

**Carver Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Town Hall- 108 Main Street  
April 4, 2023 - 6:00pm**

In Attendance: Chair Mark Townsend, Vice Chair Sarah Hewins, Jen Bogart, John Cotter, Jim Hoffman, Town Administrator Robert Fennessy, Assistant Town Administrator Elaine Weston

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

**Citizens Participation:** None

**Presentation of Award to Cam Allain:**

The Select Board presented an award to Carver High School Winter Track athlete Cam Allain for recently winning the National High Jump title at the Adidas Nationals in Virginia.

**Chapter 61A- Notice of Intent to Convert:** Domingo Fernandes would like to convert a portion of his property into a parcel to build a house for his son. This came before the Board on March 7, 2023, at which time the Board voted to decline the option to purchase the land.

Fernandes stated the reference to the plan was off on the wording and the attorney at the closing was not comfortable with it, and suggested that it be re-voted by the Select Board.

Motion by Hewins to decline the option to purchase Fernandes Brothers, Inc., Assessor's Map 14, Lot 10, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

**Approval for borrowing for the Library HVAC:**

The 2022 Annual Town Meeting Capital Plan approved to appropriate the sum of \$1,800,000 to replace the HVAC units at the Carver Public Library and authorized the Select Board for the borrowing. Townsend stated there is no new borrowing.

Bogart asked if this is only from last year and has nothing to do with this year's warrant article to borrow. Fennessy stated that that is correct.

Hewins asked if work has already started at the library. Fennessy stated yes, and it is ongoing.

Hoffman asked concerning the articles for this year's Town Meeting warrant, this bonding would not be combined with it. Fennessy stated in yes- that they would be separate.

Motion by Hewins to approve and authorize the town Treasurer to borrow \$1.8 million under MGL, Chapter 44, section 7 and or 8, to issue bonds or notes for the replacement of the Heat/Ventilation/Air Conditioning units at the Carver Public Library, second by Cotter.

Vote 5-0

**KP Law rate increase:** Town Counsel KP Law is increasing their rates by \$10 per hour to \$235 per hour for general counsel fees beginning July 1, 2023. Townsend stated a few years ago there was a more substantial increase. Only the general legal fees will increase and the specialty legal services rates will remain the same.

Fennessy stated their rates are competitive with other firms doing municipal law.

Motion by Hewins to approve KP Law rate increase of \$10/hour to \$235/hour for general counsel legal fees for FY 24, second by Hoffman.

Vote 3-2 (Cotter, Bogart)

Hoffman asked what would happen if the Board did not agree. Fennessy stated they would go to KP Law to renegotiate the rate that is amenable and if not, they could seek other counsel through an RFP.

Motion to reconsider the vote on the KP Law rate increase by Hoffman, second by Bogart.

Vote 5-0

Hoffman stated in the past the Board has talked about looking at other legal firms, too. Townsend suggested to wait until after the election, as KP Law will most likely do a litigation update for the new Board after the election. KP Law could come in and discuss the rate at that time.

Hewins stated the Select Board previously had a legal committee in approximately 2010 that researched this and at the time made a list of requirements they needed from a town counsel. At that time, KP Law was the only firm that met those requirements. Fennessy stated there are other firms that also specialize in municipal law.

Motion by Hoffman to rescind the vote to approve the KP Law rate increase, second by Cotter.

Vote 5-0

**Town-wide yard sale:** Townsend stated the date of the previous town-wide yard sales has been late in June. Townsend thanked Bogart for bringing this up years ago. He would like to permanently set the date as the last Saturday in June.

Cotter asked if there would be a rain date. Bogart stated there has not been a rain date thus far.

Hewins & Bogart agreed with the last Saturday in June.

Bogart stated she hopes to see it continue and that a public space becomes available for it as well.

Motion by Hewins to set the town-wide yard sale for the last Saturday in June annually, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

**Town Administrator Update:**

Town Hall Siding replacement has started. They are removing the old siding, replacing the Tyvek and will also be doing the work on the trim. It will take approximately 6 weeks to complete this project. Once that is completed the work on the cupola will begin.

