

The Select Board met on Tuesday, November 09, 2021 beginning at 7:00pm in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall. The following members were present:

Mark Gallivan, Chair
Benjamin Barrett, Vice Chair
Glenn Maffei, Clerk
Nancy Mackenzie, left the meeting at 7:30pm
James O'Neil

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

Appointments

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Gallivan called the meeting to order at 7:05pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vote request of Health Director Melissa Ranieri to insert information on the plastic bag ban in the 3rd quarter Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills

Health Director Melissa Ranieri was present. Melissa explained to the Board that this request stems from the Spring Town Meeting Article that was passed and will go into effect the beginning of March 2022. On motion of Board member Mackenzie, seconded by Board member O'Neil, voted to approve request of the Health Director to insert information on the plastic bag ban in the 3rd quarter Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Chairman John Fisher, Board of Assessors, Discussion on Classification Hearing

Board of Assessors, Chairman John Fisher was present. John gave an overview of the process that the Select Board will be going through in order to determine the certified tax rate. A classification hearing is held every year in November, with the Select Board and the Board of Assessors. Data and a recommendation is provided and the Select Board will take a vote. The hearing date is tentatively scheduled for November 23. A full draft package will be provided to the Board before the end of the week, which is based on preliminary values not final values. During the Hearing the Board we will go through the highlights, answer any questions but the Select Board should be prepared to vote that night due to a very tight schedule.

Walpole Police Department:

Chief Kelleher introduced Sergeant Hazeldine to the Board and provided some information on her service record with the Walpole Police Department, including the introduction of the RAD program and her many credentials. The Board congratulated Jackie on her new opportunity and thanked her for her service to the Town of Walpole. Chief Kelleher presented Officer Thayer to the Board and provided some background on his service to the Town. Officer Thayer introduced himself to the Board and spoke more on his background. On motion of Board member Mackenzie, seconded by Board member O'Neil, voted to promote Officer John Thayer to become a permanent Sergeant with the Town of Walpole. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Vote request of Veterans Agent Mark Bryson to use the Town Common on November 11, 2021 for Veterans Day Observance

Veterans Agent Mark Bryson was present. On motion of Board member Mackenzie, seconded by Board member O'Neil, vote to approve request of Mark Bryson to use the Town Common on November 11, 2021 for Veterans Day. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Vote request of SD&M Corporation dba Rico's Pizzeria for a Common Victualler License to operate at 1351 Main Street

Business owner Socratis Gregoriadis was present. On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Chair Gallivan, voted to approve request of SD&M Corporation dba Rico's Pizzeria for a Common Victualler License to operate at 1351 Main Street. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Interview and Vote to appoint Elizabeth Chase to the Walpole Cultural Council

Candidate Elizabeth Chase was present. Elizabeth introduced herself to the Board and gave some information on her background and explained why she is interested in becoming a member of the Cultural Council. On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Chair Gallivan, voted to appoint Elizabeth Chase to the Walpole Cultural Council. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote request of CI Auto Group Inc. dba CARMART for a Class II Dealer License to operate at 575 Providence Highway

Business owner Burak Demir was present. On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Chair Gallivan, voted to approve request of CI Auto Group Inc. dba CARMART for a Class II Dealer License to operate at 575 Providence Highway. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Open Forum – No one present.

New Business

Vote to approve Stadium Event Parking Lot License at 44 Water Street

On motion of Board member Mackenzie, seconded by Board member O'Neil, voted to approve a stadium event parking lot license at 44 Water Street with 9 spaces. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Vote to open the Spring 2022 Town Meeting Warrant

On motion of Board member Mackenzie, seconded by Board member O'Neil, voted to open the Spring 2022 Town Meeting Warrant and close it on January 11, 2022. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Vote award of Bid/Contract #2022-04, Joint Salt Bid to Eastern Minerals Inc. for various salt treatments

On motion of Board member Mackenzie, seconded by Board member O'Neil, vote to award Bid/Contract #2022-04, Joint Salt Bid to Eastern Minerals Inc. for various salt treatments. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Vote request of Friends of Saint Patrick to hold the annual Parade on March 11, 2022 beginning at 11:25-11:30am

On motion of Board member Mackenzie, seconded by Board member O'Neil, voted to approve request of Friends of Saint Patrick to hold the annual parade on March 11, 2022. Motion Passed (4-0-1). Board member O'Neil abstained.

