

# BOARD OF SELECTMEN – TOWN OF NATICK

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## MEETING MINUTES

EDWARD H. DLOTT MEETING ROOM – NATICK TOWN HALL

NOVEMBER 13, 2018

6:00 PM

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Town Administrator Melissa A. Malone, Deputy Town Administrator/Operations Bill Chenard, and Executive Assistant Trish O’Neil

After calling the public meeting to order at 6:06 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 Purpose 6: To consider the purchase of real property where discussion in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Town: Winona Farm, and Purpose 3: To discuss strategy with respect to litigation where discussion in Open Session could be detrimental to the Town's position: Opioid Litigation - Atty. Broggia, Scott + Scott; Kurtin, et al v. Natick Planning Board, et al, 18-MISC-00456 (Land Court); and E.L. Harvey. Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Mr. Hickey, moved to enter into Executive Session and all Board Members voted in favor of the motion, as confirmed by the following roll call vote:

Ms. Mistrot	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey	Yes
Mr. Freedman	Yes
Mr. Jennett	Yes

The Chair announced that the meeting would return to Open Session at approximately 7:30 p.m. The Board entered into Executive Session at 6:09 p.m.

Open Session reconvened at 7:49 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed for those protecting our country.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Mistrot commented on all the enjoyable Veterans’ Day activities that took place, as did Ms. Salamoff.

Mr. Hickey read a proclamation aloud, proclaiming November 24<sup>th</sup> as Small Business Saturday.

Ms. Salamoff related that there were recently two grand openings of small businesses in Natick Center, the Dreams Come True Boutique and Paper Fiesta and welcomed both to the Town.

## CITIZEN’S CONCERNS

None.

## REQUESTED ACTION

1. Barbara Shenker: Interview for Three-Year Appointment to the Historic Commission and/or Historical District Commission (Terms Expire 6/30/2021): A 20-year resident of Natick, Ms. Shenker provided background information about her service on the Natick Cultural Council and interest in and appreciation of historic properties. Unclear about which would be best for her, it was determined

