

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – TOWN OF NATICK

MEETING MINUTES

EDWARD H. DLOTT MEETING ROOM – NATICK TOWN HALL

October 17, 2016

6:00 PM

PRESENT: Chairman Richard P. Jennett, Jr., Vice Chair Nicholas S. Mabardy, Clerk Jonathan Freedman, John Connolly, Susan G. Salamoff

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Martha L. White and Executive Assistant Trish O'Neil

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed for those protecting our country.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. White reminded the public about early voting in the Presidential Election (allowed by a new law in Massachusetts) between October 24th and November 4th.

Mr. Connolly asked that recently deceased Al DelMonte, a Korean War veteran with a quick smile and a quick wit, and very active in the Natick community, be kept in everyone's prayers, stating, "He had a heart the size of this room."

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

Natick resident and Korean War veteran John Crisafulli shared his concerns about Natick's goals and potential projects. While supportive of the Rail Trail as an amenity but not a necessity, he opined that federal, state, and tax monies should not be used to support that project, and saw a new Natick fire station, a new Kennedy Middle School, and a new parking garage as projects that should take priority over construction of the Rail Trail.

Jamie Sheridan presented to provide an update regarding Camp Arrowhead to assist the Selectmen in making an informed decision and to request the Board's support in moving forward to make the camp a place of excellence for vets. Mr. Sheridan stated he had been appointed the Amputee Veterans' representative to the camp 15 years prior and that a great deal of clean-up work has been done at the camp. According to Mr. Sheridan, pictures of what the camp could potentially look like were drawn up by the University of Rhode Island and shared with the Conservation Commission and the Recreation & Parks Department as well as the veterans, MassDOT installed a new driveway, \$50,000 worth of tree work was done, and two large storage containers were donated by Eagle Container. A nonprofit corporation has been launched to support the camp and has raised \$20,000 for the kids and vets who will use the property. A Go-Fund-Me page has been launched and a website has been created. A Board of Directors consists of volunteers and amputee veterans. Kevin Kelly, representing the Carpenters' Union in Newton, stated that Mr. Sheridan asked him to come and speak, indicating that the New England Regional Council of Carpenters is offering its full support of the camp and requesting that the Town keep it going for disabled vets and kids. James Crosby, a friend of Mr. Sheridan's and an Iraq veteran suggested that the Town do whatever it can to keep the camp running. Mr. Connolly asked if there may be something going on that he was unaware of, or if there were some indication that the camp would not continue operating, and Mr. Sheridan referenced the upcoming Town Meeting Warrant Article and the desire to promote discussion with the Town. Mr. Connolly asked about insurance reimbursement following the fire and Ms. White stated a check in the amount of \$187,000 has been received. Mr. Connolly stated that he saw no reason why the camp would not continue and that he would look forward to working together.

WHAT'S NEW

Ms. White announced ongoing preparation for the Boston Marathon. The Boston Athletic Association (BAA) has provided the Town with 22 invitational entries, which will be used as a means for area nonprofits to raise funds. Each runner must raise a minimum of \$4,000 for the charity he or she represents; if unable to do so, the runner is personally responsible for the entire \$4,000 donation.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Chair asked if any members of the public or the Board would like to discuss any item on the consent agenda and no discussion was requested. Moved by Mr. Connolly and seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda conditional upon the fulfillment of all recommendations from Town Agencies and/or Departments. The following items were approved.

- a. Banner request for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life from 11/21-11/27/16
- b. Grant of location to Eversource for relocation of 13 poles on Cottage Street

