

**Carver Select Board
Meeting Minutes
Town Hall- 108 Main Street
August 15, 2023 - 5:15pm**

In Attendance: Chair Mark Townsend, Vice-Chair Jim Hoffman, John Cotter, Sarah Hewins, Dan Ryan, Town Administrator Robert Fennessy and Assistant Town Administrator Elaine Weston

Motion by Ryan to adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(2), to discuss strategy with respect to non-union personnel and for non-union negotiations (Operations & Maintenance Director), and for G.L. c. 30A §21(a)(3), union negotiations (Police) that if discussing the matters in open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Town, second by Cotter.

Role call- affirmative: Ryan, Cotter, Townsend, Hoffman, Hewins

Motion by Ryan to adjourn from Executive Session at 5:54pm, convene into open session at 6:00pm and reconvene into Executive Session at the end of open session, second by Cotter.

Roll call – affirmative: Ryan, Cotter, Townsend, Hoffman, Hewins

Open Session:

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

Citizens Participation: None

Appointment of Election Workers: Democrat: Amy McCain & Mary Ross;
Republican: Patricia Batson; Unenrolled: Geraldine Carter, Geraldine Govoni, Joanne Myette, Sandra Tucker, Janice McCardle, Jeffrey Demoura, Pamela Riccio, Deborah Porter, Patricia Richards, Susan Smith, Christine Sylvia, Eileen Roussos, Donna Vaughn, Laurie Harris, Patricia Lake & Marie Zweigman

Motion to approve appointment of Election Workers by Hewins, second by Ryan.

Vote 5-0

King Richard's Faire traffic plan update: Police Chief Marc Duphily present for the update. Duphily stated there is no representative from King Richard's Faire at the meeting, but that an invitation was extended to King Richard's Faire for someone to join the meeting. Duphily reviewed the traffic problems that occurred last year and the actions that were taken to resolve those problems. The Police Department has been working with the Faire to eliminate the traffic problems that occurred last year. Incentivizing ticket sales with lower prices in September was done. Duphily stated it would be helpful to know the amount of people expected in order to successfully control the traffic. Duphily has been in contact with School Superintendent Knief to have school buses and drivers on standby if the need arises. The costs for this will be paid for by the Faire. Signage has been looked at to change the traffic flow when needed as well as the Faire notifying ticket holders on parking locations via text. Duphily stated the Faire has worked reasonably with the Chief and still anticipates traffic, but believes there is a better solution this year than there has been in the past. The lined parking lots at the High School and in Carver Square will allow for more structure.

Townsend asked if the alternate parking lots are always open. Duphily stated they will open when needed and that will be a fluid decision that will be made when necessary. There are assigned lots, so that when the Faire gets to a certain point, remote lots will then be opened and the plan for busses, etc. will be put into action.

Hewins asked who will be paying for the detail officers. Duphily stated that the Faire will be paying for all detail officers. Ryan asked about the traffic sign boards. Duphily stated there will be signage at the parking lots and along the way to the alternate lots to direct traffic. Ryan asked if the spots at Carver Square will be designated so it won't affect those businesses. Duphily stated the Faire negotiated the parking area with the land owner of Carver Square. Cotter asked if the Faire is still looking to hire an Emergency Medical Technician. Emergency Medical Services Chief Ryan stated that he spoke to Aimee Sedley of King Richard's Faire and she confirmed that someone was hired to fill that medical technician role. Chief Ryan will touch base with that person prior to the start of the Faire. Duphily stated that they had encouraged the Faire to work on an all hazards plan and there is now one in place.

King Richard's Faire Citizens Participation:

Sharon Churchill asked if only dated tickets are being sold. Duphily stated the Faire is keeping a small amount of undated tickets open, but most tickets are being sold online. She asked if there is a mechanism in place to monitor a cap and to know how many tickets have been sold. Duphily has encouraged the Faire to monitor that, but as a private business, they are not obligated to disclose that information.

Police union Contract:

Motion to ratify the Police Union Contract regarding Field Officer Training positions by Hewins, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

Operations and Maintenance Director Contract: Townsend stated this item is postponed until the open session later this evening which will occur after the continued Executive Session.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) rate change request: EMS Chief Michael Ryan present. Ryan stated the department needs to stay competitive with private agencies. Carver is currently in the middle range of the pay rates and Carver is the only self-sufficient EMS department in the County. In order to maintain this, they need to maintain the ambulance accounts. Currently Medicare rates are a lot less than what it takes to run the EMS service. In 2023, Craver's Medicare current rates are set at less than what it costs to run the department; 65% of transports were Medicare and 24% was collected of what was billed to them. In addition, 17% of the calls went to Medicaid and they pay even less – approximately 14% was collected of what was billed to them. Commercial Insurance makes up the difference and this is industry-wide for all health insurance. The rates were last increased two years ago.

