

The Select Board met on Tuesday, March 01, 2022 beginning at 7:20pm in the Finance Committee Meeting Room of Town Hall. Board member Mackenzie was absent. The following members were present:

Mark Gallivan, Chair
Benjamin Barrett, Vice Chair
Glenn Maffei, Clerk
James O'Neil

Also participating
James Johnson, Town Administrator
Aoife Kelly, Executive Assistant

Appointments

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Gallivan called the meeting to order at 7:20pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Police Chief Quarterly Report

Chief Kelleher was present to provide the Department's quarterly report. The Chief highlighted a number of notable incidents that have occurred in the past quarter. The Chief also touched on some recent accidents and parking issues at the lot across from the Police Department. The Chief briefly spoke about call volume, mental health calls, arrest numbers, overdose data, community policing events including the holiday stroller at the COA and recent grant funding. The Chief touched on adding a full time mental health clinician to the staff and Lt. White is actively looking to acquire grant funding for this position. The Chief updated the Board on the current situation with Longview Farm and a reduction in call volume from last quarter, however they have had issues with repeat clients from there. The Chief also informed the Board that the WPD liaisons with the school have been extremely helpful and have been working with DCFS, and the Home to rehome these individuals. Finally the Chief updated the Board on Excellence in Community Policing Award that Tommy Hart is a finalist in. The Chief updated the Board on recent personnel changes including promotions within the Department. The Board asked the Chief to be sure to keep them updated on any issues at Longview Farm.

The Chief outlined the process that took place in filling the Deputy Police Chief position, and will be looking to backfill a Lieutenant and Sergeant position once Lt. Kilroy is appointed as Deputy tonight. The Chief introduced Rob Kilroy to the Board as his candidate for Deputy Police Chief and gave some information on his career to date. Lt. Kilroy thanked the Board for providing this opportunity to him and expanded on his experience with the Walpole Police Department. The Board congratulated Rob on his career to date and believe he is the right person for the job.

On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to appoint Rob Kilroy as Town of Walpole Deputy Chief of Police. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Fire Chief Quarterly Report

Chief Bailey was present to provide the quarterly update to the Board. The Chief updated the Board on the current call volume which is up 18.5% from last year, ambulance account and the current budget. The Chief informed that Board that both engine have been ordered and slated to be in around April 2023, thermal cameras have been ordered, currently waiting on delivery of pickup truck and portable radios still in process. The Chief provided the Board with an update on the current grants – including the safe grants that were just awarded and a DFS equipment grant that was used to purchase and upgrade the combustible gas detectors and CO detection equipment. The Chief also spoke about an AFG that was applied for, in regards to the safer grant the Chief outlined to the Board they did apply for four firefighters and they will start to be awarded after May 30. The Chief also informed the Board that some renovations are currently underway at Station 2. The Chief also updated the Board on some recent training that has taken place including med flight training. The Chief touched on recent personnel changes and where the recent hires are in their graduation process

and one long term injury. The Chief informed the Board that they are looking to hold the night before the fourth this year.

The Board discussed a possible ambulance rate change but noted this was just up for discussion and a vote would take place at a later date in the month. The Board discussed that it is good to review these rates from time to time and the longer run times that are happening with Norwood Hospital closed. The Board had questions for the Chief on the current rates and what each line item represents. The Board discussed the self-pay runs and the collection rates. The Board touched on the Medicare and Medicaid rates and how individuals on these schemes pay their portion. The Board would like to hear more about the insured population that does not pay and what our options are in terms of collection. The Board agreed to take this matter up again at a later meeting or in a workshop style setting.

Veteran Services Committee Interviews and Vote for appointment (One Regular Position)

Chair Gallivan announced to the Board that Kevin Medeiros has withdrawn his application. Candidate Stacy Murphy was present. Stacy introduced herself to the Board and expanded on her interest in serving on the Veteran Services Committee and the different events that she has been involved in over the years. On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to appoint Stacy Murphy as a regular member of the Veteran Services Committee effective April 1st. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Open Forum – No one present.