APPOINTMENTS WITH THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

1. **Introduction of John Townsend, Deputy Town Administrator/Finance Director, and Board Vote to Confirm Mr. Townsend's Appointment to this Position:** Ms. White introduced Mr. Townsend, noting his previous work with the Boston Public Health Commission. Mr. Townsend is slated to start on October 26th and Ms. White requested the Board's support for a position of this importance. Mr. Townsend provided information about his background, citing 27 years' experience in public service, some as General Counsel for the Boston Public Health Commission and subsequently as its Director of Administration and Finance, overseeing a budget of \$156 million. Moved by Ms. Salamoff and seconded by Mr. Freedman, the Board voted 5-0-0 in favor of confirming the Town Administrator's appointment.
2. **Interviews for Appointment to the Community Services Advisory Board:** Seven slots are available, three 3-year terms, two 2-year terms, and two 1-year terms. Five candidates have applied, three presenting this evening to provide background information relevant to their desire to become members of the Board. Elaine Ostroff spoke of a desire to improve the quality of life for Natick residents, Sandra Hewitt cited a 40-year healthcare background and a wish to improve the quality of life for people, and Paula Panchuck noted various skills she could bring to the Committee. Linda Vitagliano and Fonda Mangino are scheduled to come before the Board for interviews on November 14th. Moved by Mr. Connolly and seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board voted 5-0-0 to appoint all three candidates to 3-year terms.
3. **Ralph Heymann – Request for Waiver of Five-Year Street Opening Moratorium at 32 Jennings Pond Road:** An Eversource request to dig up and open the street for installation of gas service was denied by the Department of Public Works due to the street opening moratorium in effect until December 31, 2018. Mr. Heymann is appealing that denial since the work to convert to gas has already been started within the interior of the home. Mr. Connolly noted his concern that paving working had recently been done and it would be important for Eversource to ensure that the street is properly put back together. Mr. Mabardy moved to waive the denial with the stipulation that the Town Engineer oversee the work done by Eversource and ensure that it meets with his full approval. Mr. Connolly seconded the motion and it carried on a vote of 5-0-0. However, Mr. Freedman noted that the point of the moratorium is to protect the Town's investments, i.e., tearing up newly paved streets should be avoided, and advised that property owners exercise due diligence so that they know what is expected of them when making improvements and changes to their homes.
4. **Procurement Officer – Award of Contracts:**
 - a. Contract for Installation/Replacement of Carbon Monoxide Detectors: On a motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board voted 5-0-0 to award the contract to Bay State Alarm Security, Inc. in the amount of \$33,864.15 for replacement of the DPW, Police, and Fire carbon monoxide systems.
 - b. Contract for Custodial Cleaning Services: On a motion by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Freedman, the Board voted 5-0-0 to award the custodial cleaning services contract for Town-owned buildings to Greenlife Janitorial Corp. in the amount of \$13.00 per hour based on a historical average of 14.5 hours per week.
 - c. Hazard Mitigation Plan: On a motion by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Freedman, the Board voted 5-0-0 to award the contract to the Horsley Witten Group, Inc. in the amount of \$13,000. Quotes were solicited from six firms with this being the only response submitted.
5. **MASFannon, d/b/a Austin's Liquor Store – Application for Change in Manager – Sean Anderson:** No representative of Austin's Liquors was present at tonight's meeting. The administrative staff will call tomorrow to determine why.
6. **AmVets Post #79 Natick, Inc. – Application for Change in Manager – John Connery:** Mr. Jennett asked to postpone consideration of this application and agreed to update the Board Members at a later time.

