

**Carver Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Town Hall Meeting Room #1  
February 2, 2021 - 7:00pm**

In Attendance: Chair Sarah Hewins, Vice-Chair Robert Belbin, Jen Bogart, Jim Hoffman, Mark Townsend, Interim Town Administrator Rick LaFond & Assistant Town Administrator Elaine Weston.

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

**Citizen's Participation:** None

**Appointment to Agricultural Commission:** Paduch is a member of the CCCGA, is a local farmer and has been interested in agriculture and helping in this capacity in the community for many years.

Motion to appoint Mike Paduch to the Agricultural Commission by Townsend second by Hoffman. Belbin asked what other positions in the town he serves in. Paduch stated he is Chair of the Board of Assessors.

Vote 5-0

**Chapter 61A – Roberty J. Perry, Trustee:** Iain Ward present to represent the Trust. The property is on Rochester Road. This is part of the project that was approved by the Planning Board some time ago. This property is 40,734 square feet. The Board of Assessors have given an amount due for rollback taxes.

Bogart asked what the \$10,000 figure is the portion of the property that is coming out of 61A. She questioned if the Town was looking to purchase the property if that would be the purchase price. Hewins asked what reason the town would have to purchase the property. Ward stated that the property has no access points, it is the footprint for the posts and the land is a cranberry bog. The current state requirement is that the rest of the land would remain in 61A. Belbin asked if there was an easement to that property from a main road. Jim Perry, representing the Trust stated there is a tar road that is off of Rochester Road that is part of the property.

Belbin asked if the panels were going over the cranberry bogs – Ward stated they will be horizontal. Belbin asked if there was a retention pond. Ward stated there is a shared retention pond.

Motion to decline the Town's first right of purchase by Townsend, second by Hoffman

Vote 3-2

**Appointments to permitting authorities:** The proposed by-law tries to make it clear that you cannot be on two or more permitting authorities. This is an effort to prevent any perception in the future that may have taken place in the past. The proposed by-law does not prevent you from sitting on a non-permitting authority.

Belbin stated the ZBA should also not sit on another permitting authority. Belbin questioned how elected positions would be handled such as Redevelopment Authority. LaFond stated the Redevelopment is under the same statute as housing authorities, they are not a town board or department, it is a quasi-government role. Bogart stated this is the first time she is hearing mentions on who appoints who. Hewins stated it would eliminate boards and committees from being 'stacked'. Bogart would like to keep the same intention but eliminate the portion on the appointing authority. Hoffman stated there are two issues. Originally it was brought up to not have the same person serve on different boards – and it was brought up to have two different appointing authorities.

Bogart would also like this by-law to address anyone that is currently in this position at the time of the change. LaFond and Townsend stated the Select Board has veto authority to Town Administrator appointments.

Townsend would like to be careful as it can be difficult to find people to fill these positions, and agrees with Bogart on the change in the by-law.

Belbin stated he has applied to be on committees and boards in the past and was not appointed. The Redevelopment Authority at one point had two openings with three applicants and one of the people did not apply.

Motion to approve a placeholder for by-law to be drafted and put on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant by Belbin second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

**Goals & Objective of Select Board:** LaFond stated a facilitator is one of the services that is offered by the Collins Center. There are other means of finding a facilitator, but using the Collins Center may be the least controversial. Hewins did not think the facilitator was useful. Townsend stated the facilitator did a good job, but thinks the board could have accomplished the same goals without one. Hoffman stated his opinion is that the Board can accomplish the same things without one.

Motion by Belbin to not use a facilitator, second by Townsend.

Vote 5-0

**Appointing Authority of the Old Colony Regional Voc. Tech. School Committee:** The Old Colony Regional Tech. Voc. School Committee appointment is done by 3 Select Board members, 3 School Committee members and the Moderator according to the agreement.

