

The Select Board met on Tuesday December 19, 2023 beginning at 7:00pm in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall. Board member Maffei was absent, the following members were present:

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

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

Appointment

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Hamilton called the meeting to order at 7pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Interview and Vote to appoint Shalini Satish to the Walpole Cultural Council

Candidate Shalini Satish was present. Shalini introduced herself to the Board and spoke about her interest in joining the Cultural Council. The Board welcomed Shalini and thanked her for volunteering. On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to appoint Shalini Satish to the Walpole Cultural Council. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Jack Wiley, Adams Farm Committee – Discussion and Vote on adding a Fee for Dog Walkers (For Profit)

Jack Wiley Chair of the Adams Farm Committee was present to discuss the Committee's proposal to add a fee for paid dog walkers at Adams Farm. Jack informed the Board that the Committee felt if someone was being paid to walk dogs at the farm that they should pay to use the facilities. Jack informed the Board that they will flyer people who use the farm and also post it at several locations at the farm. Jack spoke to the Board about some cases of vandalism that has occurred in recent months at Adams Farm. On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to approve the new fee schedule for dog walkers as presented. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Discussion and Vote on Performance Security for a project located at 931 Main Street

Nichole Henderson and Luke Grady from New England Construction were present. Nichole informed the Board that they were asked to provide a bond for the culvert in case of any damage during the project. Nichole outlined to the Board the various measures that will be in place in order to protect the culvert. Luke informed the Board that a study of the existing conditions of the culvert was taken and will be reviewed again once the work is complete. The Board were appreciative of the tactics being employed during the project to protect the culvert. On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to set the value of the performance security for this project at \$200,000 to be held in place until the work is complete. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Open Forum – No one present.

New Business

Vote to sign State Aid Reimbursable Program for Complete Streets Tier 3 for \$11,655.85

Town Administrator Johnson outlined to the Board that this is the fourth and final reimbursement request to MassDOT for work performed under town contract 2022-24 within the Complete Streets Tier 3 Grant program. Jim informed the Board that at this time all the work under the contract had been completed. On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to sign the State Aid Reimbursable Program for Complete Streets Tier 3 for \$11,655.85. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote to award Bid/Contract #2024-07 – Water Main Replacement to Dig It Construction LLC

Town Administrator Johnson outlined to the Board that this contract was for water main replacement at various locations and eleven bids were received with the lowest qualified bidder being Dig It Construction LLC. On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to award Bid/Contract #2024-07 to Dig It Construction LLC. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to approve the consent items as listed on the December 19 agenda

Carol Friedholm in memory of Phyllis Piasecki to COA Gifts	\$25
Corrine Costello to COA Gifts	\$165
Friends of Walpole Elders to COA Gifts	\$1,373
Ruth Sundberg to Veterans Hometown Hero Program	\$50

Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Minutes

On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to approve the Minutes of November 7, 14 and 16, 2023 as presented. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Town Administrator’s Update

Storm Update

In Walpole we had 38 events so far restored, 3300 customers restored, about 482 still without power with 15 current events still out there. Still working through it, tough storm and weren’t expecting it to be that bad, but Police, DPW, Fire, everyone out there working hard and everyone pitched in as usual. Jimmy Thomas and the Parks Department are going around cleaning up trees and probably cleaning those up for the rest of the week, possibly into next week as well. Likely going to leave the compost site open on Saturday, so residents can get rid of some of the debris.

FY25 Budget

We have a draft budget that is balanced; I have shared some numbers with school department. I am expecting that they will probably want to have a meeting in the near future. They had their meeting last week where they discussed some of the priorities for the high school and hoping that they make a decision sometime soon, so that we can work with our team and start the design process once they set their priorities. So good news is we have a balanced budget.

Property Sale

We sold off two pieces of property earlier today. We had a packed room, which was great. We used the Zekos Group who did an excellent job. We got \$420,000 for the old library and \$385,000 for the Kingsbury lot. That almost exactly replaces the prison money for one year, so that helps out.

On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 7:26pm. Motion Passed (4-0-0).