

Board of Selectmen
August 22, 2019

Robert Czekanski
Jonathan Keep
Stan Wysocki, Chair
Don Lowe, Town Administrator
Jenny Jacobsen, Town Secretary

Mr. Wysocki called the Board of Selectmen's executive session to order at 6:31 pm.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep, the Board of Selectmen voted 3-0 by roll call (Czekanski-yes, Keep-yes, Wysocki-yes), to enter into executive session at 6:31 pm pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the fire union as the chair finds that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Board's bargaining position. The Board will reconvene in open session at 6:55 pm.

Board reconvened at 6:55 pm.

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Czekanski, the Board voted to approve the appointment of Michelle Carlisle as the Tax Collector/Assistant Treasurer (Keep-yes, Czekanski-yes, Wysocki-yes).

Mr. Lowe commented that it is well deserved.

No minutes to approve.

TELEPHONE POLE HEARING

The Board of Selectmen held a public hearing at 7:00 pm on the petition of National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc. to relocate 4 jointly owned poles on Main Street & Wattaquaddock Hill Road beginning at a point approximately 0 feet at the centerline of the intersection of Main Street & Wattaquaddock Hill Road and continuing approximately 214 feet in a southeast direction. National Grid to relocate 4 poles for road widening and traffic lights per town request.

Autumn Kubriak, attended the meeting to represent National Grid. Mark Caisse, Tree Warden was in attendance and had no objections after a site visit.

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Czekanski, the Board of Selectmen voted to approve the hearing. (Keep-yes, Czekanski-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Ms. Alice Coggleshell, abutter, asked for clarification of the location of one of the poles to her driveway but had no objections.

Joe Lynch, DPW director confirmed that the movement of the poles is in conjunction with a DPW project and commented that there is a lot of coordination that needs to happen. He needs the relocations done quickly to prepare for the road work. Ms. Kubriak noted that there will be no cost for the removal of the poles. Verizon is responsible for moving the poles since they are jointly owned.

LEACH FIELD AT NASHOBA REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Board welcomed Senator Dean Tran to discuss the leach field at Nashoba Regional High School. Sen. Tran reminded Mr. Lowe that the last time he was in the room to meet with Mr. Lowe and the Superintendent of the Schools, Brooke Clenchy, they discussed priorities for the town. Those priorities were the leach field for NRSD, Chapter 70 funding and regional transportation reimbursement. Senator Tran reported that was able to get that leach field project into the environmental bond bill which was signed earlier this year. The downside is that it was signed after they did the plan for 2019. His office advocated to have that money released this year to no avail. The two options remaining are getting it in the 2020 plan or to find money in other avenues to support this project. Senator Tran assured the Board that he is working very hard on this project.

Senator Tran reported on the Chapter 70 funding and regional funding. In 2018 NRSD received 96K, in 2019 they received 139K and in the upcoming school year they will receive 282K. Board was pleased. The Senate increased regional transportation reimbursement to the highest level. Senator met with MARS. They were advocating for 85. They were able to bring it 82 percent. In 2018 NRSD received a decrease by -\$34,766; in 2019 they received an increase of \$154. This year they will receive \$359,256.

Mr. Lowe thanked the Senator and inquired who his main contact should be as he would like to ensure that the Senator receives all of the information that he needs from the Town of Bolton. Senator Tran will have his Chief of Staff, Kristen Mylar, will reach out with her contact information. Arianna Aubichaud is also a resource.

Senator also mentioned his awareness of Rte. 117 being a priority to the Town of Bolton.

Mr. Lowe informed the Senator of the award of the Mass Works grant of nearly 1 million.

Mr. Lowe also made the Senator aware of the filing that the Town will be working on for the Complete Streets program.

Senator Tran will be in touch with Mr. Czekanski regarding his request for information about the process for determining local aid.

APPROVAL OF EVENTS:

The Board reviewed the request to hold the ride to defeat ALS for 2019. Mr. Lowe requested confirmation that their insurance was received. The Board chose to table the item until Mr. Bosselait's arrival at 7:30 pm.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Minuteman- Mr. Lowe suggested we jump ahead to the Town Administrator's report since the meeting was running early. He shared an update on the Minuteman school which remains on schedule to open on September 3, 2019. He shared a photo of the theater. There is a temporary occupancy for faculty and they will be getting a temporary occupancy for students. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on October 4th at 10am which should include a tour. Mr. Lowe invited the Selectmen to attend.

Portico- Mr. Lowe announced that the replacement wood, the African mahogany which should be done tomorrow. The roof should be complete in late August. What is left is the power washing and whatever tidying up is left and then plantings. The Town is also looking into relocating the flagpole within the 13K we have remaining.

Goals for FY20- Mr. Lowe informed the Board of the review of the transfer station hours including reviewing potentially cutting back hours on Wednesdays. It would not allow ample time for people that work well out of town to utilize the transfer station if they are going away for the weekend. Alternatively, they are looking to reducing the closing time from 3pm to 2pm on Saturdays with proper notice.

Mr. Czekanski questioned why the opening time on Wednesday was not considered. Joseph Lynch, DPW director reported that the first hour on Wednesdays is very busy.

Myke Farricker arrived and was called to the table for the review of the race for ALS. Mr. Farricker reported that it is the 19th year doing it. He provided the Town proof of insurance and talked to the Police Chief for approval.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep, the Board voted to approve the Race for ALS on September 22nd 2019. (Keep-yes, Czekanski- yes, Wysocki-yes)

REVIEW OF 40B PROJECT "THE WOODS"

Town Planner, Erica Uriarte updated the Board on the receipt of notice of a 40B development on Farm Road and invited comments from the Board of Selectmen. Erica reviewed the plan for the proposed project on the 2.5 acre site with .6 acres wetlands on the old Coolidge property.