Motion by Hoffman to designate the following members for the appointing committee: Bogart, Hewins & Townsend, second by Belbin

Vote 5-0

Covid-19 Update: EMS Director Mike Ryan present for the update: The Town departments have been working together to obtain the proper personal protective equipment which was followed by the proper safeguards including proper disinfecting techniques and now EMS is doing Covid testing for essential town employees to prevent a 14-day quarantine. In conjunction with the Town of Duxbury, first responders were able to get the Covid-19 vaccine. For the first responders that were not able to attend the Duxbury vaccination, they were able to get them through Halifax. Now that we are in phase II, Ryan is receiving many questions through the Council on Aging. Phase II is being done in 4 steps. The first step are those 75 and older. The town has been approved to be a sub-clinic in conjunction with the Town of Duxbury. You need to have a need, which small towns don't have so it is harder to obtain the status. The phases are designed to get the most amount of vaccines out in a small amount of time in primary locations. Secondary locations will be more local and those locations are already established flu vaccine locations, however it is difficult to get an appointment. Carver EMS is looking to establish a program to get to those who have no means of transportation in town. The current locations offering vaccinations locally are:

Hannaford in Middleboro, Stop & Shop in Halifax and Big Y in Kingston.

The rapid antigen test is 99% accurate and a rapid swab is done for a pcr test. The test is done in 10 minutes. Some tests are coming back in 24 hours.

Bogart asked who is paying for the testing. Ryan stated it is covered by Cares Act funding. The state is giving the vaccination for free. The cost is staffing the vaccination clinic, however there are many volunteers. The advantage of going through Duxbury is that they paid for the clinic and submitted the cost to the cares act.

**Request for Farmer Brewery serving permit & Common Victualler License :** Michael Johnson present. He started brewing malt beverages and obtained a license from the state to sell to retailers. He was able to get the former Tiki Kye location to move his business and expand. Belbin asked if he was aware that building was a part of the Urban Renewal Plan. Johnson stated he is aware. Hoffman asked if food will be sold. Johnson stated Eatfitz has rented the kitchen at the same location and they have partnered with them for small plates and may also serve popcorn. Bogart is excited about the business and local collaboration. She also asked if there was a website available. Johnson stated there is a website being launched: Brewery44.com and they have a large social media presence.

Motion to approve by Belbin, second by Townsend

Vote 5-0

### **Town Administrator Update:**

**Plymouth Street Water Line:** The Town is under an Administrative Consent Order to install a water line to service residences impacted by contamination originating from the North Carver Landfill. The Order requires the following deadlines to be met:

- a. 8/30/2020 Filing of all necessary permits with town
- b. 12/30/2020 Secure all necessary permits
- c. 1/31/2021 Send out Invitation for Bid
- d. 4/30/2021 Seek appropriation from Town Meeting
- e. 4/30/2021 Subject to appropriation of funds - award bid
- f. 5/30/2021 Subject to appropriation of funds – begin construction
- g. 11/30/2021 Complete water line to the service point of each impacted dwelling

The invitation for bid is out and is due March 8 and bids will be opened March 8.

### **Budget Update:**

The Fiscal Year 2022 budget will utilize the full 2.5% increase as well as rolling multi-year average of local receipts and maintains the split with the school. The Recreation Coordinator is built into the operating budget. The decrease in local estimated receipts is recognized and as well as is the anticipated savings from the LED Street Light conversion. The budget also takes into account the software for on-line permitting. Planning & Permitting will be hiring a full-time Building Commissioner and the budget maintains a scheduled transfer to the Capital Stabilization Fund. There is an increase in the pension assessment, state and county assessment as well as zero increase in health insurance.

Belbin asked if there was a breakdown of the Plymouth County Assessment. LaFond stated we do not get a breakdown. Belbin requested LaFond find out if we are able to obtain more details.

In review of the FY 21 revenue summary, property taxes make up 62.25%, debt exclusion makes up 2.31%, state aid makes up 28.52% and local receipts make up 5.92%.

