



NATICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Edward H. Dlott Meeting Room
Monday, September 16, 2019
6:00 PM

OPEN SESSION - Call to Order; Roll Call Vote to Enter Executive Session

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. The Chair requested a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss:

A. Purpose 3 - To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the Chair so declares

Collective Bargaining Agreements:

Supervisors' and Administrators' Association (DPW Supervisors)
Public Employees Local Union 1116 (DPW Laborers)
Public Employees Local Union 1116 (Clerical)
Public Employees Local Union 1116 (Library)

LIUNA: Laborers' Internal Union of North America

Supervisors' and Administrators' Association (DPW Supervisors)
Public Employees Local Union 1116 (DPW Laborers)
Public Employees Local Union 1116 (Clerical)
Maintenance and Custodians Local 1116 (Facilities Maintenance)

B. Executive Session Minutes - 9/3/19

On a motion by Sue Salamoff, seconded by Richard Jennett, the Board voted 5-0-0 to enter Executive Session. The Chair announced that Open Session would reconvene at approximately 7:00 p.m.

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened Open Session at 6:58 p.m.

Mr. Hickey announced that the Board had just voted in Executive Session to approve four collective bargaining agreements: three one-year contracts with DPW Laborers, DPW Supervisors, and Clerical and a three-year contract with the Library. He explained that it is recommended by the Attorney General's Office that an announcement be made with a description of the terms reached after such a vote. Mr. Hickey deferred to Ms. Malone to provide that description. Ms. Malone described 3-2-1 COLAs for the Library with other changes in terms that were amenable to all, and 2% COLAs for DPW Supervisors and Laborers as well as Clerical. The contracts will be found on the website once they are signed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence observed. Mr. Hickey recognized those who lost their lives in the 911 attacks, those who protect us at home and abroad, and the nation's first responders. In addition, he extended condolences on behalf of the Town to Kathy Lentini and her family in the loss of her father, Bob Brown, a Navy vet who served the Town of Natick as a firefighter for over 40 years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EEE Update

Mr. Freedman provided information about EEE spraying, noting that Natick is entirely within the spray zone and that more information can be found on the Town's website. Ms. Malone stated that she was informed this afternoon that spraying has ceased and that town fields and the golf course will remain closed as of 6:00 p.m. until the first frost, especially considering the warm forecast for the upcoming weekend.

RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Town Administrator: Response Regarding Community Services Director Position and New Natick Common Guide (Fall 2019)

At the 8/19/19 BOS meeting, a resident raised concerns about the change in the organizational structure at the Community-Senior Center and in the Natick Common Guide. Ms. Malone stated that in the last year, the Administration has found that the community is changing, noting that the Common Guide, previously limited to

covering just a few municipal departments, has been successfully expanded to include all municipal departments. In the process of making that change, information related to SNAP and fuel assistance was not included. This oversight will be corrected with the next issue. The plan is to expand the guide further so that it includes everything from seniors to infants such that it will become a resource for the entire community. As for the reorganization, an existing position (Director of Community Services) has been reformatted. The Director of Strategic Initiatives and Capital Partnerships will be responsive to community needs. When asked what the structure of the Community-Senior Center is, Ms. Malone replied that Susan Ramsey has taken the lead and will have complete oversight of the building. Mr. Jennett requested a job description for the new position and Ms. Malone agreed.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

None.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN UPDATES

A. Town Administrator Updates:

- Downtown Fire
- East Playground
- Navy Yard Playground
- Lead RAO/RAO
- Concerns with 5GF Network Infrastructure

Downtown Fire: Ms. Malone stated insurance adjusters were on site on the 10th and 11th and some excavation was done as part of the investigation. The Town has attained a demolition permit but the investigation must be completed before it can be used, and that is not within Town control since it is private property and there is a procedure that must be followed.

Lead RAO/RAO: Ms. Malone noted that the Town Clerk has resigned from this position and Kathy Lentini, the Town's Communication Information Officer, has been appointed to take over. She is anticipated to work closely with the new Director of Strategic Projects and Capital Partnerships because that person needs to be aware of public records requests. All directors are very clear on what the expectations are when a public information request is received. Asked if there was a feedback loop between the Lead RAO and the Administration in case of any problems, Ms. Malone stated that Ms. Lentini participates in the Directors' meetings and there is an open line of communication to the Deputy Town Administrators and the Town Administrator. Asked if the Lead RAO will report back to anyone, Ms. Malone stated that in that it is a new process, we do not currently track requests but that is something that we can do.