Select Board member Ryan asked if the gap keeps increasing, will the department be able to continue to operate. Chief Ryan stated that there are discussions going on with Medicaid. Chief Ryan stated the hope is that they will remain self-sufficient for years to come. Cotter asked what insurance companies are paying back. Chief Ryan stated they are paying back the amount less the deductible or co-pay. BLS rates are 'basic life support' and ALS rates are 'advanced life support'.

Chief Ryan explained that the ALS 1 and ALS 2 are different levels of care and advanced treatment needed. Townsend recapped the rate changes:

	Current	Proposed
	<u>Rate:</u>	<u>Rate:</u>
BLS emergency base rate	\$1,406.36	\$1,619
BLS non-emergency base rate	\$1,406.36	\$1,619
ALS non-emergency base rate	\$2,723.19	\$2,419
ALS1 emergency base rate	\$2,273.19	\$2,419
ALS2 emergency base rate	\$3,437.14	\$3,551
Mileage	\$37.31	\$38.00

Motion to approve rate schedule increase by Hewins, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

Priority Development Areas & Priority Protection Areas update: Town Planner Thomas Bott present for the update. Bott has worked with SRPEDD (Southeast Regional Planning and Environmental Development District) to update Carver's 2017 Priority Development Areas (PDA) and Priority Protection Areas (PPA). The update will include a staff level meeting with two members from the Planning Board, Redevelopment Authority, Conservation Commission and Select Board. A public meeting will be held to review the draft PDA and PPA. The current PPA and PDA can be found on the Planning Department page of the Carver website: www.carverma.gov. Bott showed a brief video outlining the update. He is requesting two members of the Select Board to participate. Hewins stated she is interested in participating. Ryan stated he is interested in participating as well.

Approval of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds request of the North Carver Water District (NCWD) for payment of invoice to the Town of Middleborough for water purchase: Townsend stated it is incumbent upon the Board to act on this request prior to the other projects coming to the Board for a decision.

Michael Palimeri, Chair of the NCWD present. He stated that the NCWD was using Middleborough Water during a time of need. Representatives from Middleborough, the Town and NCWD got together to determine the cost. All residents had to pay for water during this time and were billed a higher rate than what is normally billed out through Carver. Palmieri stated that the NCWD still had their bills to pay, including Small Water Systems, insurance, taxes, utilities, as well as many repairs and replacement of parts, including repayment of the \$236,000 for the replacement of the membranes. Additionally, they have had to clean out all the tanks.

Ryan asked for clarification on the billing and expenses. Palimeri stated that their budget still had to sustain all of the expenses as they did not go away, the customers still had to pay their water bills and at the end of last fiscal year, there was no funding left. In addition to their regular expenses, they now need to pay the bill for Middleborough for the usage of their water. Hewins noted that this invoice was initially much higher and was negotiated down by the Town and NCWD.

Palimeri stated he has been on the NCWD for about a year. It is approximately \$45 for a meter hook up. For an approximate reference, an average user gets about 8 days of water and then pays for the rest, for Carver to get the same quantity of water as Middleborough, it would be approximately \$73 higher. In addition to this, Carver residents on the system were getting brown water. When the plant starts up, water is chemically treated and the plant tells the system how much of the chemicals to be injected into the water. The analytical company that the NCWD was using had a slow turn around (10-14 days) so the chemicals would take this amount of time to be adjusted. This has since been remedied to approximately every 5 days. He noted that there have been two outages since the re-start of the plant in early July 2023, and that there is not enough pressure to self-flush the system. All the water in the tanks slowly stir everything up instead of flushing it out creating discolored water. The last outage was a week ago on Monday. There was an issue with the water system which was unforeseen. There is no water tower with the right amount of volume and pressure to properly correct this issue.

Motion by Hewins to approve the ARPA request of the North Carver Water District for payment of invoice to the Town of Middleborough for water purchases of \$156,000, second by Hoffman.

Hewins noted that even if the NCWD had this money in their account, they would have to wait until Town Meeting to pay Middleborough.

