

The Select Board met on Tuesday May 23, 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.

#### Food Waste Composting Presentation

Waste Reduction Committee member Mary McDougall was present to give a presentation on the Black Earth Program, which will allow Walpole residents to have food waste composting bins picked up from their homes. Walpole has a high volume of trash compared to surrounding communities and this program will allow participants to safely dispose of their food waste in a more environmentally conscious manner. If more people sign up for this program, the price per household will go down. The Board thanked Mary for coming forward and providing information on this important topic.

#### Interview and Vote Board & Committee Appointments:

Candidate Greg Benson was present. Greg introduced himself to the Board and provided some information on why he is interested in becoming a member of the Committee. The Board thanked Greg for coming forward and volunteering. On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to appoint Greg Benson as a member of the Veteran Services Committee. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Open Forum – Precinct 5 RTM Bill Hamilton provided comment on developing a reservoir to serve as an extra source of clean water for the Walpole community. He suggested forming a committee to begin the planning process.

### New Business

#### Review & Vote to sign the following Union Contracts:

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to sign contract agreements for the term July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026 with Walpole Public Safety Dispatchers, Clerical Union, Local 155 Police, Fire Fighters Association and Library Employees. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

#### Review and Vote to sign Non-Union Contract Agreement with the following employees:

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to sign the non-union contracts agreements with James Johnson, Richard Mattson, Michael Donovan and Jodi Cuneo. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

#### Vote to accept the resignation of Fire Chief Bailey

Chair O'Neil read Fire Chief Bailey's resignation letter into the record. The Board thanked Chief Bailey for his many years of service. On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to accept the resignation of Fire Chief Bailey effective June 23, 2023. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

### Discussion and Possible Vote on Updated Select Board Policies & Procedures

The Board made several changes to the Select Board's Policies and Procedures, which had not been revised in over a decade. The Board outlined that it will continue to be a working document and continue to bring greater structure to the document. The Board understands that this is a living document that they will continue to return to and make relevant and meaningful changes. On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to approve the updated Select Board Policies and Procedures. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

### Update on Select Board Goals for 2022/2023

Jim Johnson provided an update on the Select Board goals, not only setting the goals but executing against the goals. The Board went through their goals for the past year and discussed their progress. Various projects are in various states of completion, with funding being a major factor in which projects see advancement. Jim expressed how the Select Board have been deliberate in spending the ARPA funds to make sure we spend them on the right things and will look at a meeting in June or July to discuss the remaining ARPA funds.

### Discussion & Vote on G.L. c. 268A §19(b) (1) Exemption Request of Joseph Grant Recreation Committee Member; regarding potential conflict of interest

Jim Johnson stated that Joseph Grant submitted this request as he is both a member of the Recreation Committee and a co-owner of a business which could potentially have business dealings with the Recreation Department. There does not appear to be a major conflict of interest, but it is being disclosed out of an abundance of caution and transparency. Jim read Joseph's disclosure into the record. On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to grant an exemption to Joseph Grant, a member of the Recreation Committee from the provisions listed on the agenda, in that he has described a potential financial interest in a written document submitted to the Board with respect to bidding on recreation apparel and further that such potential financial interest is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services the Town may expect from Mr. Grant as a member of the Recreation Committee and further that Mr. Grant be notified of the Board's decision in writing as soon as possible and that a copy of such decision be filed with the Town Clerk and a copy forwarded to the Recreation Committee for their records. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

### Vote Block Party Requests:

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to approve the block party request of Kristina Jacobsen on June 24, 2023 from 3pm – 11pm on Francis Road and cul-de-sac of Ginley Road and request of Amanda Tjonahen on August 26, 2023 from 12-9pm on Chopin Court. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

### Vote renewal of Stadium Event Parking Lot Licenses at 1896 Washington St., 1928 Washington St., 30 Water St., 36 Water St., 40 Water St., 44 Water St. and 93 Summer St.

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to renew the stadium event parking lot licenses at the properties listed on the agenda. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

### Vote to approve Stadium Event Parking Lot License at 14 Shufelt Road with 10 spaces

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to approve stadium event parking lot license at 14 Shufelt Road with 10 spaces. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

## Town Administrator's Update

### Concert

The Police and Fire Departments did an excellent job accommodating the increased flow of traffic surrounding the three-night Taylor Swift concerts at Gillette Stadium. Pleased to report I received no calls with complaints and several calls commending the great work done by Town Officials to make everything run as smoothly as possible.

### Fire Chief

As you know, Chief Bailey has submitted his resignation effective towards the end of June. Paul Barry has served as Deputy under Chief Bailey for the last 7 years. Paul is very much interested in serving as the next Fire Chief here in Walpole. Unless board members tell me differently I will work with Paul, the Chair and Vice Chair to have an agreement in place for one of the Board Meetings in June. I will continue to update the Board as this progresses.

### Fire Department Appointments

We will likely have some appointments on the next agenda as we try to stay ahead of the movement within the department.

### June 3<sup>rd</sup>

The Annual Town Election will be held on Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00am-8:00pm. There will also be a dedication ceremony for the Route 1A Fields Complex that day at 11:00am. The Town Clerk's office has recently moved back into the newly-renovated office in Room 124 of the Town Hall. Building Maintenance really did a great job renovating the office.

### Training

I wanted to let the Select Board know that we have set up some trainings on Tuesday, May 30 and Thursday, June 1 at the COA staff in municipal buildings. The training will cover Understanding Implicit Bias and Sensitivity in the Workplace. Department heads had this training last year and it was well received.

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 7:45pm. Motion Passed (5-0-0).