

The Select Board met on Tuesday May 24, 2022 beginning at 7:00pm in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall. Board member Mackenzie was absent. The following members were present:

Mark Gallivan, Chair  
Benjamin Barrett, Vice Chair arrived at 7:40pm  
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 7pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Vote request of Boylston Schul-Verein for Change of Manager to Angela DeMartino

Manager Angela DeMartino was present and introduced herself to the Board. On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to approve request of Boylston Schul-Verein for change of manager to Angela DeMartino. Motion Passed (3-0-0).

#### Police Chief Quarterly Report

Chief Kelleher and candidates Margaret McCrosson and William Bento were present.

The Chief updated the Board on some notable incidents that have occurred, including a motor vehicle incident and the uptick in catalytic convertor thefts in the area. The Chief touched on calls for service, overdose data and mental health calls, which are on par with last year's data. The Chief also noted that Longview Farm calls have decreased and highlighted recent Community Policing events such as Touch a Truck, RAD Kids, and the Excellence in Community Policing award given to Tom Harte. The Chief updated the Board on various ongoing grants, such as Community Traffic Safety Projects Grant Program and EOPSS Municipal Road Safety Grant. The Chief also spoke about recent personnel changes, a new dispatcher and the promotions that were before the Board earlier in the quarter. As part of his update the Chief touched on the recent Gillette Stadium concert and the traffic issues that occurred, and the stadium's security detail decision to add two additional officers when there are concerts to prevent similar incidents occurring again.

The Board thanked the Chief for his report and asked him to provide a brief summary of the issue concerning the crosswalk in South Walpole by the Common and the approved expansion of the Gillette Stadium parking lots. The Chief reported that they did have a discussion with the residents, listened to their concerns and they are looking to install additional signage and have ordered flashing lights to help as traffic calming measures. The Chief informed the Board that the additional officers granted, as part of the planning board approval process will help address some of the issues, signage would also help, as this is something the Department can enforce.

The Chief gave some background on candidate McCrosson and her experience to date. Margaret introduced herself to the Board and spoke on her experience to date with the Police Department in Attleboro. The Board congratulated Margaret and welcomed her to the Town. On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to appoint Margaret McCrosson to the position of Police Officer. Motion Passed (3-0-0).

The Chief gave some background on candidate Bento and his professional experience to date. William expanded on his experience and introduced himself to the Board and thanked the Board for this opportunity. The Board welcomed

William and congratulated him on his appointment. On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to appoint William Bento to the position of Police Officer. Motion Passed (3-0-0).

#### Fire Chief Quarterly Report

Chief Bailey was present to provide his quarterly update to the Board which included call volume, permits, inspections and calls for service up, which is up about 80 runs from last year, a couple of med flights and a few larger fires. The Chief informed the Board that the budget is tight on the expense side and are continuing to monitor this coming to the end of the fiscal year. The Chief updated the Board on the current grants and mentioned they are still waiting to hear on the AFG Assistance and the Safer Grant, which would allow for funding for four additional firefighters. Chief Bailey stated that driver training is continuing especially with the new hires and they are happy with the progress. In terms of personnel, the Chief briefed the Board on where the new hires are in the academy process and any injuries within the department. Finally, the Chief informed the Board that they are actively seeking donations for the fireworks that will be happening on Saturday, July 2.

Candidate Jared Fahey was present and the Chief provided some information on his background and career to date. Jared introduced himself to the Board and spoke about attending some school years in Walpole before he moved out of Town. The Board congratulated Jared and thanked him for his military service. On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to appoint candidate Jared Fahey to the position of Firefighter/Paramedic. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

#### Emergency Management/Civil Defense Interviews and Vote for appointment

Candidates Phillip Russell, Jeff Marden and Kathy Vachon were present. Each candidate introduced themselves to the Board and provided some background on their experience and how they have been working with Emergency Management to date. The Board thanked each candidate for stepping forward and volunteering their time. On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to appoint Kathy Vachon to Emergency Management/Civil Defense for an indefinite term. Motion Passed (4-0-0). On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to appoint Phillip Russell to Emergency Management/Civil Defense for an indefinite term. Motion Passed (4-0-0). On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to appoint Jeff Marden to Emergency Management/Civil Defense for an indefinite term. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