Developer is proposing 4 single family units. Erica showed the rendering of the cottage style homes. 1700 sq. ft. with 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. They are proposing 2 curb cuts. The Planning Board would like to see the driveway moved further from the intersection. They have moved it slightly but the problem is that it borders wetlands. Shared well and shared septic system. Three will be market and one will be affordable. Affordable unit will go for 175K. Mr. Keep inquired if it will be affordable in perpetuity. Ms. Uriarte will confirm.

Mr. Keep commented that it is a very urban condition with very little room between the road. He would like to see an increase to the vegetated buffer between the houses and the road.

Ms. Uriarte reported that the Planning Board wanted to have the entrance on Farm Road and asked if the Board agreed with that. Mr. Keep agreed. Mr. Czekanski asked why the entrance would not be on

Berlin Road and was informed that the speed of traffic made the Farm Road the preferable site for the curb cut.

Waivers from bylaws and regs will be limited. Zoning is increasing units on a single lot. In response to a question from Mr. Keep, Ms. Uriarte explained that the backup septic system is in between the leaching beds. House will be higher than the leaching field.

Ms. Uriarte will put together a comment letter for signature. It did not require a vote.

TAGGART PROPERTY

Conservation Agent, Rebecca Longvall reviewed the maps of the Taggart Property. The property sits off Forbush Mill Road and adjacent to a single-family home property. The property abuts state property and more conservation land. The Conservation Commission is requesting approval to seek opportunities to pursue this.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep the Board voted to grant Rebecca approval to pursue avenues for preserving the property. (Czekanski-yes, Keep-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Firefighters union postponed to a future agenda.

BOND REFINANCING

Margaret MacLean of Unibank reported on the recent bond refinancing. We sold on 8/15 and there were 8 bids. Part of it was a refunding of 2009 issue. Rates are lower now than the existing bonds. Over the life of the bond we are saving just under 12percent or 250K. Fidelity was the winning bidder. The True Interest Rate (TIC) was 1.08. Town did really really well. Mr. Lowe commented that we saved 330 K in an earlier refinancing so between the two we have saved 580K dollars. He gave much of the credit to Kristen Noel, Town Treasurer. Ms. Noel responded that with this particular refinanced it involved much paperwork and every single department got everything that she needed. She also mentioned that the reason we did so well is that we were able to maintain our triple A bond rating.

Mr. Wysocki reiterated that the Town has done an excellent job being fiscally responsible. We have the highest rating and it helps in acquiring good rates.

Ms. Noel stressed how important it is that we continue to fund our OPEP. Not everyone can say and they do take that into consideration.

Mr. Czekanski commented that in the report from Standard and Poors, the Town's lack of reliance on public funds was considered a positive.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep, the Board of Selectmen voted to approve the refinancing of the bonds according to the documents. (Czekanski-yes, Keep-yes, Wysocki-yes)

The Board agreed to sign the documents at the conclusion of the meeting.

Mr. Wysocki will defer public service announcements to next meeting for the sake of time.

INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep the Board voted to execute the Intermunicipal Agreement for Regional Housing Services provided by MetroWest CD. (Czekanski- yes, Keep- yes, Wysocki-yes)

BOSTON POST CANE

Mr. Czekanski reviewed the history of the Boston Post Cane initiative. The Mr. Czekanski is seeking recognition of Ruea Baum as the oldest citizen and the recipient of the ceremonial cane which will sit in a glass case made by Bob Roemer and accompanied by a plaque that Alice Roemer put together at town hall. The recipient receives an inscribed glass apple to commemorate the event.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep the Board voted to recognize Ruea Baum as the recipient of the ceremonial Boston Post Cane. (Czekanski- yes, Keep- yes, Wysocki-yes)

SIGN POST AT INTERSECTION OF WATTQUADOCK AND MAIN

DPW director, Joseph Lynch apprised the Board with a description of the existing sign which sits westbound on Main Street. The sign is in the way of the road project at Wattaquaddock and Main. You must have 6 foot 8 minimum clearance from the bottom of the sign and you can't achieve it with the existing sign without excessive height. The hospital sign will remain at the appropriate height. Mr. Lynch will let all of the current entities know that we intend to do this.

The Board considered options and obstacles to relocating the sign including reduced visibility for the local businesses but agreed the sign needed to be relocated. Mr. Lowe suggested that we come back with some realistic ideas at a future meeting. Mr. Keep suggested notifying the EDC. Mr. Lynch reported his hope to allocate residual funds from the state money for the road work to erect an ornamental message board.

Mr. Lowe, in keeping with the discussion of the road work, announced that the bids for the road project ranged from 740K 1.1 million dollars. ETL in Stow was the apparent low bidder.

On a motion made by Keep and seconded by Czekanski the Board of Selectmen voted to grant Town Administrator authority to award the contract for the improvements to Main Street and Wattaquaddock to the lowest bidder. (Czekanski-yes, Keep-yes, Wysocki-yes)

On a motion made by Keep and seconded by Czekanski, the Board of Selectmen voted to approve bills and warrants, W20-02, W2-02A, W20-03, W20-03A, W20-04 and W20-04A. (Czekanski-yes, Keep-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Czekanski moved to adjourn. Wysocki 2nd. Motion passed. (Czekanski-yes, Keep-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Respectfully submitted by Jenny Jacobsen.