

Select Board
February 15, 2024

Robert Czekanski, Chair
Stanley Wysocki
Not Present: Brian Boyle

Via Zoom

Don Lowe, Town Administrator

Ms. Czekanski called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting was recorded. Mr. Boyle was not in attendance.

Bare Hill Triathlon

Sue Reedich was in attendance to request permission for the 12th annual Bare Hill Triathlon to hold their race. The bike portion of the race will enter Bolton around 8:15 am on Bolton, Harvard and Bare Hill Road. The route is unchanged. The police department has approved the event. Ms. Reedich will provide an insurance certificate. The race is run by the Harvard Lion's Club which contributes half of the proceeds to sight and hearing charities. The other half goes to Town related needs such as food pantries and veteran's support.

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Czekanski, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Bare Hill Triathlon on Sunday June 9th, 2024 contingent upon receipt of insurance certificate. (Wysocki-yes, Czekanski-yes)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Lowe gave a brief walkthrough of the draft warrant.

Revolving Accounts Article- There are no new accounts being added this year. There may be adjustments to the spending limits of a few of the accounts.

Stabilization Account Article-Article is a placeholder to replenish the stabilization account from the fire station roof borrowing from ATM23.

Special Revenue Fund- This article will establish an account to move the funds received and to be received from opioid settlements. The funds are currently in free cash.

Code Amendment-Animals at Large- The article will broaden the language to allow for enforcement beyond the roadway.

Code Amendment-The article will update the bylaw language to conform with the new pay as you throw bag program which replaced the transfer station stickers.

Road Acceptance-This is a placeholder anticipating that the developer will get through a punch list of requirements once the ground thaws.

Wetland Bylaw Amendments-This article will update the bylaw to reflect the work the Town has done with the wetland scientist and environmental attorney for climate adaptation and resiliency measures.

Culvert Replacement-This article will appropriate \$128,778 to fund construction phases to replace a failed culvert. This money will be the matching funds.

Sawyer School Waste Water-Mr. Lowe noted that the amount has changed from \$48K to \$36K. That being said, his recommendation will be to appropriate ARPA funds for the project and strike the article from the warrant.

Mr. Lowe added that an article should be added to the warrant to replenish the advisory reserve fund. Mr. Guerriero, Chair of the Advisory Committee was present but was not prepared to comment.

Derby Field-The Town is assembling a submission for phase 2 of the project to renovate the Derby field.

NRSD-Mr. Lowe reported meeting with Superintendent Downing and Ross Mulkerin the business agent for Nashoba Regional School District. Every 50 basis points is \$43K to the Town. Mr. Lowe was very clear on where our budget stands as was the district. Mr. Lowe encouraged the district to dig deeper to get the increase down to 4%. The Tri Town meeting will be on February 27th, but the number will not be final at that time until the school committee votes on the budget. Mr. Lowe is cautioned that the Town might need to consider an override in the future if the trend continues.

SELECT BOARD BUSINESS

Future Agenda Items

Mr. Wysocki asked to have the fire chief in to discuss the recent vehicle purchases and the billing practices. Mr. Wysocki would like to discuss the transfer station policies to deal with residents who are not following the rules.

Update on Unexpended Articles

The Board reviewed a chart from the Town Accountant Ninotchka Rogers which shows the unexpended article money totaling \$81,579.03. Mr. Lowe would like to apply \$52,037.44 from the Spectacle Hill Road Flood Improvements toward the engineering of the bridge on Forbush Mill Road. Ms. Rogers will check with bond counsel to see if this would be considered a like purpose.

Mr. Lowe recommended the Board considered applying any uncommitted ARPA funds toward the budget.

Gift Policy Revision

At the recommendation of the Assistant Treasurer/Tax Collector, the language in the policy was revised to:

Any Town Officer or Department Head may receive a monetary gift pending acceptance by the Select Board. Such funds may be spent for the purpose of the gift without a Town Meeting appropriation upon the approval of the Select Board. Prior to spending a monetary gift, the Select Board must vote to accept each gift AND authorize expenditures from the gift account by the specified department. Departments are then free to spend from the gift account right away without additional Board approval.

Any monetary gifts of cash shall ONLY be received by the Town Treasurer/~~Tax Collector~~ Assistant Town Treasurer.

Donations of tangible items (i.e., a flag, a monument, a plaque, etc.) shall be accepted by the Select Board.

Gifts of land require Town Meeting approval, per M.G.L. c. 40, Sec. 3. There are exceptions, however, for specific real estate interests. For example, gifts of land to the Conservation Commission may be accepted by the Conservation Commission with the approval of the Select Board, with no Town Meeting approval necessary. Donations of easements for road drainage purposes may be accepted by the Select Board independently.

When a gift is accepted, such acceptance should be accompanied by a letter of thanks to the donor.

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Czekanski, the Board voted unanimously to amend the gift policy as presented. (Wysocki-yes, Czekanski-yes)

Annual Report

Mr. Czekanski voted to move the agenda item to the next meeting when the full Board will be present.

Caucus

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Czekanski, the Board voted unanimously to call the Citizen's Caucus on Monday March 4th, 2024 at the Bolton Public Library at 7pm. (Wysocki-yes, Czekanski-yes)

Presidential Primary

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Czekanski, the Board voted unanimously to call the Presidential Primary on Tuesday March 5th, 2024 from 7am-8pm at the Nashoba Regional High School Auditorium. (Wysocki-yes, Czekanski-yes)

Town Administrator Search Committee Update

Mr. Wysock reported that the Search Committee met. The position statement is complete. Paradigm will be canvassing to generate interest in the position. The next meeting will be on March 7th. The first screening will be done by Paradigm. Ms. Jacobsen asked the Board to begin to think about the final interviews including when to conduct the interviews and where to conduct the interviews. The Board will discuss at the next meeting.

Bills/Payroll Warrant

On a motion made by Boyle and seconded by Wysocki, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve warrants W24-14 & W24-14A, W24-15 & W24-15A W24-16 & W24-16A. (Wysocki-yes, Czekanski-yes)

Minutes

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Czekanski, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve minutes of January 11, 2024. (Wysocki-yes, Czekanski-yes)

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Czekanski, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve minutes of January 25, 2024 as amended. (Wysocki-yes, Czekanski-yes)

On a motion made by Boyle and seconded by Wysocki, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to adjourn at 7:41 pm. (Wysocki-yes, Czekanski-yes)

Respectfully submitted by J. Jacobsen.