

The Select Board met on Tuesday January 24, 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 7:05pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chair recognized the passing of Cliff Snuffer and referenced a number of the Boards & Committees that Cliff served on, including the Select Board and as a RTM for 36years. Chair O'Neil invited the Board and all those present to take part in a moment of silence for Cliff.

Tri-County RVTHS Superintendent Karen Maguire – Presentation on proposed High School Building Project  
Superintendent Karen Maguire was present and provided the Board with a presentation on the proposed Tri-County High School Building Project. Dan Haines School Business Manager was present as well as the two representatives from Walpole on the Tri-County. Karen provided a brief overview of make-up of Tri-County, size of the school and the steps taken to get the school to the position they currently are in in the MSBA process. Karen touched on the MSBA timeline, preliminary pricing of the project the option decided on with a price of \$278,898,689 and the important dates moving forward such as the district ballot election that will potentially be held in October 2023.

The Board engaged in a lengthy discussion about the cost and how it translates to Walpole, if the building cost could be lowered, next steps if the vote is not successful. Dan provided some rough figures to the Board in terms of costs to Walpole at \$1 to \$1.45million per year for thirty years. Karen mentioned to the Board that there was a number of State Bills that have been filed to assist with additional funding for vocational schools and the Board were receptive to assisting with these. Karen also informed the Board that it would be up to each individual town as to how best fund their portion of the repayments. The Board thanked Karen and Dan for being in front of them tonight and look forward to further discussion on the topic in the near future.

#### Town Clerk Elizabeth Gaffey, November Mid-Term Election Update

Liz provided the mid-term election update to the Board, Liz covered voter turnout, and the election process that occurs in the Town Clerk's Office leading up to the November election date including but not limited to the election changes that occurred due to the Votes Act. Liz outlined the hard work and dedication that is provided by her staff and all election workers during each election, while also trying to continue with the other day-to-day operations of the office. Liz thanked the building maintenance department, highway department and the police department that assist during these events and the Select Board and Town Administrator for the confidence that they have in her and her staff. The Board thanked Liz for this update and appreciate the handwork and dedication that is provided by the Town Clerk's Office that allow for a smooth and well run election process. The Board offered to provide any assistance that the office might require going forward.

### Walpole Police Department

Chief Kelleher and candidate Matthew Shaw were present. Chief Kelleher began by offering his condolences to the Snuffer family. The Chief introduced Matthew to the Board and gave some background on his experience to date. Matt introduced himself to the Board and thanked the Board for this opportunity. The Board welcomed Matt to the Town and look forward to working with him in the future. On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to appoint candidate Matthew Shaw to the position of Police Officer. Motion Passed (5-0-0). The Chief outlined to the Board the various changes that are being made to the Department Rules & Regulations, such as adding the of statutory language, how directives are issued, added language to cover the CROWN Act, language around tattoos. On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to approve the updated Police Department Rules and Regulations. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

### 300 Anniversary Committee Update

William Buckley, Catherine Abate and Judith Conroy from the 300 Committee were present to provide the Select Board with an update. Bill mentioned that the Committee will start coming before the Select Board regularly going forward. Bill provided a brief overview of the potential schedule of events, costs associated and funding sources. Bill spoke to the Board about how appreciative the Committee is of the town staff support that has been provided to date and will require more as they move forward with scheduling events.

Open Forum – No one present.

### CONSENT AGENDA

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

Multiple Donors to Smiling Eyes Financial	\$21
Patti Feeley in memory of Ronald Trenouth, Sr. to COA Gifts	\$25
Olga Church in memory of Ronald Trenouth, Sr. to COA Gifts	\$50
Sheila Unico in memory of Ronald Trenouth, Sr. to COA Gifts	\$50
Carolyn Ferris to COA Gifts	\$50
Rita Dziuba in memory of Madeline Taylor to COA Gifts	\$100
Rose-Marie Doherty to COA Gifts	\$100
Anna Fleet in memory of Madeline Taylor to COA Gifts	\$200
The Peterson Family in memory of John Peterson to COA Gifts	\$1,000
Motion Passed (5-0-0).	

### Town Administrator's Update

#### Budget Update

Budget is just about ready to go, met with school officials multiple times and I think we have reached a point where they are satisfied with the number we are ready to go with for them. I am in the process of finalizing the budget message, which will be recorded and posted on Walpole Media Corp by February 6.

#### Middle School

Ben had mentioned briefly the Middle School Building Committee voted tonight to authorize the Town Administrator to issue an authorization to proceed letter to Fontaine Brothers based on the bid results on the condition that the guaranteed max price does not \$92,982,450. They will meet on February 14 to review the final number that we come up with. The OPM noted at the meeting tonight that this is the first MSBA project

in some time that has come below or at the allotted budget amount. School Building Committee, OPM and the project team have all done a great job.

#### Finance Committee

Working with the Chairman to finalize the schedule for the Finance Committee. I expect that they will start to meet on Feb 13. School Department has already confirmed for February 16, we are going to get right into town budgets the first night and move on to school budget the second night.

#### Warrant Articles

We have currently 31 warrant articles and we are set to send that off to Town Counsel for review. Two items of note the in-law bylaw – the Board provided some comment, we have incorporated that feedback, and as it stands now the Planning Board has received all nine zoning bylaw article changes. So that is now in their hands to schedule their hearing and I am trying to do this far enough in advance so that Finance Committee can attend the public hearing. One other item is there is an article on there for the surplus sale of three parcels: East Walpole Library, a lot on the intersection of Kingsbury & Plain Street and the final property that is on there as a draft is the Old Town Hall. All three are covered under one article and I would like some feedback from the Board. The Board discussed briefly keeping it as one article and the opportunity to amend the motion at town meeting if necessary.

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 8:30pm. Motion Passed (5-0-0).