Vote to accept the resignation of Dorothy Smith from the Council on Aging

On motion of Board member Mackenzie, seconded by Board member O'Neil, voted to accept the resignation of Dorothy Smith from the Council on Aging effective immediately and thank her for her time on the Council. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Vote request of Walpole Chamber of Commerce to hold annual Santa Parade and Tree Lighting on Saturday November 27, 2021

On motion of Board member Mackenzie, seconded by Board member O'Neil, voted to approve request of Walpole Chamber of Commerce to hold annual Santa Parade and Tree Lighting on Saturday, November 27, 2021 in the morning and the evening. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Board member Mackenzie, seconded by Board member O'Neil, voted to accept with gratitude the following donations:

David & Dorothy Smith to Ambulance Gift Account	\$25
Karen Swan to Veteran Services Committee Banner Program	\$50
Lois Pineau to Veteran Services Committee Banner Program	\$50
Mark Kuszynski to Veteran Services Committee Banner Program	\$100
Multiple Donors to Recreation Smiling Eyes Financial Assistance	\$160
Jr. Woman's Club of Walpole to Community Policing/Marketing Account	\$500

Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Minutes

On motion of Board member Mackenzie, seconded by Board member O'Neil, voted to approve the minutes of October 12, 23 and 26, 2021 as presented in our packet. Motion Passed (5-0-0)

Town Administrator's Update

Town Election

Liz did a great job with her team, it really went off without a hitch with over 32% showing up to vote.

Borrowing Discussion

We are set to have a borrowing discussion on November 23 to discuss some borrowing options with our financial advisors. I would like to reach out to the Finance Committee, School Committee and School Building Committee and Finance Team to invite them so we can get as much input as possible. We will hold it down in the far end of the hall so we can do a hybrid meeting as that is a lot of people to get in the room if everyone shows up. I think it will be well attended and it's the most we have ever borrowed at one time. We are looking at a January maybe late February borrowing for that project. It will be a good discussion with everyone. We will meet early that night at 6pm. The outcome at the end of that night is the Board would like to move forward with borrowing a certain number of millions of dollars.

Working Meeting

We are set to have this meeting next week to discuss the American Rescue Plan Act Funding, Police Department Operations and Budget Discussion and Fire Department Operations and Budget Discussion. I explained to the Chiefs that I expect the Board to review the five year operations plan, equipment and training needs, FY23 budget and needs going forward with each department. As for the ARPA Funds, I would like have the Board direct me to move forward as the County has about \$4.8million allotted for Walpole. We have been working with Powers & Sullivan and Roselli & Clark to review the Town's lost revenue funds. They have identified approximately \$9 million or so in lost funds as a result of COVID. I am still waiting on the final report on that so I will share that with you before the meeting next week. I want to first understand how they come to those calculations. But the plan is to go forward with lost revenue that has been identified. So we can submit to get back these funds because it is a process as the County is not going to release all the money at once. The portal is up and running but I want to make sure the Board is comfortable with what we plan on doing. It is considered a grant by the Federal Government and overseen and administrated by the Select Board.

And if you are ok with it I will invite the Finance Committee to that discussion also, so they can have some input on the Police and Fire side and on the ARPA money.

Master Plan Community Forum

The forum will be held on Wednesday, November 17 at the High School from 7-9pm. Participants will be asked specific questions designed to identify common values and goals that will help form the components of a common vision for the Walpole's future. There are three Community Forums planned and all three will play an important role in identifying the shared goals and community vision as they work through the Master Plan.

On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Chair Gallivan, voted to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 7:45pm. Motion Passed (4-0-0).