

The Select Board met on Tuesday August 02, 2022 beginning at 7:00pm in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall. Board member Barrett was absent. The following members were present:

James O'Neil, Chair
Glenn Maffei, Vice Chair
Allyson Hamilton, Clerk
Mark Gallivan

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

Appointments

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair O'Neil called the meeting to order at 7:00pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mary Jane Lightbody, South Walpole Traffic Response

Resident Mary Jane Lightbody was present to discuss the Town's response to Gillette Stadium event related traffic. Chair O'Neil outlined the issues that occurred recently with the concert traffic in South Walpole. Mary Jane thanked everyone for their efforts during the last series of concerts and hoped that similar methods would be utilized for future events. Jim Johnson informed the Board that WPD worked hard with Waze, Google maps, news outlets and social media as well as additional police presence in the area, which helped decrease congestion in residential areas and will utilize the same strategy for upcoming events. The Board thanks the Town staff, Police Department and residents for the great collaboration.

Show Cause Hearing May Wah Inc. dba Kihei Dynasty, 743 Main Street. (Continued from April 26, 2022)

Chair O'Neil informed the Board that the license holder has surrendered the license back to the Town so no additional action needs to be taken by the Select Board. On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to close the public hearing. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Peter Frazier, Hilltop Securities: Discussion and Possible Vote on Middle School Project Borrowing Options

Peter Frazier, Hilltop Securities Managing Director, Finance Director Jodi Cuneo and Treasurer/Collector Lisa Sinkus were present. Chair O'Neil touched on the previous borrowing that occurred towards the end of last year and how the Board are now looking towards the second stage of the borrowing for the Middle School project. Peter stated that because interest rates may continue to rise, it might possibly be smarter to borrow more money now at the current rate. Finance Director Jodi Cuneo agreed that borrowing sooner rather than later would mitigate the risk of potentially higher interest rates down the line. A lengthy discussion occurred among the Board members in terms of the uncertainty that exists with fluctuating interest rates, the pros and cons of borrowing early and the overall cost to the residents. On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to direct the Town Administrator, the Treasurer/Collector and the Finance Director to move forward with a \$20million borrowing this month for the middle school project. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Discussion and Vote on date and location of Fall Town Meeting

Town Clerk Elizabeth Gaffey was present. Town Administrator Jim Johnson stated that opinion was split on whether to keep Town Meeting on a Saturday morning or go back Monday nights. Clerk Hamilton stated that she had heard from members about scheduling difficulties with the recent Spring Town Meeting being held on a Saturday due to

conflicts. The rest of the Board agreed that it was time to return to Monday night Town Meetings, as is designated by the charter.

On Motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to hold this year's Fall Town Meeting on Monday, October 17 beginning at 7:30 P.M. at the Walpole High School. Motion passed (4-0-0).

Capital and ARPA Discussions (votes may occur)

Walpole Housing Authority Board of Directors member Judy Conroy was present to request that the current Johnson Middle School be repurposed as a site for affordable housing for low-income households, seniors, and/or veterans. She suggested that the Select Board appoint a Johnson Middle School Repurpose Sub-Committee, and to approve a feasibility study and an RFP for the project. The Board agreed that it would be wise to put together a group with representation from different interested parties to determine the best options for the re-use of the Johnson Middle School.

School Committee Members Nancy Gallivan and Sean Ahern, Superintendent Gough and Business Administrator Friscia attended to present budget requests for Capital and ARPA funds. Requests included funding for new technology, designs and construction of a building project at the high school, and HVAC upgrades. The School Committee delegation outlined that although there is a significant need for expansion to the preschool program, there are other projects that must take precedence such as the new Middle School.

The Board thanked everyone for attending tonight and for bringing these items forward. Jim outlined that at the next meeting with a full Board he will need some direction in terms of use of ARPA funds. Chair O'Neil informed the Board that a discussion would likely take place at the next meeting with the Sewer & Water Commissioners to discuss a number of items in terms of their requests. The Board agreed that it was a good idea to have that discussion.

Open Forum No one present.

New Business

Vote to sign the September Primary Warrant

Town Clerk Elizabeth Gaffey was present. On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to sign the September Primary Warrant. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote to appoint Election Officers and approve list of Polling Locations

Clerk Hamilton disclosed that she has a family member on the list of Election Officers presented. On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to appoint the list of Election Officers and approve the list of Polling Locations as presented in our packet. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Recreation Department Requests:

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to approve request to hold Harvest Fest on Saturday, October 1, 2022 in the vicinity of Stone Field and approve request to hold the annual Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 29, 2022 beginning at 10am. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote request of Frank Mosher, Knights of Columbus for a One Day All Alcoholic Beverage License on August 13, 2022 from 11am-3pm at 137 Stone Street

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to approve request of Frank Mosher, Knights of Columbus for a One Day All Alcoholic Beverage License on August 13, 2022 from 11am-3pm at 137 Stone Street. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote renewal of Stadium Event Parking Lot License at 1887 Washington Street

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to renew Stadium Event Parking Lot License at 1887 Washington Street with 45 spaces. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Block Party Requests:

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to approve request of Scott Ferguson to hold a block party with music on September 11, 2022 from 10am-8pm on Shufelt Road & Beechwood Drive, subject to final approval from the Walpole Police Department. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to approve request of Anand Rangana to hold a block party with music on August 30, August 31, September 1 and September 2 from 6pm-9pm in the cul-de-sac of Anderson Way, subject to final approval from the Walpole Police Department. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to accept with gratitude the following donations:

Multiple Donors in Memory of Carol Lane to Willett Pond Access Account	\$875
Multiple Donors to Hometown Hero Banner Program	\$100
Mary Ciannavei to Night Before the Fourth Gift Account	\$100
Joan-Hannah Kaytonah to Library Material Gifts Account	\$100

Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Minutes

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to approve the Minutes of July 12, 2022 as presented in our packet. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Town Administrator's Update

Traffic

I met with Chief Bailey and Chief Kelleher, who stated that there have not been any further issues with the traffic on Gill Street, so they will continue to monitor it. As previously discussed, the traffic around Gillette Stadium during events is improving, and they will continue to keep a close eye on congestion of the roads for upcoming games and concerts.

Middle School Project

The Middle School Project is at 60% design phase and I would like to have the School Building Committee members Ben or Ally present to the Select Board at a future meeting to relay the current status in more detail.

Fall Town Meeting

There are currently 12 to 14 drafted articles for the Fall Town Meeting warrant. There may be more coming, but it is looking like it will be a light town meeting this year.

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 9:10pm. Motion Passed (4-0-0).