Concerns have been received in the Selectmen's Office about 5G networks. Ms. Malone stated that though she is unaware of any public health issues, the concerns will be forwarded to Public Health and information will be gathered.

Navy Yard: Mr. Chenard stated that the playground has been assembled and the sidewalks and shade structure supports are in. Final paving will take place near the end of the month. Most of the work is anticipated to be completed by the first week in October but for the sign.

East School Park: Mr. Chenard stated the playground has been completed but is not officially open as yet. The project is expected to be substantially complete by the end of the month/early October with the exception of signs.

B. Town Engineer Update: South Main Street

Town Engineer Bill McDowell provided a brief update on the project. Design plans have been received from the consultant. The anticipated cost of construction is \$3,490,382.90; with a 10% contingency, the estimate is raised to \$3,839,420.90. The add/alternate construction cost estimate with a 10% contingency is \$336,739.00. The total anticipated expense is \$4,612,160.00 (\$4,275,421.00 without the add/alternate).

DISCUSSION AND DECISION

A. "Yes! for Natick" Housing Forum (10/21/19): Vote to Co-Sponsor Forum and Authorize Organizers to Cite Town as a Co-Presenter

Ms. Adelman-Foster recused herself from this discussion since her employer will be one of the co-presenters for this event. She left the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Josh Ostroff presented as a "Yes! For Natick" representative, explaining that "Yes! For Natick" is a nonpartisan political action committee that does not make any endorsements but simply provides information to residents related to various subject matters -- town government, the town budget, Kennedy Middle School, West Natick Fire Station, etc. The PAC will be providing a housing policy forum on October 21st and organizations from a regional level will be participating. Mr. Ostroff stated it is not unusual for a Town's chief elected officials to host such an event and wanted to provide the Board with the opportunity to do so. Ms. Malone stated she was supportive of the idea but felt that the decision was within the Board's discretion. Mr. Hickey underscored that the decision to co-host the event would not imply that the Board is taking any particular position on any matter. Further discussion ensued, followed by a motion to co-host the forum and authorize organizers to cite the Town as a

co-presenter if and only if the Town has someone it wishes to sit on the panel, with the understanding that the Town will not endorse any position or legislation, state or local. The Board voted 4-0-0 in favor of the motion made by Mr. Freedman and seconded by Ms. Salamoff. Ms. Adelman-Foster returned to the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

B. Approve Request for One-Day Beer and Wine License: Avenu at Natick

Postponed.

C. 2019 Fall Annual Town Meeting (NOTE: A list of Warrant Articles and text are available on the Town Website at Natickma.gov, in the Town Clerk's Office, the Selectmen's Office, the Post Office, the Bacon Free Library, and the Morse Institute Library, and at one location in each precinct)

i. Vote to Approve and/or Support Motions for BOS-Sponsored Articles

- Article 14: Increase Receipts/Property Tax Deferral Program
- Article 19: Stormwater Management/Erosion Control
- Article 21: WNFS Signal Control

ii. Citizen Petition Articles

- Article 29: Adjust Housing Density/Residential Parking Regulations in Downtown Mixed-Use District (Ganesh Ramachandran, et al.)

Article 19 - Stormwater Management/Erosion Control: Ms. Wilson Martin stated a determination had been made that the Town was not following best practices. A Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant was secured to retain a consultant to perform a deeper analysis and craft a new bylaw to replace the existing one. On a motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Freedman, the Board voted 5-0-0 to recommend favorable action. Mr. Hickey noted that Ms. Wilson-Martin will represent the Board at the upcoming Finance Committee Meeting and has the full support of the Board.

Article 21 - WNFS Signal Control: Moved by Mr. Jennett and seconded by Mr. Freedman, the Board voted 5-0-0 to recommend favorable action.

Article 14: Postponed (per Mr. Hickey, the motion is not ready).

Article 29 - Adjust Housing Density/Residential Parking Regulations in Downtown Mixed Use District: After a presentation by Ganesh Ramachandran, the Board did not make a recommendation, needing more time to digest the information per Mr. Hickey.

