

SELECT BOARD  
TOWN OF NATICK

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Conducted in person and via Zoom  
Edward H. Dlott Meeting Room, Town Hall  
August 11, 2021  
6:30PM**

**PRESENT:** Karen Adelman-Foster, Chair, Richard P. Jennett, Jr., Vice-Chair, Michael J. Hickey, Jr., Clerk, Susan G. Salamoff, Paul R. Joseph

**ALSO PRESENT:** Deputy Town Administrator, James Errickson, Jeremy Marsette, Director of Dept. of Public Works, Police Chief James Hicks, Executive Assistant, Joan M. McNamara

**ABSENT:** None

Chair Adelman-Foster called the meeting to order at 6:35PM and noted that the Meeting is being recorded by Pegasus and Zoom.

Chair Adelman-Foster states that she will read the three items for Executive Session this evening and read the following:

- A. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(2) - To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel – Town Administrator and Acting Town Administrator
- B. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – MCAD No. 20BEM02451, EEOC No. 16C-2020-02135
- C. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(2) - To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel – Chief of Police

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Joseph, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 5-0-0 to enter into Executive Session. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey	Yes
Mr. Joseph	Yes
Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes

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Open Session reconvened at 7:36PM. Chair Adelman-Foster noted that for zoom participants you will find the raise hand button under the "reactions" button. If you are dialing in by phone kindly press \*9 to raise your hand and \*6 to mute and unmute your phone.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a Moment of Silence was observed for those who have sacrificed their lives for the ideals of this country.

### **PUBLIC SPEAK**

None this evening.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Town Administrator Erickson made an announcement that Town Hall will have a mask mandate for all Town Buildings starting on Monday, August 16, 2021.

Mr. Erickson also gave an update on the bacteria that had been found in untreated water in Elm bank back in July, 2021. The well has been cleaned, disinfected and a filtration process was used to kill all necessary bacteria.

Mr. Erickson also gave an update on PFAS that had been found in our water. After continued testing, as of today we are no longer showing signs of PFAS but will scrub the test results before officially posting the information to our website.

### **APPOINTMENTS**

#### **A. Approve Appointment of Henry Haugland to the Historical Commission**

Henry Haugland is present before the Board this evening seeking appointment to the Historical Commission. Mr. Haugland is also a Town Meeting member. During his Board interview, Mr. Haugland noted that history in Natick is very special and not well known. He would like to be able to contribute information on how important Natick was in the development of the Massachusetts Bay colony.

On a motion by Mr. Jennett, and seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board voted 5-0-0 to appoint Mr. Haugland to the Historical Commission.

### **DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

#### **A. Approval and Vote for Town Administrator Contract**

Chair Adelman-Foster announced that the Board is in agreement with Mr. Erickson to have him assume the role of Town Administrator.

On a motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded Mr. Jennett, the Board voted 5-0-0 to execute the employment agreement that has been agreed upon with Mr. Errickson.

B. Approve Proclamation for Detective Thomas W. Vitale upon his retirement

Police Chief Hicks and Detective Vitale joined the Board this evening for a special presentation upon his retirement. Mr. Hickey read the Proclamation that was prepared by the Board for Officer Vitale. This document is attached to this evening's agenda. Chair Adelman-Foster stated that on behalf of all 36,000 Natick residents, we thank you and wish you the best in your retirement.

On a motion by Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board voted 5-0-0 to adopt the proclamation for Detective Vitale's retirement.

C. Presentation to Officer Ronald Richardson

Chief Hicks, Officer Richardson and his wife were present this evening. Chief Hicks noted that a tradition is in place which started with Officer Vitale to issue a badge number one. Badge number one's significance is that the officer who holds it is the most senior member and has served the Department for the longest. At this time, Badge number 1 will be passed to Officer Richardson from Officer Vitale. The Board wished congratulations to Officer Richardson and his family.

D. Public Hearing: Fiscal 2022 Water and Sewer Rate Discussion and Vote

A full and complete detailed water and sewer rate packet is attached to this evening's agenda including a Notice of Public Hearing.

On a motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Joseph, the Board voted 5-0-0 to open the Public Hearing.

Mr. Errickson noted that we will be presenting the proposed water and sewer rates for fiscal year 2022. Typically, this is done at the end of the fiscal year, but Administration has moved this up one quarter.

On a motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board voted 5-0-0 to close the public hearing.

On a Motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Joseph, the Board voted 5-0-0 to approve the 5.5% water rate increase and a 5.5% sewer rate increase as presented this evening.

**Please also see Minutes from the Select Board Meeting of 8/25/21 regarding this subject.**

E. Senior Property Tax Exemption Study

Attached to this evening's agenda is a proposed Natick Home Rule Charter petition as well as a document entitled Senior Property Tax Exemption Study Committee Report dated August, 2021. Chair Adelman-Foster noted that this evening's Select Board mission is very narrow. The Board will not be deciding on the value of the idea or whether the Board favors the idea or not. The only thing the Board will decide is whether to sponsor this on the upcoming Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Ms. Salamoff gave a high-level overview based on the Committee's report. Other Committee members, including Patty Sciarra, were also present this evening to address the Board.

