

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – TOWN OF NATICK

MEETING MINUTES

EDWARD H. DLOTT MEETING ROOM – NATICK TOWN HALL

March 19, 2018

5:30 PM

PRESENT: Chairman Jonathan Freedman, Vice Chair Susan G. Salamoff, Clerk Richard P. Jennett, Jr., Michael J. Hickey, Jr., and Amy K. Mistrot

ALSO PRESENT: Acting Town Administrator Bill Chenard and Executive Assistant Trish O’Neil

After calling the public meeting to order at 5:40 p.m., noting that a quorum was present and that the meeting had been duly posted, the Chair requested a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to Litigation, Executive Session Minutes, and Trade Secrets or Confidential Proprietary Information Regarding Activities by a Government Body as Energy Supplier, Municipal Aggregator, or Energy Cooperative, with the Chair announcing that discussion of Executive Session matters in Open Session would have a detrimental effect on the Board of Selectmen’s negotiating position and the Town’s interests. Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, moved to enter into Executive Session and, by a roll call vote, all Board Members voted in favor of the motion. The Board entered into Executive Session at 5:45 p.m., the Chair announcing that the meeting would return to Open Session at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Open Session reconvened at 7:12 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed for those protecting our country.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Freedman announced the selection of Melissa Malone as the new Town Administrator and provided relevant information regarding her previous work experience.

ASK THE TOWN:

Mr. Chenard provided voting locations by precinct, noting that this information, maps, and sample ballots are all online. He encouraged contact with the Town Clerk for any questions.

WHAT’S NEW

Randy Brewer, the Pegasus Station Manager, talked about multiple recent improvements to Natick cable, including new 24/7 live streaming capability accessible on any tablet, computer, laptop, or phone.

CITIZEN’S CONCERNS

Josh Ostroff of Precinct 6, a Town Meeting Member, commented that the Town sent out a required mailing explaining the text of certain proposed Charter changes that would be on next Tuesday’s ballot, questions 2-5. He explained that question 1 on the ballot regarding the debt exclusion was not included in the mailing simply because the Town is not allowed to follow the same process for a debt exclusion.

COMMITTEE/PROJECT UPDATES:

Camp Arrowhead Update: Meant to be a simple update on the demolition and restoration process at Camp Arrowhead following a 2016 fire, this topic was taken out of order due to overwhelming public concern regarding the cancellation of the annual, week-long “Big Res” overnight camp held in New Hampshire for the past 30 years. Jemma Lambert, Director of Community Services, and Karen Partanen, Recreation & Parks Director, cited multiple safety concerns around the structure and organization of the residential camp that

