

**Carver Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Carver Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
December 17, 2019 - 7:00pm**

In Attendance: Chairman Ronald Clarke, Vice-Chairman Mark Townsend, Robert Belbin, Alan Dunham, Sarah Hewins, Town Administrator Michael Milanoski (TA) & Assistant Town Administrator Elaine Weston (ATA)

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

**Citizens Participation:**

Bob Belbin: Listed several items for the Select Board to look into such as the South Carver Tennis Court as well as complaints against 2 officials and would like to know when it is going to be investigated.

Donna Forand: Thanked everyone that participated and donated to wreaths across Carver

**Request for Appointment to Carver Cultural Council:** Gail Nauen

Motion to approve appointment by Dunham, second by Hewins.

Vote 5-0

**Request to dissolve Fire Station Building Committee:** This comes at the request of Committee Chair Bill Harriman.

Motion to dissolve the committee by Belbin, second by Dunham.

Vote 5-0.

**Town Hall Employee Satisfaction Survey:** ATA reviewed the basis of the survey that was distributed to Town Hall employees. Employee satisfaction is about employee engagement and the way to properly assess employee satisfaction is to identify areas of satisfaction, find what drives employee engagement in the office and then it is the Town's job to take action to improve engagement over time. The areas looked at were environment, supervisor, co-workers and training, development and resources. The questions were customized to pertain to a Town Hall & municipal environment (as opposed to a large, private company). In the areas of work environment, supervisor and co-workers, all but one or two respondents agreed, strongly agreed or were neutral in every question. The area that needs action to improve on is the area of training, development and resources.

**Approve Solar Tax Agreements:** The following have been approved by the Planning Board and Conservation Commission for construction that will follow Carver's Financial Management Policies:

42 Fuller St. for 2.842 Megawatts will be built by Jan. 2021 - \$55,000 in revenue per year

340 Tremont St. for 10 Megawatts will be built by Jan. 2021 - \$192,000 in revenue per year

60 Rochester Rd. for 3 Megawatts will be ready for FY 2021- \$57,000 in revenue per year

All contracts are for 20 years.

Motion to approve all three agreements by Dunham, second by Hewins.

Vote 5-0

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE:

**Petition Article:** Received one petition article. Discussion on if the article will be reviewed by Town Counsel to be put into correct legal form for Annual Town Meeting. TA suggested putting the warrant to Town Counsel for review then it can be decided if Town funds will be used to change it to be in proper legal form. The article will be sent to all Board members.

**Police Station Update:** Contract was signed last week & the committee is in process of planning a kickoff meeting to determine site work start date. Construction cost is \$6.96 million.

**Community Living and Finance Re-Structure Organizational change:**

Motion by Dunham to approve organizational changes, second by Townsend. Belbin would like to vote on each separately.

Motion to withdraw first motion and have Board vote on each separately by Townsend, second by Belbin.

Vote 5-0.

Motion by Dunham for Community Living Organizational Change, second by Townsend.

Vote 3-2

Motion by Dunham for Finance Department Organizational Change, second by Belbin.

Vote 4-1

**Mass Works Grant for Urban Renewal Plan:** Document is under contract and the project is in process with Route 44 Development to get \$100,000 released to move forward with the project. The developer is looking for a tenant for the site. It is unknown who the tenant will be – the Developer will be looking for the tenant.

**Water testing** is continuing to be done. Under EPA standards, never have the wells had results that exceed or meet DEP levels. The most recent results are negative as they have been in the past. Another round of testing is being done. A stipend to the abutting resident for bottled water is being provided. Going forward, receipts will need to be provided in order to receive the stipend to ensure that the Town's funding is being put toward water.

**Cedar Swamp:** Expanding conservation/park land in Town: The process for this was done under land of low value, the parcels were packaged as a group at the auction- this was done strategically-once this is done it allows the land to fall in the tax title process. Director of Planning will be working with the Conservation Commission on this land and will be on the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

Picnic Island is also a parcel of land of low value and that will be re-assessed ( this parcel is on Wenham Rd). This parcel cannot be addressed at the next Annual Town Meeting.

The TA has been working with the original engineering & law firm that is looking to do a subdivision of parcels at the Atwood House on Lakeview St. It was 2 parcels and the developer has created 4 Form A lots. They are odd size lots- of those parcels, 3 of those could sustain and build a house the 4<sup>th</sup> parcel is questionable. TA is looking to see if the 4<sup>th</sup> parcel would be available for the Town to purchase for conservation/open space and put an exclusion on it to limit development in that area. It is possible this could be sold to the Town. There are incentives for the developer to work with the community in order to lower their tax liability (if a developer donates a portion of their land, they can get tax write-offs). If so, TA will bring that to the Board for a funding mechanism, Conservation restriction, etc.

#### **Community Announcements:**

**Dunham:** Wished all Happy Holidays & keep service members in thoughts and prayers

**Belbin:** Wished all Happy Holidays, Thanked Department Heads for their update, asked people to also remember Merchant Marines

**Hewins:** Blight/Nuisance regulation will be posted for public hearing in January on the Board of Health website and thanked the Department Heads for their update

**Townsend:** Wished all Happy Holidays and thanked Donna Forand for spearheading 'Wreaths Across Carver' as well as the volunteers that helped with that event.