On a Motion by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 3-0-2 that the Select board sponsor the Article addressing the Senior Property Tax Exemption as presented by the Study Committee.

F. Consideration of potential Select Board Sponsored 2021 Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles

1. Mr. Erickson: Town Administration is looking to sponsor 2 Town By-law changes. One Article pertains to adding the Juneteenth holiday which is a new State and Federal holiday as well as an adjustment to how Town Administration handles employee vacation time. Mr. Erickson also discussed a proposed Planning Board Article regarding the appropriation of funds for New Zoning and Capital Improvement Planning for the Golden Triangle area and wished the Board to consider co-sponsoring this Article.

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Joseph, the Board voted 5-0-0 to co-sponsor the Golden Triangle zoning and funding of the study with the Planning Board.

2. Mr. Erickson went on to review a proposed Article for street acceptances that Town Administration would be looking for the Board to sponsor as the Board acts as roadway commissioners.

On a motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board voted 5-0-0 to sponsor the slate of street acceptances with the understanding that the final verbiage of the plan lists the names, dates and particulars that would also be subject to acceptable review as to form by Town Counsel.

3. Mr. Erickson discussed a proposed Article to Amend Home Rule Petition, and/or Authorize Sale of Property at 5 Auburn Street. This Town property is now vacant and the building itself is a historic structure. The boiler at the property has failed and the building is not ADA compliant. The structure also contains lead and asbestos. Administration is seeking a placeholder Article to see what type of amendments Town Meeting would authorize to the past authorization.

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by, the Board voted 5-0-0 to sponsor an Article at Town Meeting to see if Town Meeting would authorize to amend or modify prior Town Meeting authorization or authorizations of Articles pertaining to 5 Auburn Street, a/k/ the Elliott School, with language to be buttoned-up by Town Administration working with Town Counsel.

4. Mr. Errickson discussed a potential Article that would create and fund a position for a Chief Diversity Officer

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Joseph, the Board voted 5-0-0 to sponsor the advancement of a Diversity and Equity Officer position.

A. Inter Municipal Agreement Sherborn Sewer Connection

This agenda item was removed from the agenda this evening and will be placed on an upcoming agenda. Pulte Homes has decided to push this item to our Spring Annual Town Meeting instead of the Fall Annual Town Meeting.

B. Approve Meeting Minutes for December 2, 2020 and December 16, 2020

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board voted 4-0-1 to Approve the Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2020, and December 16, 2020.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approve Meeting Minutes

1. May 19, 2021 Open Meeting Minutes
2. May 27, 2021 Open Meeting Minutes

B. Weekly Warrant Review

C. Approve Signatures for Land Transfer of West Natick Fire Station Deeds

D. Approve Recreation and Parks Commission Recommendation of Approval for use of the Natick Common for:

1. America Needs Fatima to host a public Rosary on Saturday, October 16th, 2021 from 11:30am-2:30pm
2. American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to host a MetroWest Out of the Darkness Walk on Sunday, October 17th, 2021 from 8:00am-12:00pm
3. September 11, Saturday 10am – 4pm (rain date September 12) – Natick Days

4. October 30, Saturday 12pm – 3pm (rain date October 29) – Spooktacular
5. November 28, Sunday 3pm – 5pm Holiday Lighting
- E. Approve Natick Center Cultural District's Permission to Close Common St. for the month of October to move the Farmers' Market off the Common
- F. Approve the 2021 HOME Investment Partnership sub-recipient Agreement
- G. Agreement between the Town and the Natick Service Council for the Center's Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program
- H. Approve Martha Paynter's Request for Grove Road Block Party on September 11, 2021
- I. Approve Block Party request from Jennifer Birch-Israeloff on August 22, 2021, at 9 Sawin Street, Natick
- J. Approve renewal of Public Outdoor Dining License for Agostinos
- K. Approve Dissolution of Opioid Task Force (replaced by Natick 180)

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey seconded by Mr. Joseph, the Board, voted 5-0-0 to Approve the Consent Agenda items: A and B as well as items D-J inclusive.

With regard to item C. to (Approve Signatures for Land Transfer of West Natick Fire Station Deeds), on a Motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board voted 5-0-0 to Approve these signatures for the Deeds subject to any ministerial changes as requested by the Land Court.

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board voted 5-0-0 to Adjourn the Select Board Meeting at 10:40PM.

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Michael J. Hickey, Jr. Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_ Select Board Meeting Minutes Approved by the Select Board on \_\_\_\_\_.

All documents used at this Select Board meeting are available at:  
<https://naticktown.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/MeetingView.aspx?MeetingID=954&MinutesMeetingID=-1&doctype=Agend>