

The Select Board met on Tuesday January 10, 2023 beginning at 7:00pm in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall. The following members were present:

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

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 7pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Cable Television Public Hearing – Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to open the Public Hearing. Motion Passed (5-0-0). Jim Johnson provided an overview of the proposed contract, which is a 10-year contract that is a continuation of what currently exists. The Board thanks Jim for working on this over the last several months and feels it is a good contract for all parties involved. Hearing no comment from the public, on motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to close the Public Hearing. Motion Passed (5-0-0). On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to sign the Comcast Cable Television Renewal License effective June 9, 2023 for a 10-year term. Motion Passed (5-0-0). Jim Johnson presented the next contract extension to the Board, a 3-year contract extension between the Town and Walpole Media Corp. Walpole Media Corp President Jean Kenney was present, Jean informed the Board that they have been pleased with the existing agreement and request that this contract be renewed. On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to sign the extension agreement between the Town of Walpole and Walpole Media Corp for an additional 3year term. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Director of Community & Economic Development Patrick Deschenes:

MBTA Zoning Update

Community & Economic Development Director Patrick Deschenes was present. He explained that the final guidelines for the MBTA Community zoning requirements were released since he last appeared before the Board. According to these guidelines, Walpole is now considered a Commuter Rail Community, which means the Town's zoning bylaws should potentially allow for a specific amount of multi-family housing within a half-mile radius of the train station. Patrick Deschenes will begin to work with consultants to determine how much Walpole's current zoning bylaws need to be altered in order to meet compliance with the guidelines. At that point, Town Meeting would have to approve any necessary bylaw modifications. Once the Town is in compliance with the MBTA guidelines, it will remain eligible for certain types of funding from the state.

Discussion & Possible Vote on Spring Warrant Article – Accessory In-Law Suite Zoning Bylaw Amendment

Community & Economic Development Director Patrick Deschenes and Building Commissioner Jim Crowley described the proposed article, which would amend Walpole's zoning bylaws to clarify the definition of an Accessory In-Law Suite and establish new requirements regarding their construction and use within single-family housing areas. The Planning Board previously declined to sponsor this article. Members of the Board felt that some of the requirements outlined in the amendment regarding unit size were unnecessarily restrictive. Jim Johnson stated that he will work with Town Counsel to revise the article to take the Board's proposed changes into account. On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to sponsor the Accessory In-Law Suite Zoning Bylaw Amendment and add it to

the Spring 2023 Town Meeting Warrant. Motion Passed (5-0-0). The Board noted that they would like to see the process easier for residents and not be more restrictive than already set by state code, Chair O'Neil outlined that by sponsoring this article they would make the necessary edits.

Discussion on Wayfinding & Branding Program Grant & Possible Vote on the appointment of an Advisory Committee
Patrick Deschenes described his proposal to establish an Advisory Committee consisting of 7-13 members who would meet to discuss wayfinding and branding improvements for the Town. On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to approve the charge of the Wayfinding & Branding Advisory Committee with seven members, as recommended by the Select Board. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Open Forum

Waste Reduction Committee member Mary McDougall was present to make the Board aware of a presentation taking place on January 12 at the Walpole Library about food waste and composting.

New Business

Vote to award Bid/Contract #2023-06 Cleaning & Redevelopment of Gravel Packed Wells to Denis L. Maher Company

Jim Johnson provided some background on this item. On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to award Bid/Contract #2023-06 Cleaning & Redevelopment of Gravel Packets Wells to Denis L. Maher Company. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Discussion and Possible Vote on FY24 Town Budget

Jim Johnson provided a brief overview of where he is at with the budget and informed the Board that he has been working closely with the Finance Team and Dennis Flis with the budget currently balanced. Jim noted that they probably would not receive the health insurance and state budget figures until after the budget message has been delivered. Jim touched on some major items of note – no new positions, new growth figures, police department budget increase by .79%, fire department budget by 1.61% and Walpole public schools at 3.24%, \$500,000 for capital stabilization and one item to be mindful of is the proposed Tri-County school building, this will likely not effect of FY24 or FY25 budget but if it passes a funding source will be needed for this.

The Board thanked Jim for providing them with a balance budget but understand that this is more of a lean budget in terms of the increases among the department budgets. The Board discussed the important of capital stabilization to support project work in the years ahead, possibly adding a new EMS coordinator position in the Fire Department and new growth numbers. Comment was provided by School Committee member Nancy Gallivan, on the needs of the operating budget and the potential high school renovation project and what needs take priority. Superintendent Gough commented on the budget gap, two special education positions and finding the balance between capital stabilization and operating budget.

Vote to close the 2023 Spring Town Meeting Warrant

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to close the 2023 Spring Town Meeting Warrant. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Vote to appoint Natalya Orlando and Patricia Fisher as Associate members of the Historical Commission

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to appoint Natalya Orlando and Patricia Fisher as Associate members of the Historical Commission. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Vote request of HESSCO for Mick Morgan's 5k Road Race on Saturday, March 11, 2023 beginning at 9am with the same route as previous years

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to approve request of HESSCO for Mick Morgan's 5k Road Race on Saturday, March 11, 2023 beginning at 9am with the same route as previous years. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Vote request of Frank Mosher for a One Day All Alcoholic Beverage License on January 21, 2023 from 6-10pm at 137 Stone Street
On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to approve request of Frank Mosher for a One Day All Alcoholic Beverage License on January 21, 2023 from 6-10pm at 137 Stone Street. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Bier Family Trust to COA Gifts	\$50
Philip Sanford to COA Gifts	\$100
Scott Andrew Kratochwill to Ambulance Gift Account	\$100
New Pond Village Assoc. & Riverwalk Condo Assoc. to Library Gifts	\$600
Allied Recycling Center, Inc. to Track Improvements	\$100,000

Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Minutes

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to approve the Minutes of December 6 and 20, 2022 as presented in our packet. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Town Administrator’s Update

Budget

The budget process is still underway and will be wrapped up by February 6.

Select Board Goals & Objectives

We will continue the ongoing discussion of the Select Board shared goals at a future meeting and provide a status update on some of the main objectives.

Holidays

The Town Hall will be closed on Monday, January 16th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 8:50pm. Motion Passed (5-0-0).