Local state aid has remained closely the same over the last several years.

There is a \$44 million budget. Fixed costs are \$8 million leaving \$26.6 million for the school and \$10.7 million for the town. (69.69% school and 30.31% town split) Employee benefits makes up the largest amount of expenses (23%) of the town budget.

Going forward the Town will be diligent in capturing new growth, capturing local receipts, monitoring closely the operating cost of the new police station, complete solar pilots,

permitting fees and seek low impact revenue sources. Shared services and opportunities will be kept in mind.

The 10-year revenue projection is done & state aid is growing at 1% per year which is a problem.

In the Capital Plan has the Library HVAC & Town Hall siding are the 2 big issues. The Finance Committee met last night and approved a transfer for the air tanks for the Fire Department- approximately \$70,000 which will come off of the projected FY 22 capital plan.

There is currently a balanced budget including level services, promotions within the Police Department, a full-time Building Commissioner and the Recreation Coordinator positions.

Hewins asked when the Select Board will be meeting with the Finance Committee on a Saturday. LaFond stated it may be hard to get everyone in the same room and the locations available for larger amounts of people aren't conducive to the conversations that need to happen. They are looking at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in March which is to be determined, or it may be over several evenings.

Belbin stated the library situation was brought back to the Board stating there was an alternative situation. He questioned the roof on both the Library and the Town Hall. LaFond is not aware of the conditions of the rooves. Belbin would like to maintain the structures that the Town has.

LaFond stated there is \$1.4 million in free cash. In FY 22 they are looking to take things out of the operating budget that are not fixed costs. Those items are the Health Mitigation Fund, Plymouth County Pension Amortization, SPED Reserve, North Carver Water District, Replenish Stabilization Fund, Other Post-Employment Benefits, Capital Maintenance.

Belbin questioned the line item In the Select Board, town administrator budget, the Town Hall Additional hours. LaFond stated this is for any additional staff time, cost of living adjustments for non-union employees, funding for collective bargaining agreements that is not budgeted for as well as summer help. LaFond also added that due to a retirement in the office, the Select Board budget will not be filling that position after the retirement.

Bogart asked in regards to the same line item what incentive pay was. LaFond stated this is part of contracts that allows for sick-time buyback, vacation buyback, etc.

#### **Set time for Annual Town Meeting :**

Motion by Townsend to start town meeting 7:00pm, second by Belbin.

Vote 5-0

**Schedule date with KP Law for Open Meeting Law forum:** LaFond & Hewins would like this to be a Zoom workshop. LaFond stated Gregg Corbo is available on February 16 if the Board chooses to hold it that night.

Belbin stated that if this is a workshop, it is not covered under the open meeting law and does not need to be posted as a meeting. Bogart questioned how long the workshop would be. LaFond estimated it may be approximately 2 hours or longer. Hewins asked LaFond if this is something Town Officials would like to do during the workday. LaFond stated there is a benefit to hearing others questions. Belbin asked if there was a pre-recorded video to watch and then have a subsequent meeting with Corbo.

Townsend suggested the meeting start at 5pm. Bogart suggested the KP presentation be at 5. Hoffman would not like to see a limit.

Motion to schedule the forum with KP Law on February 16 at 6pm via Zoom, second by Belbin.

Vote 5-0

Next meeting will not be held on February 16. Hoffman stated 2/16 is during February vacation week. Hewins suggested LaFond request more dates available by KP Law.

Bogart withdrew her motion.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on February 16.

**Community Announcements:** n/a

**Select Board Notes:**

Bogart: Update on Council on Aging: what is open, what is not, what could be done, etc.

Motion to adjourn into Executive Session by Hoffman at 9:30pm in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A sec. 21 (6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the town, and not to return to open session for adjournment, second by Bogart:

Roll Call – affirmative: Belbin, Bogart, Hoffman, Townsend & Hewins