

**Carver Select Board
Meeting Minutes
Town Hall- 108 Main Street
October 17, 2023 - 6:00pm**

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

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

Citizens Participation: Diane Gray spoke against the One Day Special Liquor license on the agenda. As the land trustee, she is not in favor of allowing liquor to be served on their property. They are not in favor of too many cars on the property.

Application for One Day Special Liquor License: Brewery 44 for a festival located at 14 Cross St.

Motion by Hewins not to approve the One Day Special License for the festival at 14 Cross St., second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

Application for Cultural Council Appointment: Melanie Terrill gave a brief overview of her work history as a Librarian at the East Bridgewater Public Library.

Motion by Hewins to approve the appointment of Melanie Terrill to the Cultural Council, second by Cotter.

Vote 5-0

Ch. 61A Right of First Refusal- 0 Lakeview St: Joe Roche, Town Assessor spoke on behalf of the Board of Assessors. The Board of Assessors is not in favor of the Town's purchase of the property. Thomas Bott, Town Planner, spoke on behalf of the Planning Board. The Planning Board would like the Select Board to exercise the Town's Right of Refusal as it appears there are 3 lots available for building dwelling units. Bott stated there are options available to the Town, for example,

making them affordable housing, requiring a nitrogen reducing septic system or interim use as recreation.

Roche spoke on the rollback taxes on the property. The rollback on this property is approximately \$38,000.

Ryan questioned if the Town had the money to purchase the property. Hewins stated that 10% of Community Preservation funds are put aside every year for this purpose so there should be funding available.

Townsend asked where the funds would come from for the meeting. Fennessy stated that the funding would most likely come from Community Preservation funds.

Townsend asked Fennessy to see if he can come to an agreement with the landowner on a town purchase of the property to be delayed until the April town meeting and to also get in touch with the Community Preservation Committee on the funding.

Motion by Cotter to table the vote to the next meeting, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

Community Electricity Aggregation Renewal: Town Planner Thomas Bott present. Bott has worked with Good Energy in the past and was authorized from the Select Board to vote for the Town during the electricity bid on May 2, 2023, along with 24 other towns. Bott noted that this bid happens within a two-hour window. The new rates will be effective in December 2023 and residents will be getting a letter in the mail next week. These rates are effective until December 2025. The advantage of this process is that the Town can decide when to go to the market to get a new rate. Eversource is required to go to the market for energy pricing twice a year. The rate can differ from Eversource with a wide or narrow range and residents can opt out and back in of the aggregation as they many times as they would like. Bott noted that on the Electricity Aggregation the rate does not fluctuate, the rate is locked in for 23 months.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) projects: These projects were presented to the Board in a previous meeting. Fennessy stated that there are three additional amounts that were discussed at the last ARPA meeting to add to round 1

approvals which includes: electrical work for the Town Hall projects for \$10,000, Fire Department computer project for \$5,000 and the School culinary renovation for \$45,626.

Ryan asked about the amount of the School a/c split units and the cost per room. School Superintendent Scott Knief stated there are a total of 20 interior rooms, and 12 are being requested. Operations and Maintenance Director Dave Siedentopf stated that they will outfit as many rooms as the budget allows and the remainder of the rooms will be put into the capital plan.

Townsend went through each Round 2 ARPA request item individually:

- Middle High School Culinary Project

Motion by Hewins to approve the additional amount of \$45,626 for the culinary renovation, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

- Town Hall technology;

Motion by Hewins to approve the additional \$10,000 for the Town Hall technology project, second by Cotter.

Vote 5-0

- Payment to Middelborough – previously voted on and approved

- North Carver Water District Meter pit:

Middleborough is requesting this meter pit be put in so when it is supplying water to Carver it can be more accurately monitored. This still needs to go out to bid through Middleborough. This will come from Plymouth County ARPA funds.

Motion by Hewins to approve \$225,000 for the North Carver Water District Meter pit, second by Hoffman.

Hoffman asked the time frame falls on Middleborough for the procurement. Fennessy stated the check can be cut as soon as next week, but the bids are going through Middleborough.

Townsend asked if we would be cutting a check to Middleborough and we don't know the amount at this time. Fennessy stated a check can be cut as a deposit and as an act of good faith.

Vote 5-0

- Fire Department Computers:

Fire Chief Craig Weston noted that the department was not aware of the needed upgrade and service was ending until recently so it was not a part of the capital plan.

Motion to approve \$35,000 for the Fire Department computers by Hewins, second by Ryan.

Vote 5-0

- EMS Lucas 3 compression:

Motion to approve for \$42,920.52 by Ryan, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

- EMS McGrath Laryngoscopy:

Motion to approve for \$7,887.62 by Ryan, second by Hewins.

Vote 5-0

- Public Safety Ballistic Protection:

Motion to approve for \$55,000 by Hewins, second by Ryan.

Vote 5-0

- EMS Community Emergency Medical Services Response Unit:

Motion to approve for \$56,303 by Ryan, second by Hewins.

