

**Carver Select Board
Meeting Minutes
Police Station Training Room
March 28, 2023 - 6:30pm**

In Attendance: Chair Mark Townsend, Vice Chair Sarah Hewins, Jen Bogart, John Cotter, Jim Hoffman, Town Administrator Robert Fennessy and Shelby Roy

Also in Attendance: Gregg Corbo from KP Law

Motion by Hewins to adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A §21(a)(6), to discuss the value of real property with respect to Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreements with operators of the following solar facilities in the Town, if discussing the matter in open session will have a detrimental effect on the Town's negotiating position and the Chair so declares: Captona Ravenbrook, LLC, Assessors Map 48, Lots 1 & 4; Kearsage Carver, LLC, Assessors Map 74 Lot 8; GLC-(MA) Acushnet – Purchase Street, LLC, Assessors Map 55 as Lot 1-B; Syncarpha Carver, LLC Assessor's Map 123-13 second by Hoffman.

Roll call – affirmative: Hoffman, Hewins, Townsend, Bogart and Cotter

Motion by Hewins to adjourn at 6:45pm and to go into open session at 6:50pm, second by Hoffman.

Roll call – affirmative: Hoffman, Hewins, Townsend, Bogart and Cotter

Open Session:

Chair led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the community prayer.

Citizens Participation:

Donna Forand of 27-8 South Meadow Village –

Forand stated that as the fiscal year comes to an end she wanted to come in and thank the Board for their hard work. She also expressed her appreciation for the amount of volunteering they do for the Town.

Discussion and possible vote for the Annual Town Meeting warrant articles:

North Carver Water District Debt Service

Fennessy stated that the article is now a stand-alone article, and is Article IV in the warrant.

Bogart asked what the rationale was for taking this out.

Fennessy said that because this article involves use of the NCWD Debt Stabilization account monies, town counsel's suggested to separate the article from the general budget article so that it would not be confusing to the public.

Corbo stated that if it was left in the budget article, the overall budget would need a 2/3 vote, but now only this item will have a 2/3 vote requirement while the overall budget article would remain a majority vote as it has in the past.

Motion to place this article on the warrant by Hewins, second by Cotter.

Vote 5-0

Motion to recommend this article by Hewins, second by Cotter

Vote 5-0

Capital Improvements Budget:

Fennessy explained the three different Categories that will be available to vote at town meeting, the first of which includes bonding for the library roof, library painting, town hall roof, and the engineering costs; and the other two scenarios without bonding and doing those major projects. Fennessy noted that the finance committee and the capital outlay committee both unanimously recommended category 1.

Motion to place this article on the warrant by Hewins, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

Motion to recommend category #1 of article 5 (which includes bonding) by Hewins, second by Cotter.

Vote 3-2 (Bogart and Hoffman)

Solar Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreements:

Joe Roche, Town Assessor and Ellen Blanchard, Chair for Board of Assessor's present and spoke in favor of placing the article on the warrant and to support the article.

Motion to place this article on the warrant by Hewins, second by Hoffman

Vote 5-0

Motion to recommend this article by Hewins, second by Hoffman

Discussion:

Hewins stated that if the first three agreements fail at Town Meeting, they will revert back to the original PILOT programs which will not be beneficial to the Town. If the last agreement fails it will be taxed as personal property taxes. The value of the panels will depreciate over the years and will raise the levy. This will result in the tax payers dealing with the burden and she feels it is in the best interest for these to be recommended and approved.

Vote 4-1 (Bogart)

Finance Committee bylaw amendment:

Members of the Board reviewed an E-mail from Chair of Finance Committee explaining his reasoning not being present for this meeting.

Fennessy stated that Corbo is attendance to help the Board review and discuss the requested change to the Finance Committee bylaw.

Corbo explained a scenario where the amendment could be voted on and then the article as a whole could be voted on.

Townsend stated that this bylaw has been a topic in several meetings in the past, and feels that the Board should work towards language that cleans up the bylaw.

Bogart stated that she agrees with Townsend and would like to have wording to present in time for Town Meeting. Bogart also asked about the sub-committee that was formed several years ago to modify the bylaw.

Townsend confirmed that there was a sub-committee formed, but that it did not go anywhere because the members could not agree on changes.

Hewins offered a suggestion that the wording could be as simple as "if you are on the Finance Committee, you cannot be on any other committee."

Corbo stated that this could be problematic.

Cotter stated that he agrees that the wording should be clean and clear, that way there is no room for questions.

Townsend asked if there should be specifics when it comes to an employee of the Town being on a committee.

Bogart stated that she was in the same position when she was on the Planning Board and resigned when she became a Select Board member. She stated that under the current bylaws there is wording that could be taken from the Select Board bylaw that could possibly be used.

Corbo read the original 4.3.7 section of the bylaw.

The Board discussed the possibility of putting this off and not placing this on the warrant and then work towards a joint agreement.

Corbo stated that back in 2021 he had written an opinion and proposed to create a new policy.

After further discussion, the Board members discussed removing only the words "or Council on Aging" from the original version of this section, and to leave the rest of 4.3.7 as is.

Motion to remove the wording "or Council on Aging" from 4.3.7 and to be placed on the warrant by Bogart, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

Motion to recommend section 4.3.7 with the removal of “or Council on Aging” by Bogart, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

New Bylaw – Abutter lot sales program:

The Board tabled this Article at the last meeting to have the Town Administrator look into the property at 2 Myles Standish Drive, and he confirmed it to be “non-buildable,” as it is wetlands.

Motion to place this article on the warrant by Hewins, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

Motion to recommend this article by Hewins, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

Request for a One Day Special License – Bartending Service of New England, 14 Cross St. April 22, 2023 from 10am – 4pm, Child’s Play Alpaca Earth Day Event:

Motion to approve this One Day Special License by Cotter, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

Select Board Community Announcements:

Cotter: None

Bogart: None

Hoffman: Reminder of the Shane Gives Thanks BINGO Fundraiser on April 15th at the High School

Hewins: Echoed Hoffman’s statement

Townsend: Echoed the previous statements regarding Shane Gives Thanks.

Next Meeting:

April 4, 2023

Motion to adjourn at 8:07 pm by Hoffman, second by Cotter

Vote 5-0

Listing of Exhibits: Updated Draft Warrant dated 3/28/23, Chair of Finance Committee e-mail, Request for One Day Special License Application: Bartending Service New England, 14 Cross St. on April 22nd.