

The Select Board met on Tuesday January 23, 2024 beginning at 7:00pm in the Main Meeting 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 request of The Olive Branch LLC dba Farmer in the Dell for a Common Victualler License to operate at 935 East Street

Business owner Danielle Donnellan was present. Danielle spoke to the Board about taking over the business recently and how she was a former employee and plans to keep the same menu. On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan voted to approve request of The Olive Branch LLC for a Common Victualler License to operate at 935 East Street. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Interview and Vote to appoint Briana Pinheiro to the Economic Development Commission

Candidate Briana Pinheiro was present. Briana introduced herself to the Board and spoke about her interest in joining the Economic Development Commission. The Board thanked Briana for volunteering. On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan voted to appoint Briana Pinheiro to the Economic Development Commission. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Open Forum – No one present.

New Business

Vote to amend the Economic Development Commission Summary by removing reference to a Finance Committee appointee

On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan voted to amend the Economic Development Commission summary by removing the reference to a Finance Committee appointee. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Vote to close the Spring 2024 Town Meeting Warrant

Town Administrator Johnson informed the Board that there is possibly two zoning articles on the warrant for 2024. The Planning Board agreed to sponsor the Inclusionary Zoning Bylaw Article and Pat Deschenes is requesting a placeholder on the warrant for an article in regards to the MBTA communities. Jim advised the Board that Pat would be coming back before the Board at the first meeting in February to discuss it further. On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan voted to close the Spring 2024 Town Meeting Warrant. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Vote to approve request of Recreation Director Brendan Croak to hold Walpole Day event and parade on Saturday, May 11, 2024

On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan voted to approve request of the Recreation Director to hold Walpole Day event and parade on Saturday May 11, 2024. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Discussion and Vote on returning unused ARPA project balances to Norfolk County and Vote the use of Norfolk County and Treasury ARPA Funds for several projects

Town Administrator Johnson provided a brief outline to the Board on this, in particular the completed or awarded projects that had remaining balances, which included Winter Street sewer extension; WHS dust collection system, Willis membrane replacement and East/Elm Bridge rehab design. On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan voted to approve the return of unused ARPA County project balances totaling \$263,541.53. Motion Passed (5-0-0). Jim outlined to the Board the remaining balance held by the County that need to be allocated to a project by June 2024. On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan voted to obligate the remaining portion of ARPA funds held by Norfolk County which totally \$1,142,140 to be used to fund the Walpole High School architect, engineering and design development to bidding phase with Tappé and Vertex. Motion Passed (5-0-0). On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan voted to appropriate \$720,000 in ARPA Treasury funds for the construction of the culvert at Washington Street. Motion Passed (5-0-0). Jim updated the Board on the remaining balance of ARPA Treasury Funds, which stands at \$1,134,916 and will likely be back in front of the Board later to discuss committing these funds to the high school renovation project.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan voted to approve the consent items as listed on the January 23 agenda

New Pond Village Association to Library Gifts	\$1,000
Bier Family Trust to COA Gifts	\$50
Phillip H Sanford Trust to COA Gifts	\$150
Request of Anne Steciw to use Adams Farm on April 7, 2023 from 10am-noon for a dog training class	
Request of Avenir, 1601 Main Street for Change of Manager to Jonathan Saphire	
Motion Passed (5-0-0).	

Minutes

On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan voted to approve the Minutes of January 9 2024 as present. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Town Administrator's Update

Budget

The budget message was published today, it's out on the website. I have distributed it to Finance Committee, this Board, members of the School Committee and the budgets will be available for pick up by the end of this week. Finance Committee is set to begin meeting on Feb 5, their meeting is with the school department to review their budget requests.

Johnson Middle School

Mike Friscia and I have been working with TEC and BICO on the agreements and we are putting the finishing touches to them and at this point we are down to the real details but we have some good agreements in place. I expect that we will have something for the Select Board and School Committee to sign in February or March.

On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 7:20pm. Motion Passed (5-0-0).