2. that the Committee with the narrower scope, the Historic District Commission, would best serve. Moved by Ms. Salamoff and seconded by Mr. Freedman, the Board voted 5-0-0 to appoint Ms. Shenker to a three-year term, expiring on June 30, 2021, to the Historic District Commission.
3. Donna Maciel: Request for Water Abatement: Ms. Malone advised the Board that the petitioner was already provided an abatement and that the Deputy Town Administrator for Operations had exercised the full discretion allowable. Ms. Maciel explained that there had been a toilet leak that she had no knowledge of until she received a very high water and sewer bill of \$3800. Ms. Malone relayed that it was the Deputy Town Administrator's opinion that issuing an additional abatement would be in the best interests of the Town and the ratepayer given the circumstances. Mr. Chenard recommended abating to the average use for the same quarter for the three previous years at the current rates. Moved by Mr. Jennett and seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board voted 5-0-0 in favor.
4. Public Hearing: Change of Address from 1225 Worcester St. to 1 Superior Drive and 3 Superior Drive: Mr. Hickey read the Public Hearing Notice. Moved by Mr. Jennett and seconded by Mr. Freedman, the Board voted 5-0-0 to open the Public Hearing. Discussion with Katie Snyder of National Development revealed that Superior Drive would be better for GPS directional services for the planned 62 and older residence and the new Marriott Residence Inn, both currently under construction. There was no further input from the public. Moved by Mr. Freedman and seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board voted 5-0-0 to close the Public Hearing. Moved by Mr. Freedman and seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board voted 5-0-0 to approve the address change as requested.
5. Public Hearing: Change of Address from 1284R Worcester Street to 33 Strathmore Road: Mr. Hickey read the Public Hearing Notice. Moved by Mr. Freedman and seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board voted 5-0-0 to open the Public Hearing. Discussion with David Pratt of Atlantic Development revealed, again for GPS directional services, that the better address would be Strathmore Road. There was no further input from the public. Moved by Mr. Jennett and seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board voted 5-0-0 to close the Public Hearing. Moved by Mr. Jennett and seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board voted 5-0-0 to approve the address change as requested.
6. Police Chief: Approve Provisional Appointment of Police Sergeant - Officer Scott Lacerra: The Police Chief requested that this item be postponed.
7. Public Hearing: Fiscal 2019 Property Tax Classification: Mr. Hickey read the Public Hearing Notice. Moved by Mr. Jennett and seconded by Mr. Freedman, the Board voted 5-0-0 to open the Public Hearing. Assessor Jan Dangelo and Assistant Assessor Eric Henderson provided a presentation with a recommendation to maintain the single tax rate. The Board of Assessors was present in support of doing so. Mr. Henderson stated that splitting the tax rate would reduce the Town's include and Ms. Malone stated that the single tax rate was very attractive to Standard & Poor's, with whom the Town has a Triple A rating. Bob Caplin, a Natick resident and advocate for a split tax rate, also gave a presentation in support of his opinion. Josh Ostroff also spoke about considering a concept that would shift the tax burden within the residential class that would benefit qualified senior citizens with a somewhat lower tax rate. With no further input from the public, Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Jennett, moved to close the Public Hearing and the Board voted 5-0-0 in favor. Each of the Selectmen provided their own opinions, all ultimately coming to the conclusion that splitting the tax rate would do more harm than good, citing upcoming bonding considerations, borrowing for the new Kennedy School and Fire Station, and potentially discouraging new businesses from coming to Natick. Moved by Mr. Jennett and seconded by Mr. Freedman, the Board voted 5-0-0 in maintaining the current tax rate.
8. Treasurer: Establish Useful Life for Equipment in Anticipation of Borrowing: Deputy Town Administrator/Finance, John Townsend, stated that the upcoming borrowing process of approximately \$96 million for the new Kennedy School and Fire Station must include approving the useful life of projects, which must be equal to or longer than the borrowing term, that will be funded through those debt obligations and provided a list of BANs and new borrowing for the Board to approve. Moved by Mr. Jennett and seconded by Mr. Freedman, the Board voted 5-0-0 the maximum useful life of the departmental equipment and capital improvements listed below to be financed with the proceeds of the borrowings authorized by the vote of Town Meeting to be as follows:

Project Title	Amount	TM Approval	Max Useful Life
Cochituate Rail Trail Acquisition	\$2,960,000	2016SPEC2	30
Kennedy Middle School Design	\$2,975,000	2017FATM17	30
Replace SCBA Equipment	\$350,000	2017FATM9B7	10
Replace Trash Packer (Vehicle 504)	\$305,000	2018FATM13A1	7
Replace Truck/Sander (Vehicle 408)	\$250,000	2018FATM13A2	7
Replace H-70 Trackless (Vehicle 426)	\$220,000	2018FATM13A3	10
Replace Fire Station 4 (West Natick)	\$15,560,000	2018FATM15	30
Route 27 (North Main Street) Improvements	\$2,000,000	2018FATM18	15
Replace S-5 Fire Alarm & Signal Bucket Truck	\$200,000	2018SATM13B1	7
Engineering & Repairs To Charles River Dam	\$675,000	2018SATM14B1	30
Roadway & Sidewalks Supplement	\$1,000,000	2018SATM14B2	15
Roadway Improvements Washington Ave	\$2,500,000	2018SATM14B3	15
Kennedy Middle School Upgrade/Replacement	\$105,835,000	2018SPEC1	30
SCADA Equipment Upgrade	\$125,000	2017FATM9C8	10
Chlorine Gas Scrubber	\$320,000	2017FATMC9	10
Water Distribution System Enhancements	\$150,000	2018FATM14B1	30
Replace W-26 Dump Truck	\$220,000	2018SATM13C1	7
Fox Hill Drive Water Main Replacement	\$667,000	2018SATM14C1	30
Replace Ground Water Wells	\$500,000	2018SATM14C2	20
East Central Water Main Abandonment	\$850,000	2018SATM14C3	20
Trim Mower	\$35,000	2018SATM13G2	7
Main Pump Heads	\$35,000	2018SATM13G2	10
Greens Mower	\$38,000	2018SATM13G1	7

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN UPDATES**

Status Update: Acquisition of 22 Pleasant Street: Topic postponed to next meeting.

