, just like at Central and Cross. At that location there were 5 from 4/1/16 – 4/1/17. At this point there has been one at that location. School Street and the extension, there are a few different situations. We are worried about traffic backing up on School St. in both directions as they are waiting to turn onto the H to go north or south on rte. 140. So they are backed up waiting for traffic to clear the stop sign and there is a risk of people passing one another and getting into an accident. If someone chooses to do that and cuts other cars off, that is on the operator. There isn't much you can do to stop that from happening. The real safety concern is exiting the H onto rte. 140 heading south (up the hill) Rte. 140 south is not as bad. The operator that is attempting to go south cannot see past to the through line of traffic if a car heading north on rte. 140 is taking a right onto the H. From 4/1/16 to 4/1/17 there have been 7 accidents at this intersection. Chief Sahagian believes that 2 of those accidents were snow related. One was a rear end, foot off of the brake and onto the gas pedal. That leaves 4 accidents in a course of a year that someone at the stop sign thought it was safe and pulled into oncoming traffic. Mike May asked how many accidents have been at the Sewell St., rte. 140 stop sign. Chief Sahagian said none. The line of sight is better. But if you are leaving the center of town and are taking the right off of School St. onto East Temple and you have to wait to get onto East Temple because of increased traffic there may be issues there.

Mike May wants to bring forward some issues he has been seeing. The H intersection basically holds 2 cars cued up at the stop sign. As soon as you have a third car you are extending out into School St. travel lane. In the AM you will see 5, 6, 7 cars waiting to turn. Mike looked at site line distances. East Temple St. has room for 20 cars to be waiting to turn onto rte. 140. It has 212 yards of site line northbound and 270 yards south bound. The problem with the H is when there is any traffic your site line drops down to 50 yards or less because the cars pile up behind each other cut off the line of site. It is a 45 mph zone and you are allowed to pass. Coming southbound on rte. 140 cars that are turning onto the H are stopped to take the left and people are not braking, they are maintaining travel speed and going into the breakdown lane to pass. East Temple is the superior road in his opinion than the H for handling turns. Mike would like to explore closing off the H and putting a stop sign in front of Cyprian's so that all traffic stops. It will decrease the speed on School St. Traffic is going to increase with the developments that are happening in town and he would like to see this

Selectmen's Mtg 04-24-17

taken care of before there is any more accidents with personal injury. Mike has full confidence that the three department heads in attendance will be able to solve this problem and deferred to them for solutions to this issue. Chief Sahagian has two suggestions.

The easily doable solution is:

1. Make this section of rte. 140 a no passing zone.
2. Set up a series of signs (turn ahead, form single lane, no passing, right turn only lane)

The more detailed solution is:

1. There is a breakdown lane that could be expanded to create a turning lane.
2. If traffic backs up they will be in the dedicated lane
3. Cars turning out of the H will have a clear line of sight because turning cars will be out of the way

Discussion ensue about closing the H, diverting the traffic to east Temple (not many thought that the street currently could handle a higher volume of two way traffic), and the unknown factors involving the new construction on rte. 140. Bill Manter voiced his opinion that traffic is going to continue to increase because of all the projects that are coming before the Planning Board and are being approved. With upcoming projects we should consider addressing needs that the town will have for future traffic mitigation and safety.

**Summer Paving Work:** Steve Mero brought in the estimated numbers for summer paving jobs and is requesting the boards input on which roads should be paved this summer with available Chapter 90 funds. Chairman Wood would like to take a ride and see which roads should be prioritized.

**Selectmen's Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 were presented for approval. *Jamie Underwood motioned to accept the meeting minutes as written; Jim Wood seconded; voted all in favor*

Jim Vogel came in to ask about the parcel of property that he wanted to donate to the town. Marty McNamara informed him that it was on the warrant as an article for town meeting next week. Jim was happy with the information.

Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> is town meeting and Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> is town elections.

*At 7:33 PM Jamie Underwood motioned to adjourn; Jim Wood seconded; voted all in favor.*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
April C. Steward, Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

### **Meeting Materials**

Agenda	On file in Board of Selectmen's Office
Meeting Sign-In Sheet	On file in Board of Selectmen's Office
TA Report	On file in Board of Selectmen's Office
March 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2017 Meeting Minutes	On file in Board of Selectmen's Office
March 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2017 Meeting Minutes	On file in Board of Selectmen's Office