



Town of Swampscott
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 28, 2020 – 6:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Peter Spellos (Chair), Polly Titcomb, Neal Duffy, David Grishman, Don Hause

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT

Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator; Allie Fiske, Assistant to the Town Administrator; Ron Mendes, Assistant Town Administrator – Administration and Finance; Marzie Galazka, Director of Community & Economic Development; Michael McClung, Town Moderator

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

The Select Board stepped through the Town Meeting warrant. The following are comments made on specific articles.

Article 2: Amend Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

The Finance Committee has engaged in discussion on the FY21 budget and will continue to do so prior to Town meeting. What is currently printed in the warrant and what will be mailed will not be the final version of the budget but rather a placeholder.

Article 3: Approve bills for prior fiscal years.

Standard topic in Fall Town Meeting

Article 4: Approve transfer of free cash – collective bargaining agreements

This is a placeholder in the case that any negotiations are completed in time before Town meeting. There will be no amount included in the warrant.

Article 5: Approve transfer of free cash – adjust tax rates

This is a placeholder for the use of free cash to off-set the tax levy. At the next meeting there will be a dry run of the tax recap presentation. Preliminary projects will be available at that time.

Article 6: Authorize increase for retirees cost of living base (COLA)

This typically occurs at the Annual Fall Meeting but this discussion did not happen.

Article 7: Home Rule Petition to Exempt Police and Fire Departments from Civil Service

At the November 4 meeting there will be a more detailed conversation regarding this topic. Neal suggests that the act takes effect on July 1, 2021. This will allow the Town to have everything in place for the transition upon passage by the legislature which is unpredictable.

Article 8: Appropriation for Capital Project – Former Police Station

Chairperson Peter Spellos requested this article be added in anticipation of review of the responses to the Request for Proposals for the former Police Station. Not knowing at the moment what the responses consist of, there may be a need for the Town to have some flexibility in funding to potentially provide some base building improvements to make the building habitable. It was noted that this article is not a commitment to making improvements.

Article 9: Establish Hadley Elementary School Reuse Advisory Committee:

Ron shared a redlined version of the original warrant language. The floor motion may potentially include a date asking the committee to report back to the Select Board by a particular deadline. There was a comment that 17 members may be unwieldy. There was a discussion about whether there is another legal option to limit potential uses for the Hadley and how the Town could potentially limit the use of the building in a Town Meeting Warrant. Zoning could potentially achieve this, though it's unclear how – the Town will look into this further.

Article 10: Proposed Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Technical Amendments

Max Kasper and Marzie will join the meeting next week to discuss this further.

Article 12: Amend General Bylaws – Proposed Noise Bylaw

There have been a lot of comments that have emerged as a result of loud protests on Thursdays, which cause a disruption to the educational environment at the Hadley School. This bylaw would be an attempt to give Town Staff one more tool to deal with this type of issue in the future. This is a placeholder and Town Counsel will fine-tune this further in preparation for the meeting on November 4. There was a question regarding whether or not other communities have this bylaw and if violations have been issued and upheld. The Town will research further.

Article 11: Amendments to Revolving Funds

This was on the Spring Town Meeting and was held and should not be a time-consuming portion of the meeting.

Article 13: Proposed Tree Bylaw

Was intended for Spring Town Meeting but was removed due to COVID-19.

Article 14: Proposed General Bylaw Amendment – Marijuana Licensing

Limits the number of recreational retail establishments to 2. There have been some revisions to the article which need to be reviewed but won't appear in the printed warrant. This needs to be redlined.

Article 15: Citizens Petition: Proposed Capital Project – Repair our Elementary Schools.

This petition secured 109 signatures and has to be included verbatim in the warrant. The Finance Committee, Capital Improvement Committee, and Select Board will all need to comment on this article.

On **MOTION** (Grishman) and **SECONDED** (Hause) it was **VOTED** by roll call to close the Town Meeting Warrant with the change to Article 7 to change the effective date of the Home to July 1, 2021 and authorize Allie Fiske to affix electronic signatures to the warrant.

Budget

Assistant Town Administrator of Administration and Finance Ron Mendes walked through the FY21 budget and highlighted potential adjustments. The Finance Committee has asked if we could propose a reduction of the amount that would be transferred to the general fund from the stabilization fund. Mr. Mendes re-projected meals tax receipts as they were higher than anticipated. Rental income was also restored. There is a suggestion for an adjustment and transferring \$400,000 rather than \$600,000 from the stabilization fund.

Mr. Mendes then reviewed recommended amendments. Of note:

- Reinststate non-union raises
- Reinststate Police Union raises
- Reinststate Fire Union raises
- Reinststate other Town Union raises
- Adjust to accommodate higher than expected end of employment cost
- Adjust legal budget to reflect higher costs/increased hourly rate
- Adjust technology budget – security cameras & dog park/Phillips Park
- Adjust Senior Center vehicle maintenance to make needed repairs to van
- Adjust Health Dept. budget to add INTERFACE Mental Health Referral Program
- Schools – Reinststate non-union COLAS to staff
- Schools – New occupational health nurse
- Schools – New technology Technician

There was as suggestion that the Select Board add an additional meeting on Tuesday, November 10th at 6:00pm for additional discussion on the warrant recommendations as needed.

On **MOTION** (Grishman) and **SECONDED** (Hause) it was **VOTED** by roll call to adjourn the meeting. Roll call: Grishman (YES) Titcomb (YES) Duffy (YES) Titcomb (YES) Hause (YES)

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM

True Attest,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allie Fiske". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allie Fiske, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Select Board 11/4/20