North Carver Water District (NCWD): They are still working on the repair and replacement of the parts. The NCWD Commissioners are looking for a completion date in late April or early May. Fennessy said that once a firm date of completion is set, the NCWD Commissioners will oversee the notification of all business and resident users of the system prior to the system being active again.

Graduation of Carver Fire Department Recruit Class of 2023: This will be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The firefight recruit training comprised 27 classes and 87 hours of classroom and drill training.

Council on Aging: Fennessy noted that there are many weekly and monthly programs throughout the year as well as special programs. For the month of April there will be an event on planting seeds, smartphone instruction and weekly craft classes on Wednesdays. Preregistration is required for all these types of events, as supplies may be limited.

**Minutes of March 21, 2023:**

Motion to approve minutes by Hoffman, second by Cotter.

Vote 5-0

Motion to approve Executive Session minutes of March 21, 2023 and not for release by Cotter, second by Hewins.

Vote 5-0

Request for Auctioneer License: Tom Gagliardi III, Thomas Industries, LLC is requesting a license for April 21, 2023 from 9:00am – 4:00pm at 35 Spring Street.

Motion to approve Auctioneer License contingent upon obtaining proof of insurance by Hoffman, second by Cotter

Vote 5-0

Request to use Shurtleff Park: Ahmed Farouk Ahmed is requesting use of Shurtleff Park on April 23, 2023 from 2:00pm – 6:00pm for a first birthday party.

Motion to approve contingent upon obtaining insurance by Hewins, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

**Select Board Community Announcements:**

Hoffman: Fundraiser for Shane on April 15 at the High School – it is a bingo event with a lot of raffle prizes.

Cotter: June 10 is the Jack Quindley memorial Cornhole Tournament.

Bogart: Stated she is not running for re-election, then shared some thoughts and reflections. She shared a treasured quote, “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, it’s not,” and spoke about things such as: the importance of thinking about and making decisions with the whole town and each individual resident in mind, the mock Town Meetings she held with 3<sup>rd</sup> graders from Carver Elementary, the necessity to do what you think is right and not cave to outside pressures, her proposing and organizing an annual town-wide yard sale and especially appreciating the chance to serve her fellow residents in this role. Townsend, Cotter and Hoffman responded positively.

Hewins: Annual Town Meeting is on Tuesday, April 11 at the Carver Middle High School auditorium.

Townsend: Reiterated that the Annual Town Meeting is April 11 at 6:00pm, and hopes to see the residents attend.

**Next Meeting:**

April 11, 2023 – Annual Town Meeting and May 2, 2023

Brief Recess at 6:35

**Joint meeting with the Housing Authority:** Housing Authority Meeting opened at 6:41pm to nominate and vote for a new member to fill Ms. Dormer’s resignation.

Present for the Housing Authority: Chair Mark Townsend, Margaret Wood & Christine Ardizoni

**Application for appointment to fill vacancy until the Town’s April 2024 election.** Applicant Ellen Sordillo present.

Sordillo would like to serve to improve upon things in Town. She wants to be involved and has previously served on the Housing Authority. She stated she found it interesting and beneficial.

Hewins thanked Sordillo for stepping up.

Ardizoni stated that Sordillo’s track record speaks for itself and she feels she will do well.

Motion to approve Ellen Sordillo to the Housing Authority by Hoffman, second by Cotter.

Vote 5-0

Motion to approve Ellen Sordillo to the Housing Authority by Wood, second by Ardizoni

Vote 3-0

Motion to adjourn at 6:44pm by Hewins, second by Cotter.

Vote 5-0

Motion to adjourn Housing Authority at 6:44pm by Ardizoni, second by Wood

Vote 3-0

Listing of Exhibits: Chapter 61A application documents for Walker Road parcel, KP Law notice of rate increase and specialty service rates, minutes of 3/21/23, Application to use Town Property by Ahmed Farouk Ahmed, Application for Housing Authority from Ellen Sordillo.