were deemed by Town Counsel to be a liability to the Town. Concerns were noted in three general areas: 1) the comingling of adults and children in the sleeping quarters, 2) the fact that the camp is shared with another camp and programs, and 3) the remote location of the camp, 20-25 minutes away from medical care, with only one land line and very poor cell phone service. It was thought prudent to replace the one-week, overnight camp with a two-week day camp experience for the same population that would typically participate in the residential program. Asked by Mr. Freedman if consideration was given to alternatives to mitigate the perceived risks, Ms. Lambert stated they obtained an opinion from Town Counsel only about the risks vs. benefits of the program. Mr. Hickey asked if any risk management was discussed at all or if there was any conversation with the Acting Town Administrator or the Recreation & Parks Commission. Ms. Partanen stated that the matter was discussed with the Recreation & Parks Commission, who offered their full support, agreeing that the risks were many and that it was probably time to discontinue the program, but no input was received from the Acting Town Administrator or other Town staff. Several members of the public spoke to the issue. Tim Luff, the Assistant Superintendent for Student Services for the School Department, spoke as a former 14-year volunteer and staff member at the camp, noting the impact the camp has had on children with disabilities in terms of building life skills and making great memories. He credited his tenure at Camp Arrowhead with giving him a path to follow and helping him to become a better person in general. Mr. Luff disagreed that a lengthy emergency response time was an issue and noted that nursing and lifeguard services are provided on site. He recommended that the Acting Town Administrator reinstitute the program and volunteered to assist in finding ways to mitigate any potential concerns. Jon Marshall spoke in his capacity as the former Director of Recreation & Parks, many-year volunteer at the camp, and leader in recreational programs, stating that Camp Arrowhead has always followed best practices, followed by an annual review of what may or may not have worked. He, too, recommended reconsideration and offered the services of many former volunteers, including himself, with years of expertise to find a way to make the camp better rather than eliminate it. Mr. Freedman noted that under the Town Charter, the Board of Selectmen is prohibited from exercising direct control over the day-to-day operations of the Town, so what programs are run is really an administrative decision. Acknowledging that there may be real concerns, Mr. Freedman asked to hear more about ways to mitigate them regardless of cost and regardless of liability. Mr. Chenard agreed that that was the right thing to do and agreed to gather more information, offering his email address to the public to write in with their concerns and suggestions. Mr. Jennett stated he felt it was the Board's responsibility to ensure that the public is heard and expressed disappointment that the program was eliminated without any public discussion, without input from the people it would affect, and without any discussion with the Board of Selectmen or Town Administration. Mr. Jennett asked to hear from people who had come to tonight's meeting. Several people spoke in favor of reinstating the camp, including a Ms. Rafferty from Holliston whose daughter, now grown, had participated in the overnight camp since the age of 10 and considered it the highlight of her life; Rosalyn Ferber of 16 Pumpkin Pine Road, the mother of a camper who referred to the camp as "the gem of the Recreation Department;" and Matt Frechette of 76 Rockland Street, a prior staff member at Camp Arrowhead, who offered complete support for the camp. Ms. Partanen stated that agreement had been reached among Recreation & Parks Commission Members present and others contacted via text to hold a Public Meeting next Monday night to solicit public input. An alert will be placed on the website about the time and location and Natick Pegasus will be asked to televise the meeting.

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. Jennett 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:

1. Resignation of Anna Mancini from the Natick Historical Commission and thank you letter
2. Exemption from Town By-Laws Chapter 41, Section 4 for Elizabeth Fagan and Taylor Federico Grome
3. Authorization for Chair to sign a letter of support for a Bacon Free Library statutory change to Section 5 of Chapter 252 of the Acts of 1908
4. One-day entertainment permit for Warrior Thunder Foundation on 4/13/18
5. Request to occupy a public way by Wireless Construction, 3/22-3/23/18 (rain date: 3/26-3/27/18)
6. Request to occupy a public way by LeBelle Spa from 4/2-4/27/18

7. Bagging of parking meters on Election Day, 3/27/18
8. Weekly warrant reviews for 3/2/18 and 3/12/18
9. Meeting minutes for 2/26/18 and 3/5/18