D. Fiscal Forecast for FY 2020-2024 and Capital for Fall Town Meeting

Per Ms. Malone, this evening's PowerPoint presentation is designed to generate discussion around the Town's fiscal health and provide a four-year forecast that realistically looks at town-wide operating trends and facilitates financial planning. While acknowledging that Natick is in a stable financial situation, she recognized that the forecast may cause alarm and disappointment among some, while still others will feel they could have predicted such a forecast. The presentation consists of two forecasts - actual and budget, both of which demonstrate that expenses will exceed revenues in the coming years. Ms. Malone discussed several indicators, including such things as property tax revenue, state aid, economic growth, personnel costs, employee benefits, pension liability, capital, debt service, free cash, OPEB, school enrollment, etc. Noting that OPEB was the largest liability, she recommended focusing on areas she described as cautionary. The next steps are planning, i.e., designing a prudent fiscal plan; sustainability, i.e., balancing immediate needs vs. long-term goals; and potential outcomes. Citing time constraints, Mr. Hickey asked that the Board not engage in Q&A and suggested a potential discussion at an upcoming Financial Planning Committee meeting. He did, however, offer to take some comments from the public.

Henry Haugland of Precinct 7 suggested a more accurate look at local receipts and a better understanding of why things are happening the way they are, noting that there are people in Natick who could provide a statistical analysis, which he would be happy to facilitate.

Speaking on behalf of the School Committee, its Chair, Julie McDonough, stated that the actual budget number the School Committee had to work with last budget season differs from that shown in the presentation, which makes no mention of the School Department using monies from revolving funds and monies generated from raises in fees to meet its obligations.

Donna McKenzie, School Committee Clerk, pointed out that comparisons should not be made between Natick and towns like Wellesley and Needham. She commented that Natick no longer has the economic diversity it had in the past. She asked why the increase shown in teachers' salaries was not presented in the context of teachers' salaries in the area, and noted that there was no explanation of increased salaries in other departments, including, for example, town administration, especially since those administrative salaries have also increased.

After a thorough overview by Mr. Chenard of Articles 11 and 12, Capital Equipment and Capital Improvement, respectively, the Board voted 5-0-0 to recommend Favorable Action on Article 11 on a motion by Mr. Freedman that

was seconded by Ms. Adelman-Foster, and to recommend Favorable Action on Article 12 on a motion by Mr. Freedman that was seconded by Mr. Jennett.

E. Consent Agenda Policy

Postponed.

F. Consider Change to Composition of West Natick Fire Station Building Committee

As discussed at the previous meeting, John Ciccariello will be resigning from the committee and continuing as an Ex-Officio member, though his resignation has not yet been received. Patrick Hayes will resign from his position as citizen-at-large. Mr. Hayes has appointed himself the Finance Committee representative, replacing John Ciccariello in that role. On a motion by Richard Jennett, seconded by Karen Adelman-Foster, the Board voted 5-0-0 to accept the resignation of Mr. Hayes from the position of citizen-at-large. On a motion by Richard Jennett, seconded by Karen Adelman-Foster, the Board voted 5-0-0 to reduce the number of citizen-at-large members from three to two. On a motion by Richard Jennett, seconded by Sue Salamoff, the Board voted 5-0-0 to accept Mr. Hayes as the FinCom representative.

G. 2020 Licensing Fees - Discussion on Whether to Hold a Public Hearing to Modify Licensing Fees

On a motion by Karen Adelman-Foster, seconded by Sue Salamoff, the Board voted 5-0-0 to schedule a public hearing to discuss licensing fees.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Freedman read the Consent Agenda aloud. There were no requests by the Board or the public to remove any items for discussion. On a motion by Sue Salamoff, seconded by Richard Jennett, the Board voted 5-0-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A. Approve Revised Fundraising Agreement Between the Town of Natick and the Friends of Natick Trails
- B. Approve Request for Exemption from Town Bylaws Ch. 41, S. 4: Abigail Verdelli - JV Field Hockey Coach/Skyline Art Instructor
- C. Approve Block Party Request for Jefferson Street on 9/22/19
- D. Approve Block Party Request for Whittier Road on 10/5/19
- E. Approve Town Common Use for America Needs Fatima Public Rosary Rally on 10/12/19 Contingent Upon Vote of Approval from the Recreation and Parks Commission
- F. Accept Resignation of Shahreen H. Quazi-Dahodwala from the Natick Cultural Council
- G. Accept Resignation of William Alfano from the Economic Development Committee
- H. Remove Maureen Sullivan from the Historical Commission due to her Relocating out of Town
- I. Proclamation in Recognition of Eagle Scout Alex Boyajian (Court of Honor - 10/6/19)
- J. Approve Meeting Minutes - 9/3/19
- K. Confirm the Town Administrator's Appointment of Deb Sayre to the Personnel Board
- L. Confirm the Town Administrator's Re-Appointment of David Dorant to the Personnel Board

SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS

Mr. Jennett inquired about the parking app that had been discussed at a previous meeting. Mr. Chenard stated it will be out to bid by tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Richard Jennett, seconded by Jonathan Freedman, the Board voted 5-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 p.m.