7. **Brushes Bites Bottles, LLC, d/b/a Palettes – Application for Change in Manager – Mallory Powell**: Steve Levinsky, the Managing Partner for Palettes, introduced Mallory Powell, whom he has been working closely with to transfer the day-to-day operations. Mr. Connolly pointed out that Lt. Lauzon had provided a positive recommendation. On a motion by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board voted 5-0-0 in favor of appointing Ms. Powell manager.
8. **Approve Request to Occupy a Public Way – Gorman Richardson Lewis Architects – 10-20 Main Street – Two Days During the Week of 10/24/16**: An aerial lift will be in operation with an area cordoned off. There will be an OSHA-certified training officer as well as a police detail on site. The property manager will issue notices to its tenants. Police Department approval has been obtained. Moved by Mr. Connolly and seconded by Mr. Freedman, the Board voted 5-0-0 in favor.
9. **Josh Ostroff, CRT Advisory Committee Chair – Update on Article 3 for Special Town Meeting #2**: Article 3 was heard by FinCom last week but no vote was taken; it will be taken up again at the next meeting. Mr. Ostroff will be in touch with the Finance Committee Chair and Town Counsel to discuss concerns with the Motion. Mr. Ostroff requested that Article 3 be included on the Board's October 24th agenda since the appropriate motion needs to be developed for Town Meeting. FinCom also expressed concern about the Town's liability related to environmental issues, asking for further clarification on lead and arsenic levels from the Board of Health. Mr. Ostroff stated there was nothing encouraging to report about State aid and asked if the Board would consider authorizing the Chair to send a letter to MassDOT requesting funding for the bicycle and pedestrian plan. Moved by Mr. Mabardy and seconded by Mr. Connolly, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Chair to send a letter to MassDOT as above.
10. **Public Hearing – 2017 Licensing Fees**: After reading the Notice, Mr. Freedman moved to open the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mabardy and the Board voted 5-0-0 to open the Public Hearing. Mr. Freedman stated he would not recommend fee increases since encouraging the success of small, local businesses is important, and an increase in fees would not have much of an impact on the Town's revenue stream in any case. Other of the Selectmen voiced similar opinions. Ms. Salamoff suggested starting the fee review process earlier next year to allow time for more analysis. Moved by Mr. Connolly and seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board voted 5-0-0 to close the Public Hearing. Moved by Mr. Connolly and seconded by Mr. Freedman, the Board voted 5-0-0 to maintain all licensing fees as they are for 2017.

The Board recessed at approximately 8:33 and reconvened at 8:45.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION

11. **Discussion of 2016 Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles – 1, 9, 10, 11, 13, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30**:
 - a. **Article 13 – Personnel Board Classification and Pay Plan**: Steve Levinsky, Chair of the Personnel Board, discussed increasing the salary ranges for the full-time pay plan. Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, moved to support favorable action and the motion carried on a vote of 5-0-0.
 - b. **Article 1 – Fiscal 2017 Omnibus Budget**: Mr. Chenard explained that there will be a reduction in the Operating Budget of \$493,175, which includes the reprinting of the Town Report. Feeling reprinting of the Town Report was unnecessary, Ms. Salamoff moved, seconded by Mr. Connolly, for a \$496,925 reduction to exclude reprinting of the Town Report. Mr. Freedman thought keeping the option to reprint open would allow for more flexibility. Mr. Mabardy agreed. Mr. Freedman, seconded by Mr. Mabardy, moved to support a \$493,175 reduction to include reprinting of the Town Report. Both motions were voted on separately, the former with a 2-3-0 vote (with Mr. Mabardy, Mr. Freedman, and Mr. Jennett casting dissenting votes) and the latter with a 3-2-0 vote (with Ms. Salamoff and Mr. Connolly casting the dissenting votes).
 - c. **Article 9 – Capital Equipment**:
 - i. Motion A: Moved by Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Mr. Freedman
\$1,291,000 Favorable Action 5-0-0
 - ii. Motion B: Moved by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Mr. Connolly
\$295,000 Favorable Action 5-0-0
 - iii. Motion C: Moved by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Mr. Connolly
\$20,000 Favorable Action 5-0-0
 - iv. Motion D: Moved by Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Mr. Connolly
\$187,000 Favorable Action 5-0-0
 - d. **Article 10 – Capital Improvement**:
 - i. Motion A: Moved by Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Mr. Freedman