APPOINTMENTS WITH THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

1. **Nolan Palmer, Master Councilor – Proclamation for the International Supreme Council Order of DeMolay:** Mr. Jennett read aloud the proclamation from the Board of Selectmen recognizing the leadership and outreach work of the young men of the Order of DeMolay. Young Mr. Palmer thanked the Board and stated the Order is always available to perform civic service.
2. **Biryaniz n Breadz – Application for a Common Victualler's License:** Attorney Doug Stoddard spoke on behalf of the applicants, Karthik Birndavolu, Satya Pal, and Girish Damireddy, all men who grew up in southern India and have master's degrees in computer science. They will be taking over the Asia Bistro Restaurant. Their landlord was also present in support of their license. Also present was Attorney Arthur Pearlman who indicated that he will be handling their liquor license and will return to the Board for approval. Moved by Ms. Salamoff and seconded by Ms. Mistrot, the Board voted 5-0-0 in favor of approving the Common Victualler's License.
3. **Procurement Officer – Contracts:**
 - a. **Second Amendment to Natick 2030 Master Plan:** Moved by Ms. Mistrot and seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board voted 5-0-0 in favor of amending the contract with Crosby, Schlessinger, & Smallridge, LLC, removing the two-year term in Article 3 and replacing it with a three-year term, thereby extending the term of the contract to March 27, 2019. There will be no funding or cost implications.
 - b. **South Main Street Cleaning/Lining:** Moved by Mr. Jennett and seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board voted 5-0-0 in favor of awarding the contract to Biszko Contracting Corporation for the complete main bid work in the amount of \$746,162.07.
Funding: Account No 655403 580550 FY 2018 (Fall 2017) FATM Article 10
 - c. **Fuel Depot Replacement:** Moved by Mr. Jennett and seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board voted 5-0-0 to award the contract to CommTank, Inc. for the complete main bid work in the amount of \$278,865.
Funding: 2016 Fall STM "Replace Fuel Depot Storage Tanks" \$196,000
MassDOT Chapter 90 Program \$82,865
4. **DPW Director – South Main Street – Modified Option #3:** Mr. Freedman reminded the Board that no substantial discussion about the South Main Street Reconstruction Project would take place this evening and that there will be a Public Meeting on March 28th when an in-depth discussion would take place with input from the public. Mr. Marsette explained that revised Alternative #3 will comply with the Complete Streets Policy, narrowing the proposed travel lines, providing bicycle accommodation, allowing for sidewalks on both sides of the street, setting back utility poles farther from the travel lanes, etc.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION

5. **Middlesex Parking Garage Update:** Present were Ted Fields, Community and Economic Development Senior Planner, and Brandon Schrenker of Walker Parking Consultants. Mr. Schrenker stated that a demand analysis has been completed that looked at field conditions and future development potential and an understanding has been gained of what the current demand is and what the future development could be. An environmental assessment has been done and there is a high probability that there will be contaminated soils on the site. Stakeholder interviews were done with opinions obtained about current parking and future parking needs. The next step is to look at the site itself, the possibility of purchasing adjacent sites, and the potential for mixed use. From there a dozen or so options will be whittled down to three or four, and then to two. Mr. Fields stated that a draft Existing Conditions report will be made available to the Board and on the website tomorrow. The objective is to have a draft report ready by June.

6. **Parking Advisory Staff Working Group**: Jamie Errickson, Director of Community & Economic Development, provided an outline of priorities, current and short-, medium-, and long-term, that the Working Group is considering. Some future plans will be dependent upon what happens when a parking garage is built. On March 27th and April 6th, workshops are going to be held to address signage in downtown Natick and parking plans will be a part of that. Mr. Freedman requested that the Board be kept up to date on the group's progress.
7. **Review of Fiscal Year 2019 Budget – Community Services**: This budget was discussed at a previous meeting.
8. **2018 Spring Annual Town Meeting Articles – 1, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22**: Jan D'Angelo, the Assessor, discussed Article 17, a recurring article that increases personal exemptions. FinCom voted Favorable Action. Ms. D'Angelo stated she is looking for continued support for this Article, which provides a uniform increase to personal exemptions for the elderly and disabled veterans. Moved by Ms. Mistrot and seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board voted 5-0-0 to recommend Favorable Action. Moved by Ms. Mistrot and seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board voted 5-0-0 to recommend Favorable Action on Articles 1, 10, 12, 15, and 16 and to recommend No Action on Article 11. Mr. Freedman stated that since Articles 20, 21, and 22 are sponsored by the Charter and By-Law Review Committee and no one was present to discuss them, no recommendation would be made.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR NOTES

None.

SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Ms. Mistrot, the Board unanimously voted on a roll call vote to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 9:56 p.m.

Michael J. Hickey, Jr., Clerk

March 19, 2018 Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes Approved by the Board of Selectmen on April 17, 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=502&MinutesMeetingID=-1&doctype=Agenda>