Vote 5-0

- Police Records Management System:

Motion to approve for \$111,185.34 by Hewins, second by Ryan

Cotter asked if this vendor should be looked at by our IT Department, due to the high cost. Fennessy stated the system in place now has a limited life left. This can be deferred and put on the capital plan. Ryan stated he spoke to the IT Manager about this at the last meeting. This vendor is the top records management system in the state and the Chief would like to stay with it. Ryan asked the same questions as Cotter and agrees that they are charging a lot, but there are not really any options. Ryan is in favor of using the ARPA funds for this, rather than taxpayer funds. Hewins stated that if it is voted now, it is possible the cost could be bargained down. Townsend stated this is a specialized system and the Chief of Police did a lot of research into it.

Vote 5-0

- Police Speed Alert Radar Message Signs:

Motion to approve for \$13,341.78 by Hewins, second by Ryan.

Vote 5-0

- Middle High School Split Units:

Motion to approve 12 units for \$180,000 by Hewins, second by Ryan.

Cotter asked if this was a stop gap to a bigger problem. Operations and Maintenance Director Dave Siedentopf stated that this is putting air conditioners into classrooms that originally had it and where the system has failed. The original uninvent system is working for heat. Cotter asked the cost of re-doing the entire system. Siedentopf stated that rehabbing the whole building does not make sense financially. The building would need to be brought to the new compliance codes if the entire system was going to be done. Cotter asked how many of these projects are projected prior to needing a new school. Siedentopf stated he cannot predict if other mechanical systems will fail.

Vote 5-0

- Council on Aging Kitchen Equipment:

Motion to approve for \$53,000 by Hewins, second by Ryan.

Vote 5-0

- E-911 VoIP Telecommunications Compliance Upgrades:

Motion to approve for \$57,542 by Hewins, second by Ryan.

Vote 5-0

- Police laptop computers for cruisers:

Motion to approve \$10,809 by Hewins, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Modernization:

Motion to approve for \$210,463.87 by Ryan, second by Hewins

Fennessy noted that this would not be approved by Plymouth County due to including furniture in the request. He suggested voting the full amount.

Vote 5-0

Open Meeting Law Complaint:

Motion by Hewins to authorize Town Counsel to provide a response to the Open Meeting Law Complaint dated 10/12/23, second by Ryan.

Vote 5-0

Town Administrator Update:

Ward Street Closure update: The culvert on Ward Street had washed out and it was deemed a risk to traffic. The Street has now opened a sinkhole. The public safety chiefs are utilizing the airport cut through for emergency services to respond to South Meadow Village. An engineer has submitted a preliminary report. Fennessy has been seeking assistance for funding through the state and is

awaiting a response. It is likely that the cost for this will need to go to town meeting for approval.

North Carver Water District had a pipe at the plant burst Friday night which depleted the water in the holding tank. Through working with Middleborough officials on Friday night, we were able to connect to Middleborough water and allow Carver's tanks to replenish. Users were notified via email and a robocall notification.

King Richard's Faire traffic was minimized this past weekend and there is one more weekend left. Additional buses were needed, but there were not drivers available. They had 2 busses and needed 5. Otherwise, according to the public safety officials, the traffic plan worked well.

Ryan asked about the timeline on Ward St. Siedentopf stated he received a proposal on engineering services today and is awaiting a response back from legal counsel for approval. The engineering will take longer than the physical work. The goal is to get it done prior to winter. The process has been expedited by seeking waivers through Division of Capital Maintenance and Management. Funding for the emergency also needs to be secured.

Library painting update: one bid came in significantly lower than the others. References were checked and every reference gave the bidder an A+ rating. This probably will not be done until spring and stain is more temperature sensitive than paint and the end product would be sacrificed if they try to get it done during un-temperate times.

Minutes & Licenses:

Request for fishing tournament:

Motion to approve by Ryan, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

Motion to approve minutes of 9/5/23 by Ryan, second by Hewins.

Vote 5-0

Motion to approve minutes of 9/19/23 by Ryan, second by Hewins.

Vote 5-0

Motion to approve minutes of 9/26/23 by Ryan, second by Hewins.

Vote 5-0

Select Board Community Announcements:

Ryan: Hoping that Ward Street will be fixed prior to winter

Cotter: None

Hewins: Reminded everyone to donate to Shane Gives Thanks food pantry

Hoffman: none

Townsend: South Meadow Village is holding their Holly Fair on 10/21 and you to enter from Plymouth.

Next Meetings: November 7

Motion to adjourn at 7:32pm by Hoffman, second by Cotter.

Vote 5-0

Listing of Exhibits: application for cultural council; Chapter 61A first right of refusal recommendation and application documents; Open meeting law complaint dated 10/6/23; application for One Day Special License for Brewery 44; application for fishing tournament from Eastside Sport Fishing Club; American Rescue Plan Act proposals; email from resident on chapter 61A