#### Bill Willoth, Walpole Food Pantry President - Discussion on Walpole Food Pantry outreach and proposed new location on Stone Street

Bill Willoth, Timothy Michaud, Janet Rinne and Diane Sullivan were present. Bill Willoth read a letter into the record regarding the current services provided by the pantry. Bill outlined to the Board the various properties they have already considered such as Johnson Middle School and why these sites were not sufficient for the needs of the pantry. Bill expressed how the interest of the pantry and the members present was to build a new facility on the town owned parcel of land on Stone Street. The Board thanked Bill for bring this to them but had numerous questions including funding sources and possible other locations within the Town that might be sufficient. The Board outlined to Bill they are aware of food insecurities within the Town and the need to provide these types service to vulnerable residents. Bill informed the Board that he did not have funding lined up at this time as he wanted to possibly secure the site first, Bill mentioned that the Greater Boston Food Bank would be contributing but was unsure of the amount and that about 80% of deliveries are within 1 mile of the proposed new location. The Board expressed some concerns about the proposed new site but are willing to join a discussion and start to work through the process to find a site or any other buildings/parcels within the Town.

Residents Maggie Taurone, Jean St. George, Alyssa Adreani, Mark Sullivan and Catherin Miller who all expressed their concerns in regards to the proposed site on Stone Street provided public comment.

#### Open Forum

Bill Hamilton Precinct 5 provided comment to the Board on the traffic problems this past Saturday in South Walpole due to an issue with the train crossing-gate.

Jud Conroy Precinct 7 and Walpole Housing Authority member provided comment to the Board in regards to the Authority's desire to get in line for the repurpose of Johnson Middle School and ask the Board when they plan to form a study or subcommittee for the repurpose of JMS. Jim Johnson informed the Board that Compass Project Management would be attending the Select Board meeting on June 21 to provide a brief narrative on the Old Town Hall and Johnson Middle School facilities study.

### New Business

#### Discussion and Vote on ARPA Request for Revenue Replacement funds from the County

Jim Johnson provided an update on this and why this request is in front of the Select Board and what the allotment is from the County level but this could change depending on what the other towns in the County plan to do. This allows the town to get the funds in place with a two to four week turnaround. On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to authorize the Town Administrator and Finance Director to elect the revenue replacement allowance option in accordance with the Final Rule for the ARPA funds held by the County. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

#### Senior Means Property Tax Exemption Update

Jim Johnson provided a brief update to the Board. Jim outlined to the Board that there is a House Bill pending that would deal with this issue and Walpole would just need to accept it if it passes. If it does not pass, the Town would need to go through the Town Meeting process to petition the legislature, which would take a considerable length of time.

#### Walpole Sportsman's Association Requests:

On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to approve request of Candice Puzin for a One Day All Alcoholic Beverage License on June 19, 2022 from noon to 5pm at 499 Lincoln Street for a Father's Day Chicken Bake. Motion Passed (4-0-0). On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to approve request of Candice Puzin for a One Day All Alcoholic Beverage License and Live Entertainment on September 17, 2022 from noon to 6pm for a Benefit. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

### CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to accept with gratitude the following donations

Anonymous Donor to Night Before the Fourth Gift Account	\$1,000
Motion Passed (4-0-0).	

### Town Administrator's Update

#### Capital Budget

We have moved the capital budget process up just by a few weeks; this will give me some time to compare the APRA requests and the capital budget requests side by side. The capital requests are due back on June 24. With ARPA we are set to have that discussion on June 7 starting around 7:30pm. I am in the process of finalizing all the requests; game plan is to invite various Boards/Committees to have dialogue on this matter and advocate for their projects. Department heads will also be here to answer any questions the Select Board may specifically have.

### Walpole Day

Walpole Day is set to be held on Saturday June 11 with the parade at 11am; I will be driving the Walpole Youth Lacrosse float. The festivities will kick off right after the parade. Brendan and Lauren are putting in a lot of work coordinating this; it is going to be a good day.

On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Clerk Maffei, voted to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 9:05pm. Motion Passed (4-0-0).