## **DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

1. Review and Establish Parking Permit Fees: Ms. Malone recommended adjusting fees for resident parking permits to \$825 (an increase of \$175), and for nonresident parking permits to \$1200, stating that the \$175 increase is only \$45 more than Framingham charges and amounts to only about a \$3 per day increase for residents and a \$5 per day increase for nonresidents. Ms. Malone noted the Board's prior year's provision to give preference for permits to Town residents but recommended setting a fee for both residents and nonresidents for 2019 in the event that the Town may be able to accommodate nonresident parking. Some of the Board Members wished to postpone the vote since they had not had much time to give thought to the suggested rates as they were not made available until today. Josh Ostroff spoke, saying that for many people, writing an \$800 check in December is a burden and suggested that when there is bandwidth and time, Natick should start thinking about its parking resources and inventory more comprehensively. Further discussion ensued and the Board ultimately voted 5-0-0 to set the annual rates at \$825 for residents and \$1200 for nonresidents, reaffirming that Natick residents have priority with nonresident permits to be given out after January 15<sup>th</sup> only if space is available. The vote followed a motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Freedman.
2. Appointment of Temporary Treasurer: Ms. Malone asked the Board to affirm her appointment of John Townsend, Deputy Town Administrator and Finance Director, as the Interim Treasurer until such time as the position is filled. Moved by Ms. Salamoff and seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board voted 5-0-0 to affirm the Town Administrator's appointment.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The Chair asked if any members of the public would like to discuss any item on the consent agenda and no discussion was requested. Moved by Mr. Jennett and seconded by Mr. Hickey, 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. Free two-hour holiday parking/bagging of meters as requested by Natick Center Associates
2. Reappointment of Brian Fay to the MathWorks Scholarship Committee
3. Use of the Town Common by the Chabad Center of Natick for placement of the Menorah from 11/28/18-12/13/18
4. Use of the Town Common for the Natick is United Vigil on 11/19/18 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
5. Use of the Town Common by St. Patrick's Church for placement of the Christmas Creche from 12/10/18-1/7/19

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR NOTES**

Ms. Malone announced that Natick has been allotted 22 Boston Marathon bibs. Though nonresidents have been given bibs in the past, Ms. Malone feels that Natick residents and Natick employees should be given preference before giving the opportunity to others. In addition, Ms. Malone has decided to make other changes, including only Natick-based charities and raising the amount that must be raised by a runner for a charity from \$4,000 to \$6,000, feeling that it is a more organized way to handle the process.

### **SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS**

Mr. Jennett stated there is a depression on South Main Street from the water relining project and residents have been reported that their windows rattle whenever a truck goes over it. It has been reported to the DPW but nothing has been done.

Ms. Salamoff stated that the Do Not Enter Sign on East Evergreen is very dangerous to people not familiar with the area.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board voted unanimously adjourn the Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 11:22 p.m., confirmed by a roll call vote as follows:

Ms. Mistrot	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey	Yes
Mr. Freedman	Yes
Mr. Jennett	Yes

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Michael J. Hickey, Jr., Clerk

Submitted by Trish O'Neil, Executive Assistant

November 13, 2018 Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes Approved by the Board of Selectmen on \_\_\_\_\_

**All documents used at this Board of Selectmen meeting are available at:**

<https://naticktown.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/MeetingView.aspx?MeetingID=578&MinutesMeetingID=-1&doctype=Agenda>