- \$245,000 Favorable Action 4-1-0 (Mr. Connolly=Dissenting Vote)
 - ii. Motion B: Moved by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Salamoff
\$2,370,000 Favorable Action 5-0-0
 - iii. Motion C: Moved by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Ms. Salamoff
\$1,650,000 Favorable Action 5-0-0
 - iv. Motion D: Moved by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Mr. Connolly
\$170,000 Favorable Action 5-0-0
 - v. Motion E: Moved by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Ms. Salamoff
\$150,000 Favorable Action 5-0-0
 - e. Article 11 – Collective Bargaining:
 - i. Clerical: Moved by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Ms. Salamoff
Favorable Action 5-0-0
 - ii. DPW: Moved by Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Mr. Connolly
Favorable Action 5-0-0
 - iii. Library: Moved by Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Mr. Connolly
Favorable Action 5-0-0
 - f. Article 24 – Amend Zoning By-Laws Regarding Micro Breweries: The Planning Board voted favorably; FinCom voted referral. Mr. Freedman noted that he knew nothing about this Article and would have trouble voting it. Ms. White agreed to have someone from the Planning Board come to the next BOS meeting on October 24th to discuss it so no vote was taken.
 - g. Articles 25, 26, 27 – Amend Zoning By-Laws Regarding Dimensional Requirements: Mr. Jennett requested postponing discussion to October 24th to allow a Planning Board member to be present for discussion.
 - h. Articles 29 & 30 – Amend the Natick Zoning Bylaw to Create an Assisted Living Option Overlay District (ALOOD) & Include Certain Parcels of Land on Eliot Street and Everett Street in the Assisted Living Option Overlay District (ALOOD): FinCom and the Planning Board both recommended referral. Mr. Freedman requested moving these Articles to the October 24th meeting in order to have a Planning Board Member present.
- 12. Discussion of 2016 Special Town Meeting #2 Warrant Articles – 1, 6, 12:**
- a. Article 1 – Middlesex Garage Feasibility Analysis: FinCom recommended approval. Mr. Freedman asked about the funding source and Ms. White responded it would be Free Cash. Mr. Connolly pointed out that this topic has been studied multiple times. Moved by Ms. Salamoff and seconded by Mr. Freedman, the Board voted 5-0-0 favorable action.
 - b. Article 6 – Appropriation of Insurance Proceeds – Camp Arrowhead: Insurance proceeds of \$187,193.82 for reconstruction of Camp Arrowhead require a Town Meeting appropriation. The funds will be administered under the direction of the Board of Selectmen. Moved by Mr. Connolly and seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board voted 5-0-0 favorable action.
 - c. Article 12 – Supplement FY 2017 Funding for the Bacon Free Library: FinCom and the Administration are in support. Moved by Ms. Salamoff and seconded by Mr. Freedman, the Board voted 5-0-0 to appropriate an additional \$5,000 to the annual budget for books and materials for the Bacon Free Library.
- 13. Discussion Regarding Fiscal Year 2017 Selectmen's Goals:** Discussion postponed to next meeting.
- 14. Proposed Amendments to Financial Management Principles:** Proposed is the inclusion of a funding plan for OPEB with new language added to the Financial Management Principles. Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, moved to adopt the new language with the Board voting 3-2-0 in favor, Mr. Mabardy and Mr. Connolly casting the dissenting votes. Mr. Connolly then made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mabardy, to hold off on changing the language in the Financial Management Principles until December when more information would be available. The Board voted 2-3-0 against the motion, Mr. Mabardy and Mr. Connolly voting in favor and the remaining Board Members voting against.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR NOTES

Ms. White mentioned the upcoming MMA Conference.

SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS

Mr. Mabardy noted that the cable service went out during last night's FinCom meeting, with a statement given to FinCom that the meeting was no longer live but was being recorded. Mr. Mabardy asked Mr. Chenard to

provide him with DOR statements, noting that he would like to see that taxpayers somehow get some relief from the Free Cash that is available.

Mr. Freedman welcomed Mr. Townsend and expressed concern over the amount of pressure that has been placed on Mr. Chenard, recognizing all of his efforts over the last several weeks.

Ms. Salamoff stated that a resident told her a Town vehicle brought wires down and caused a garage fire, but noted that many wires in town are hanging too low. Mr. Connolly pointed out that Eversource is one of the companies to which the wires belong.

Mr. Connolly thought the Marathon numbers were great and was appreciative of all the follow-up from the people who ran last year. Ms. White noted that Ms. Donovan had an idea to provide matching t-shirts to all of the Natick runners. Mr. Connolly asked for a visit from the people handling the Marion Street Bridge project.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Mabardy, the Board unanimously voted on a roll call vote to adjourn the Board of Selectmen’s Meeting at 11:55 p.m.

Richard P. Jennett, Jr., Clerk
January 29, 2018

October 17, 2016 Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes Approved by the Board of Selectmen on January 29, 2018

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All documents used at this Board of Selectmen meeting are available at:
<https://naticktown.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/MeetingView.aspx?MeetingID=308&MinutesMeetingID=-1&doctype=Agenda>