

Select Board
July 15, 2021
Via Zoom*

Stanley Wysocki
Robert Czekanski

Absent-Jonathan Keep

Don Lowe, Town Administrator
Jenny Jacobsen, Town Secretary

Mr. Wysocki called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm as the clerk in the absence of the Chair, Mr. Keep.

END-OF-YEAR TRANSFERS

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Wysocki the Board voted by roll call unanimously to approve the end-of-year transfers as presented. (Czekanski-yes, Wysocki-yes)

BOARD REORGANIZATION

Mr. Czekanski addressed some questions he received prior to the meeting, confirming that the removal of Mr. Keep is not on the agenda nor in the authority of the Board of Selectmen; that there will be no executive session portion of the meeting; and that there are no rules or bylaws regarding the selection or duration of term for the Chair of the Select Board. Mr. Czekanski provided his own personal pathway to serving in the role of Select Board member. Mr. Czekanski called for this item to be on the Select Board's agenda in response to the lawsuit that Mr. Keep filed against the Town, specifically the Planning Board, at the district court entitled Keep vs. Neyland (who was the first name mentioned in the suit). Mr. Czekanski noted that Mr. Keep is not an abutter to the parcel addressed in the Planning Board decision and none of the abutters to that parcel objected or commented on the application. Mr. Czekanski went on to describe a history of legal actions taken by Mr. Keep against the Town, including a prior law suit against the town. Mr. Czekanski provided a history of Mr. Keep's multiple complaints against the police department in general and a particular officer in particular. All the complaints were dismissed with no wrong-doing found, including the complaint lodged by Mr. Keep to the state Attorney General's office. Mr. Czekanski quoted from the decision of the Civil Rights Division of the Massachusetts Office of Attorney General, "I am writing to inform you that based on our review our office has found no wrongdoing of any member of your department."

Mr. Czekanski noted that Mr. Keep is unaffected by the results of the law suit he filed against the Planning Board. The property owners of the property identified in Mr. Keep's complaint, their family, as well as the taxpayers of Bolton will pay for this complaint. Mr. Keep initiated the lawsuit against the Town ignoring that it was a unanimous decision by Planning Board members elected by the residents of the Town. Mr. Czekanski commented that Mr. Keep's law suit has put a "rancid stink" on Town government and that it will drive away talented and innovative people from participating on Boards and Committees. For these reasons Mr. Czekanski stated that Mr. Keep does not deserve to be the Chair of the Select Board.

Mr. Czekanski planned to ask Mr. Keep to respond but Mr. Keep was absent.

Mr. Wysocki agreed with Mr. Czekanski's statement and attested to his own knowledge of the events described by Mr. Czekanski. Mr. Wysocki, a Select Board member at the time, was involved in the situation Mr. Czekanski described about the police officer and corroborated Mr. Czekanski's description of the events.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Wysocki the Board voted by roll call unanimously to make Mr. Wysocki the Chair and Mr. Czekanski the clerk until the end of the year at which time Mr. Czekanski will become the Chair and Mr. Wysocki the clerk until the Town election in 2022. (Czekanski-yes, Wysocki-yes)

A hand was raised after the vote was taken. Mr. Lowe noted that with no items remaining on the agenda there is no cause for further discussion.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Wysocki the Board voted by roll call unanimously to adjourn at 7:23pm. (Czekanski-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Respectfully submitted by Jenny Jacobsen.

**All attendees participated remotely via Zoom Remote Conferencing pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.c. 30A Section 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place.*