New Business

Vote to sign the Spring 2022 Town Meeting Warrant

Jim Johnson provided a brief overview to the Board on the warrant as it stands and the various articles that will appear on the warrant. On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to sign the Spring 2022 Town Meeting Warrant. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote to accept the resignation of David Nardelli from the Walpole Housing Partnership

On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to accept the resignation of David Nardelli from the Walpole Housing Partnership with thanks. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote to award Bid/Contract #2022-08, Recreation Department Programming & Feasibility Study to Weston & Sampson

Jim Johnson provided an update to the Board on this Bid/Contract. On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to award Bid/Contract #2022-08, Recreation Department Programming & Feasibility Study to Weston & Sampson and authorize the Town Administrator to sign all related documents. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote to award Bid/Contract #2022-11, Fields Concession Stand to Northern Contracting

Jim Johnson provided an overview to the Board on this Bid/Contract. On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to award Bid/Contract #2022-11, Fields Concession Stand to Northern Contracting and authorize the Town Administrator to sign all related documents. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote to award Contract for Transportation Engineering Services - Downtown Walpole Traffic Planning to McMahon Associates

Jim Johnson provided an overview of this contract and what it represents. On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to award Contract for Transportation Engineering Services - Downtown Walpole Traffic Planning to McMahon Associates and authorize the Town Administrator to sign all related documents. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Recreation Department Event Requests

Recreation Director Brendan Crook was present. On motion of Board member O’Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to approve request of the Recreation Department to hold Walpole Day event and parade on Saturday June 11, 2022; to use the Town Common to hold the 28th Annual Concerts on the Common series beginning in July and to hold National Night Out on Tuesday, August 2, 2022 on Stone Field. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote request of Jason Noto for a One Day Entertainment Permit at 36 Millbrook Avenue for a DJ on June 4, 2022 from 5:30pm – 10pm

On motion of Board member O’Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to approve request of Jason Noto for a One Day Entertainment Permit at 36 Millbrook Avenue for a DJ on June 4, 2022 from 5:30pm-10pm. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Walpole School Building Committee and Master Plan Steering Committee Updates

Philip Czachorowski was present to provide a brief update to the Board on the Master Plan Steering Committee. Phil began by thanking the Committee members for attending meetings and also Pat Deschenes for providing supporting to the Committee and Barrett Planning Group. Phil explained they have just completed the visioning portion of the process, with a large community response. All the data has now been received and the Barrett Group have taken all the inputs and are coming up with a shared vision and objectives that will go into the plan. They also had to conduct research on the current state of the town and where the town currently is. The Committee will be looking at the report and making sure it is accurate. They will be scheduling a public forum in April for public comment. Will also hold a forum with a draft of the Master Plan and at that time it will also be presented to various Boards & Committees including the Select Board for input. This will happen around the September timeframe. The Board thanks Phil for this update and also on all the work that the Committee has carried out to date.

Vice Chair Barrett provided an update to the Board on the Walpole School Building Committee and where they are in the process. Vice Chair Barrett outlined what has occurred including the vote which allowed them move forward with project and the funding agreement that was reached with MSBA. Vice Chair Barrett informed the Board they are now moving into design/development phase – with input from anyone that is working in or working on the building, this includes many different elements; even down to the details of tile, paint, electrical, heating. This process allows the designer to come up with a design development package and then provide an updated estimate on the cost of construction. They will be moving forward with the selection of a construction project manager in March/April. The project will then will move into construction document phase and early work around the site with construction beginning in 2023. There will be three community forums coming up in the next few months, where people can get additional details on the project.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Board member O’Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to accept with gratitude the following donation:

Multiple Donors to Recreation Smiling Eyes Financial Assistance	\$194
Motion Passed (4-0-0).	

Minutes

On motion of Board member O’Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to approve the Minutes of February 08, 2022 as presented in our packet. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Town Administrator’s Update

Finance Committee FY23 Budget

Finance Committee has met with all the departments, including School, Tri-County and the Aggie School last night. They are going to be voting on the overall budget next Thursday. Everything is going well and they are making their way onto the articles.

ARPA Funds

The majority of the ARPA funds requested that the Board submitted about a month ago have been received. The County has a few minor questions on one of the requests – HVAC system at the High School. Everything has been going very well with them and they have been great to work with.

Sewer & Water Commissioners

Earlier this evening I met with the Sewer & Water Commissioners to review the proposed FY23 sewer & water budgets with them and the current rates they are considering. The recommended rate increases are 18% on the water side and 11% on the sewer side, which is high. I talked to them about why they are so high, the Commissioners understood this and they asked me for a few other options. One of the options that was recommended to the Town back in 2020 was to add a set fee for capital infrastructure – general infrastructure and future infrastructure improvements. The Commissioners asked me to show them a rate structure that includes this on everybody's bills. We will get that together and try to get that before them at the next meeting. They are working with us and the Finance Committee are set to discuss the budget next week. My point to them is we cannot continue to rely on retained earnings to continue to balance the budget year in and year out.

On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 8:35pm. Motion Passed (4-0-0).