Cotter stated he has no idea of the financials of the NCWD and stated felt that this information is needed to make a decision. He stated the Town knew a bill would be coming for this and asked why it wasn't in the NCWD budget.

Townsend stated this was an emergency situation and everyone was asked to do what they needed to do which resulted in a bill. Palimeri stated the budget was already set prior. Fennessy stated that for money to be moved into the operating budget of the NCWD, it would need to be approved at Town Meeting. Palimeri stated that the whole NCWD system is a travesty and he will be asking Town Meeting for engineering for improvements for the system. He noted that there are 135 customers on the system and nothing has been spent to improve the system.

Vote 5-0

Status on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) projects: Projects that have been completed and approved by Plymouth County for reimbursement include the Council on Aging freezer upgrade, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) cardiac monitors, Fire HVAC and Fire dispatch upgrades. Projects that are complete and applications are in the process of being submitted include EMS HVAC, EMS security, Fire security in stations 2 & 3 & Fire HVAC in station 2.

Appointment of a Select Board representative to the Carver Marion Wareham Regional Refuse Disposal District (CMWRRDD):

There were no Select Board member volunteers. Fennessy volunteered to be the Select Board representative on a temporary basis until the Board can find other members to serve, if it was allowed.

Motion to appoint Town Administrator Fennessy as the Select Board representative to the CMWRRDD by Ryan, second by Hewins.

Vote 5-0

Town Administrator Update:

Library HVAC is on schedule to conclude by early September.

Council on Aging railings have been installed and painted. These were purchased through a grant.

New hires include a Veteran's Administrative Assistant, Shirley McEachern, Payroll and Benefits Coordinator, Lynne Welsh & Denise Arsenault will be the Records Administrator in the Town Clerk's office. The IT Manager, John Neely, will start at the end of the month.

Since the last malfunction at the North Carver Water District (NCWD), a 'robo-call' system has been established. The Town has received approximately 60% of user numbers. Residents can call Jill Martins at 508-866-3450 in the Planning Office to get on the list. In consultation with NCWD Chair and Select Board Chair and other Town officials, there was discussion on putting together a working group to explore options to the NCWD. The Town Administrator will start this group in September and will include the Health Agent, the Director of Operations and Maintenance, Select Board and North Carver Water District members.

Fennessy and Finance Director Moquin met with the School Superintendent Kneif and Finance Director Griffen to put together a working group of Town officials to develop a budget plan and to agree upon a timeline process as well as to look at the financial policies to make suggested recommendations to the Select Board. This will also start in September.

Minutes & Licenses:

Motion to approve minutes of 8/3/23 by Cotter, second by Hewins.

Vote 4-0-1 (Hoffman recuse)

Motion to approve One Day Special license for Carver Sportsmen Club on August 27, 2023 from 10:00am – 8:00pm by Cotter, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

Select Board Community Announcements:

Ryan: Hopes everyone enjoys their summer and stays safe

Cotter: None

Hewins: Reminded everyone to remember Shane Gives Thanks Food Pantry
Hoffman: Fundraiser this Sunday at the Sportsman Club for the Balzarini family
Townsend: Commended resident Jim Forand for his bike across America. Carver Day for King Richard's Faire is free and tickets do not need to be purchased online

Next Meetings: September 5

Motion to adjourn from open session at 7:43pm and to reconvene into Executive Session by pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(2), to discuss strategy with respect to non-union personnel and for non-union negotiations (Operations & Maintenance Director), and to return to open session by Hoffman, second by Ryan.

Roll call- affirmative: Ryan, Cotter, Townsend, Hoffman, Hewins

Motion to adjourn executive session and go into open session at 8:12pm by Hewins, second by Ryan.

Roll call-affirmative: Ryan, Cotter, Townsend, Hoffman, Hewins.

Open Session:

Motion to approve employment contract of Dave Siedentopf as amended and contingent upon Siedentopf's approval of the amendments by Hewins, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

Motion to adjourn at 8:17pm by Hoffman, second by Ryan

Vote 5-0

Listing of Exhibits: Listing of Election workers for appointment; email from EMS Chief Ryan on ambulance billing rates; memo from Town Planner Bott regarding Priority Development Areas and Priority Protection Areas; Letter from Town of Middleborough; American Rescue Plan Act status update; Minutes of August 3, 2023; application for one day special license for Carver Sportsmen Club