

The Select Board met on Tuesday October 24, 2023 beginning at 7:00pm in the Finance Committee Room of Town Hall. The following members were present:

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

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

### Appointments

#### Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

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

#### Vote Walpole Fire Department Promotions

Fire Chief Barry introduced both candidates to the Board and provided some information on their careers to date within the Department. Captain Cherella provided some information on his career with the department and thanked the Board, Town Administrator and his family for the support. The Board congratulated Captain Cherella on this promotion. On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to promote Captain Cherella to the position of Assistant Fire Chief. Motion Passed (5-0-0). Fire Chief Barry introduced Lt. Hover to the Board and provided some information on his career with the department to date. Lieutenant Hover introduced himself to the Board and gave an update on this career with the department. He thanked the administration, Select Board, Chief and his family for their support so far during his career. On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to promote Lieutenant Allen Hover to the position of Deputy Fire Chief. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

#### MBTA Steering Committee

Candidates AJ Lorusso and Kevin Smith were given an opportunity to introduce themselves to the Board and discussed their interest in becoming part of the process. The Board thanked both candidates for coming forward and volunteering. Director of Community & Economic Development Patrick Deschenes provided a quick overview of the charge of the Committee and the scope of work that they would be working on and the timeframe that they would be looking at to bring a bylaw to either the Spring or Fall Town Meeting in 2024. On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to update the Committee make-up from two residents at large to five residents at large. Motion Passed (5-0-0). On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to appoint as residents at large Tyler Church, A.J. Lorusso, Ed Forsberg, Kevin Greener and Kevin Smith, as well as Phillip Czachorowski as the member of the Planning Board. Motion Passed (5-0-0). On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to appoint Glenn Maffei as the Select Board member to the Committee.

#### Interview & Vote to appoint Leah Whearty to the Historical Commission

Candidate Leah Whearty was present. Leah introduced herself to the Board and provided some background on her college and interests. The Board welcomed Leah and on motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to appoint Leah Whearty to the Historical Commission. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

#### Public Hearing and Vote request of DiLeo Gas Inc., for the installation of temporary above ground propane tanks (six 1,000 gallons) for construction heat at 625 Washington Street

On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to open the public hearing for the installation of temporary above ground propane tanks for construction heat at 625 Washington Street. Motion Passed (5-0-0). Jim Johnson provided some background on this item and the need to heat the building during the winter.

Paul DiLeo from DiLeo Gas representing the propane company and Joel Kent from Fontaine Brothers were present. Paul spoke about the number of tanks for the temporary heat during the winter season and how this amount of storage is common for a project of this size. Paul also spoke about how everything is up to NFPA code and during the height of winter would be looking at refilling every 2-3 days during regular business hours. The Board had a number of questions about, how long it takes it fill each tank, noise levels, disruption to the school and safety concerns especially during the winter with ploughs and construction equipment in the area. Paul informed the Board that the tanks are protected by concrete barriers and the tanks are at least 25ft off of the building.

Public comment was provided by Kevin Liberti on the containment of the tanks. Joel noted that the entire site is fenced in so there is no public access to the area. On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to close the public hearing. Motion Passed (5-0-0). On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to approve the request of DiLeo Gas Inc., for a new license for the installation of temporary above ground propane tanks 6,000 gallons total for construction heat at 625 Washington Street. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

#### Cultural Council Presentation

Cultural Council members Clodagh Drummey, Robert Byrd, Kerry Pitman and Sarah McCracken were present. They provided the Board with some background on the initiatives the Council have been working on, the grants they award, types of programs that benefit and how there is always a need for more funding as they are only able to fund about 40% of the requested projects. Clodagh outlined their budget is state funding of \$12,000 and would like to see the Town match this if possible so they can fund more projects.

The Board discussed other possible funding sources such as donations, in particular from the larger businesses in town, coordinating with the 300 Committee and seeking a capital request in the Fall. The Board thanked the Committee for all that they do, the programs that they sponsor and their presentation.

Open Forum – Board of Assessors Chair, John Fisher was present and provided a quick update on the process that will be in front of the Board next month for the Classification Hearing.

Kathleen Cleary from South Walpole was present to speak about a quiet zone for South Walpole.

#### New Business

##### Discussion and Vote on FY25 Salary Schedule

Town Administrator Johnson provided some background on this item, the proposed FY25 salary schedule, which includes a general cost of living increase of 2.25% for non-union personnel and moving around a few position in the schedule, the Assistant Fire Chief to a grade P2, the Deputy Fire Chief to a P3 and the addition of a Constituent Services Director, funding dependent. On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to approve the FY25 salary schedule as presented tonight. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

#### CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to approve the consent items as listed on the October 24 agenda:

Various Donors to Night Before the Fourth Account

\$185

Vote request of Julie Kinney for a Block Party on Chopin Court on October 31, 2023 from 4-10pm

Request of Candace Farias to change their block party to November 5, 2023 from 2-9pm on Alma Road

Motion Passed (5-0-0).

#### Town Administrator's Update

##### Fall Town Meeting

Thought everything went very smoothly that night, appreciate the discussion that occurring over the ADU Bylaw that was proposed. Jodi has gone ahead and created all the capital project account numbers.

### Spring Town Meeting

We are already underway, the warrant is set to open November 7 and close on January 23. Budget directives have gone out.

### Training

Town Counsel has offered to do some training, in light of events across the state for Chairs and Vice Chairs on how to hold the likes of open forum and de-escalation. We are also going to have them do some training as far as first amendment audits for department heads. I am really going to strongly encourage that at least Chairs and Vice Chairs attend the training

### Tri-County

Obviously if the vote passes tonight, I expect that we will be discussing that a lot over the upcoming months as to how to fund it. I'm already getting vote totals in some towns, so far it has passed in Norfolk, Medfield and Plainville. I think having the Finance Committee joint meetings on November 16 and 28 is going to be perfect timing.

### Executive Session

Chair Hamilton stated that it is the Board's intention to go into Executive Session for Purpose 3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. A discussion of the foregoing in open session could compromise the purpose of the executive session, with the Select Board not returning to open session at the conclusion of the executive session.

On motion of Chair Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to enter executive session for the purpose stated, with the Board not returning to open session at the conclusion of the executive session. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Returning to open session and no other business being presented for consideration, on motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 8:40pm. Motion Passed (5-0-0).