

**Carver Select Board
Meeting Minutes
Town Hall
November 16, 2021 - 6:00pm**

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

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

Motion to go into Executive Session in Accordance with MGL Chapter 30A §21 (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining negotiations with unions: (Police) that may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Town if held in open session & executive session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A §21(a)(7) to comply with or act under the authority of general law (review minutes from Select Board's August 17, 2021 executive session) and to return to open session by Belbin, second by Hewins

Roll Call: affirmative – Bogart, Belbin, Townsend, Hewins and Hoffman.

Open Session: 6:00PM

Citizens Participation: None

Appointment of Special Police Officers: Scott Sampson & Christopher Mahoney

Chief Duphily explained how Scott Sampson is a full-time police officer with the Bridgewater State University Police Department since 1997. He has also worked for the Carver EMS for the past 17 years and as well as a Public Safety Dispatcher for many years.

Chief Duphily explained how Christopher Mahoney is a current Deputy Sheriff with the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department. He has completed the MPTC Reserve Academy. He works as a per-diem public safety dispatcher for the Town and is a Lieutenant on the Fire Department.

Chief Duphily would like to recommend that they be appointed as Special Police Officers for the Town.

Motion to appoint Scott Sampson & Christopher Mahoney as Special Police Officers by Belbin, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

Police Union Contract:

Motion to approve the Police Union Contract by Belbin, second by Hewins.

Vote 5-0

Traffic and public safety concerns related to King Richard's Faire

Chief Duphily explained that there was an extreme increase of traffic this year for King Richard's Faire. He had received many complaints and needs to look into other solutions by using the width of the route, better signage and adding more personnel. In the past, having multiple lanes and using cones was very successful when the traffic was "moderate". Chief Weston explained that he made sure that there was more staffing at the Fire Station on weekends. The Fire Department did not have any issues getting through the traffic this year because of how well the Police controlled and guided the traffic.

Bogart explained that the Board was sent an e-mail from Savery Moore with his suggestion. Chief Duphily asked for this to be forwarded to him and Bogart confirmed that she would.

Belbin thanked Chief Duphily and the officers for their help this year with the Faire.

Hewins also thanked Chief Duphily and the Emergency Departments as well.

Discussion and possible vote to form a working group to address traffic and roadway concerns related to King Richard's Faire:

The working group would include: Chief Duphily, Chief Weston, Chief Ryan, Chief Walsh, Deputy Operations and Maintenance Director John Woods and the Town Administrator.

Hewins explained that she does not believe the Board needs to vote on this and the working group should be formed.

Hoffman asked if anyone from King Richard's Faire would be included in this working group.

Chief Duphily explained that the owner of King Richard's Faire will be involved in this process.

Bogart expressed her appreciation that this working group was presented to the Board.

Create an agency fund for the funding of a traffic engineer to address traffic and roadway concerns related to King Richard's Faire and to authorize the Police Chief, or his designee to expend funds:

Belbin asked how much will be in this fund.

Hewins explained that King Richard's Faire would be funding this, but the agency fund will be a place where the funds can be held.

Belbin would like to see what the working group would come up with for an amount and go from there.

Townsend explained that it is best that they get ahead of this issue as quickly as they can so the issues can be resolved by next year's Faire.

Motion to approve to create an agency fund by Hewins, second by Townsend.

Vote 4-1 (Belbin)

Approval of Agreement between Lakeville and Carver for Lakeville Animal Shelter:

Motion to approve the Agreement between Lakeville and Carver for the Lakeville Animal Shelter by Belbin, second by Hewins.

Vote 5-0

Vote to approve seasonal population: 11,645

Motion to approve the seasonal population of 11,645 by Hewins, second by Belbin.

Vote 5-0

Set date & time for Annual Town Meeting:

Motion to set Annual Town Meeting for April 12, 2021 at 7:00PM and April 14, 2021 as a follow up date by Hewins, second by Belbin.

Vote 5-0

Discussion of Budget Process:

Hewins explained that the majority of the Board is putting the Town in major financial danger. The Finance Director has not been through a full budget process season with the Town and the School Business Administrator has not either. Hewins said that according to our bylaws, the TA must prepare the budget—no one else can do that—not the Select Board, not the Finance Committee, and not the Finance Director. She said the only person right now who understands the budget process here in Carver is Mr. LaFond. An ITA at this point will be just a babysitter and we don't need a babysitter. We need someone who understands the finances, the departments, and the people affected by a budget. The Town is the largest employer in town and that means people's lives will be negatively affected.

Belbin explained that every Town Budget Process is the same and thinks we should focus on the future. Hewins said that Carver is very different from other towns, is organized differently, and has different budgetary needs.

LaFond explained that the budgets need to be submitted to the Finance Committee by January 26, 2022. The departmental budgets are due to the Select Board Office by December 3, 2021.

Hoffman explained that he does not understand why the Interim Town Administrator's contract expires 12/31/21 knowing that this is in the middle of budget process.

Townsend explained that there has been plenty of time to discuss this and everyone knew when the contract expires.

Interview new applicants and vote on new applicants and members from original Town Administrator Screening Committee for committee for at-large and business community rep:

Applicant Kevin Tracey

- Tracey introduced himself to the Board.
- Bogart asked Tracey how far back do you go into in an applicant's past.
- Tracey explained that since you want to find the quality of the individual you will need to go back a good amount.
- Belbin thanked Tracey for applying and for his professional work with the Water District.
- Townsend asked if Tracey was applying for the Business representative or as an At-Large member.
- Tracey explained that he is applying for the Business representative position.
- Hewins thanked Tracey for applying.