**Clarke:** Asked all to remember those not as well off, donate to Shane Gives Thanks as well as other charities & wished all Happy Holidays

#### **Minutes:**

Motion to approve minutes of 11/19/19 by Belbin second by Townsend

Vote 4-0-1 (Dunham abstain)

Motion to approve minutes of 12/3/19 with amendment by Dunham second by Townsend

Vote 4-1

Request for Common Victualler License: Nouria Energy Retail, Inc. d/b/a Amato's @133 North Main St:

Motion to approve by Dunham second by Townsend

Vote 5-0

Request for Common Victualler License: Nouria Energy Retail, Inc. d/b/a Nouria 303 Tremont St

Motion to approve by Dunham second by Townsend

Vote 5-0

Request for Use of Sampson's Pond for Fishing Permit 5/17/20

Motion to approve by Belbin, second by Dunham.

Vote 5-0

Belbin left the table

Request for One Day Special License: Carver Sportsmen's Club 1/31/20 Noon-Midnight

4-0-1 (Belbin recused)

Belbin returned to the table

Motion to adjourn by Belbin, second by Townsend at 8:15pm.

Vote 5-0.

## **Weston, Elaine**

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**From:** Donna Forand <donnaforand@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 20, 2019 7:34 PM  
**To:** Clarke, Ronald  
**Cc:** Milanoski, Michael; Weston, Elaine  
**Subject:** Outraged

**11/20/2019**

**Chairman Ronald Clarke,**

I received an instant message on Facebook to call Mr. Belbin last night November 19, 2019 immediately following the Select Board's meeting. At this meeting the Select Board interviewed me for the Fence Viewer position for the Town of Carver. The vote of the board was 2-2 with Sarah Hewins and Bob Belbin against.

He told me he voted the way he did because of how I acted during the Council on Aging Board of Director's meeting, to which I am Vice Chairman, earlier that evening. I fail to see the correlation between the two, but apparently I was in his view not acting to his liking. After that statement he also inquired as to why I was at a meeting in town hall earlier in the week. I felt interrogated and very uncomfortable to the point of feeling bullied with this type of questioning about a meeting I was supposedly at the week of November 18, 2019. I was at no such meeting. He said he was outside the meeting room door (that in itself made me feel "creepy") and was able to hear during the meeting until an employee closed the door. My real concern is why would a Select Board Member be questioning any resident attending any meeting And why does he feel he has any business asking?

The evening of November 19, 2019 I attended our scheduled Council on Aging meeting. Social Media was on the Agenda. I voiced my opinion in regards to social media and how social media was slandering, hurting me and this committee in the town.

Bob Belbin informed us that he was recording the meeting. Cornelius Shea was also videoing. And I was informed after the meeting Connie put it "live" on Face Book. The board had no knowledge of that.

People in town use social media to slander other people publicly which can affect their jobs and their livelihoods and volunteers for this town. I was passionate against this slander mainly because I work in the senior field and worry about the impact on my career and current employment. But as important, I spoke about this because of the how this slander and negativity are impacting this town.

I also spoke about a discussion in reference to a discussion relative to possible re-organization of the chair and the vice chair. The Agenda Item was ruled "out of order". Members were not able to speak about a communication problem which was the driving force for this agenda item. The Chairwoman was the only one able to voice her thoughts. Mr. Belbin also advised the COA BOD we could not reorganize the COA BOD.

I am requesting that you, Mr. Chairman request a full copy of the video of the Council on Aging meeting on November 19, 2019 since it was recorded by a member of the Select Board who subsequently retaliated against me due to what he perceived as bad behavior.

I also ask you to share that video with all of the selectmen Can you tell me that I acted out of line? That I acted inconsiderate or any other way than to misrepresent this town ? I always have the best interest of this town . I had an opportunity to speak publicly about social media and have it recorded in the minutes and I had the opportunity to have it videotaped you don't always get these opportunities but I took advantage of it. If I am not "allowed" to voice my opinions at a board that was an agenda item during a meeting that I sit on without fear of reprisal from a Select board member or any other appointing authority only to have that same individual use it in making a decision to keep me from volunteering on a different board then how would anyone get appointed to any board if this is the litmus test and is based on personal bias?

I felt this was discrimination against me personally and retaliation by an elected official of the Select Board and I think that Mr. Robert Belbin should be held accountable for his discriminatory and biased opinions concerning's volunteer residents in this town. But most important, I believe the public needs to be made aware that Mr. Belbin is making decisions based on personal feelings and not what is in the best interest of our town.

He voted against me because he didn't like the way I spoke about social media and that I wanted to further discuss reorganization of the chair/vice chair.

I would appreciate this being put on the agenda for the next meeting as I want this resolved in a public meeting with full transparency. Further I would like town council opinion on this grievance for the protection of the town going forward.

I appreciate your diligence with this very serious matter.

Sincerely,  
Donna-Marie Halunen Forand  
Resident

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Kindly,  
Donna-Marie Halunen-Forand