Applicant Ellen Blanchard

- Blanchard introduced herself to the Board.
- Hewins confirmed with Blanchard that she was applying for the At-large member position.
- Bogart asked Blanchard how far back do you go into in an applicant's past.
- Blanchard explained how important it is to see how a person has grown since the past and what they have learned.

Applicant Walter Cole

- Cole introduced himself to the Board and explained that he was on the previous Town Administrator Screening Committee (TASC). He had to step back because of some time restraints.
- Bogart asked Cole how far back do you go into an applicant's past.
- Cole explained you can go as far back as you need to go. You need to learn on what their background is and how well they work with others.
- Hoffman thanked Cole for applying and for his effort in the last TASC.
- Hewins thanked Cole for applying.
- Hewins asked Cole if he was applying for the Business or the At-Large position.
- Cole confirmed that he was applying for the Business member position.
- Townsend thanked Cole for applying.

Two Original and One New At-Large Members voted in as:

Mary Ross, Patrick Meagher and Ellen Blanchard

Original Business Member voted in as:

Walter Cole

- Executive Consultant
 - Townsend wanted to point out that there is still a contract with the Executive Consultant.
 - Bogart explained that this time should be used by getting an Interim Town Administrator.
 - Townsend asked the Board if there should be a motion on having him and Elaine Weston to work with the Executive Consultant if he was needed.
 - Hoffman asked why would there be a motion needed if it's already a part of his contract.
 - Belbin suggested on having an Executive Session Meeting to meet with the Executive Consultant to talk about this.
 - The Board did not make a motion on any decisions for this.
- Update on sub-committee for Interim Town Administrator contract extension
 - Bogart explained that she had some confusion on this meeting and why it was posted as an Executive Session. LaFond said that when a subcommittee is appointed by a Board, that sub-committee needs to post a meeting and minutes need to be taken. Hewins added that discussing an extension of Mr. LaFond's contract is a negotiation, whether we're talking money or not, so it had to be not just posted, but posted as an Executive Session. Bogart did not feel comfortable having an Executive Session based on what the prior meeting's agenda said. Hewins offered to leave so Bogart and LaFond could speak one on one. After a thorough conversation, there was no extension agreed upon.
 - Hewins said that the Board acted on that promise by extending the screening committee's search and asked why Bogart is not willing to extend LaFond's contract now. Bogart stated that at the 10/19/21 meeting, when Hewins proposed a six-month extension on LaFond's contract, Bogart asked if continuing the search was included and Hewins said it was not part of her motion. Bogart said she never promised anything.
- Discussion and possible vote on an Interim Town Administrator
 - Hewins made a motion to extend the current Interim Town Administrator contract for 6 months and continue the search for a permanent Town Administrator, second by Townsend. Hewins said that, at the 10/19/21 meeting, Bogart had said she would vote to extend Mr. LaFond's contract if the screening committee's search was continued and on-going.

Vote 2-3 (Bogart, Belbin, Hoffman)

- Belbin made a motion to place an ad for a part-time Interim Town Administrator up to the time of having a contract signed by a new Town Administrator, second by Hoffman.

- Hoffman explained that he was leaning more towards having the ad be posted as a Full-time position rather than Part-time position.

5 Minute Break at 7:33PM

- Hoffman made a motion to advertise for a Full-time Interim Town Administrator, second by Bogart.

Vote 4-1 (Hewins)

Discussion and possible vote: Town Administrator By-law

Bogart wanted to make sure that this By-law gets put on the Warrant for Town Meeting.

Belbin has an additional line, which says “during the term of office of TA, the Select Board deals with discipline, employment, and terminations,” and that he would like to add to the By-law and will be sending it to the Board.

Bogart would like to see this item on a future meeting and have a draft By-law present.

Town Administrator Update:

- 149 & 152 Plymouth Street
 - LaFond explained that there is a court hearing for 152 Plymouth Street.
 - LaFond explained there is a violation for this house and Legal is aware that it will need to be removed.
- Route 44 Project
 - LaFond explained that he attended a meeting the Fire Department had with Hillwood.
 - Belbin asked if this information is going to be relayed to the Redevelopment Authority.
 - LaFond explained that this meeting was more focused on the Fire Department and the water needs.
- Montello Street Interchange Mass works
 - Lafond explained that the site tree cutting has begun and the grubbing of tree stumps will be starting
- Town Planner & Town Assessor position
 - LaFond explained that they have had interviews for both positions and hope to have decisions made within the next week.

Next Meeting: 12/7/21

Approval of Minutes -

10/19/21: Motion to approve as written by Belbin, second by Hewins.

Vote 4-1 (Bogart)

11/2/21: Motion to approve as written by Hewins, second by Townsend.

Vote 3-1-1 (Bogart- no, Belbin abstained)

Executive Session Minutes of 10/19/21 for approval and not for release:

Motion to approve as written and not for release by Belbin, second by Hewins.

Vote 5-0

Select Board Community Announcements:

- Bogart wished everyone a happy early Thanksgiving Holiday
- Belbin wanted to mention that he has not been happy with the actions that are being done with this Board and that they need to hold people accountable.
- Townsend wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving Holiday.

Select Board Notes:

Bogart – 1. Work on scenic roads designation and meaning; 2. Start conversation with Eversource on ways to improve Carver’s power restoration.

1 – Bogart wanted to follow up with the board on the meaning of a scenic road.

2 – Bogart wanted to start a conversation with Eversource about what Eversource or the town can do to make Carver’s power more reliable and resilient in preventing outages. Carver helps other towns get their power, what can be done to make Carver’s own electricity grid stronger? Townsend mentioned that Bogart could reach out to Tom Walsh since he is contact with them when these types of situations happen.

Motion to adjourn by Hoffman at 8:03pm, second by Belbin.

Vote 5-0