

Select Board

October 26, 2023

Via Zoom Remote Conferencing

Robert Czekanski, Chair

Stan Wysocki

Brian Boyle

Don Lowe, Town Administrator

Jenny Jacobsen, Town Secretary

Mr. Czekanski called a meeting of the to order at 7:32 pm. The meeting started late due to technical difficulties delaying the Law Committee meeting prior to the Select Board meeting.

CONSERVATION RESTRICTION

Mr. Gaffney who had planned to attend the meeting was not in attendance. The Board received a copy of the conservation restriction for the 1.873-acre parcel of land on Coventry Wood Road. in in advance of the meeting.

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle, the Board reviewed the conservation restriction from Richard A. Merrill and Margey M. Merrill to the Bolton Conservation Trust, Inc. in the public interest pursuant to Section 32 of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Laws. (Boyle-yes, Wysocki-yes, Czekanski-yes)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

High School Building Project

Mr. Lowe provided an update, following up on a request from the Board, on the ongoing operating expenses of the high school building project. Mr. Lowe received an email from Mr. Joseph Gleason of the School Committee who referred the Board to five projects that Skanska had previously worked on, Minuteman Regional High School, Attleboro High School, Winchester High School, Winthrop Middle/High School and Sommerset Berkely High School.

The School District is not planning to increase staff head count in the new building.

Mr. Czekanski reported that after receiving the correspondence from Mr. Gleason he reached directly out to Skanska to inquire as to whether they collect that information. Skanska reported that they do not collect that data.

Mr. Wysocki was not satisfied with the response as he was looking for the operational costs of the buildings and not the head count. Mr. Boyle suggested that the information might be more valuable nearer to the project completion as we plan for the new operational costs. Mr. Boyle offered to raise the issue at a future meeting of the Budget and Warrant Subcommittee.

Hometown Heroes Event

Mr. Lowe provided an update on the event scheduled for Saturday November 11th, 2023 from 11:30am to 1:30pm to honor our veterans. A motorcade will depart from Slater's and proceed to Trinity Church for a luncheon. Representative Kate Hogan and Senator Robyn Kennedy plan to attend. Mr. Lowe recognized the efforts of Karen Regan, Leslie Caisse and Linda Day for their work on the event.

DOT Update

Mr. Lowe submitted documentation to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation in August which has been approved to lower the speed limit from 30 to 25 townwide in thickly settled areas. The next steps will be to acquire and place signage. This will be a topic for a future meeting.

SELECT BOARD BUSINESS

Public Service Announcements

There were none.

Future Agenda Items Discussion

There were none.

Town Administrator Search

Mr. Lowe reported that the Town has received to letters of interest from residents looking to serve on the committee, Lorraine Romasco and Panny Gerken. Bolton resident John Petrin submitted an informational packet from his company Community Paradigm Associates owned by Bernie Lynch.

Mr. Boyle inquired if a Request for Proposals (RFP) is a best practice. Mr. Lowe reported that it is not required to do an RFP and it often raises the price. Anecdotally, Mr. Lowe reported that it might be 50% of other Towns that go out for an RFP.

Mr. Wysocki was in favor of proceeding with Mr. Petrin's firm. The Board discussed a proposed timeline. The consultant should be involved at the kickoff meeting.

Mr. Petrin congratulated Mr. Lowe on his retirement. Mr. Petrin provided an overview of the timeline. The screening meeting will meet around four times. The first month or so the firm will be putting together a statement. The cost would be \$9,900 for the search. The only cost on top of that would be the advertising cost. Mr. Lowe suggested that the Board request a contract from Mr. Petrin for review and vote to approve and sign. The Board asked for the notice to be sent out looking for volunteers as soon as possible. The time commitment will be in January to February.

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle, the Board voted by roll call vote unanimously to authorize the Town Administrator to work on a contract with Community Paradigm Associates. (Boyle-yes, Wysocki-yes, Czekanski-yes)

Appointments

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle, the Board voted by roll call vote unanimously to appoint Kristin DeJohn as a full member of the Economic Development Committee. (Boyle-yes, Wysocki-yes, Czekanski-yes)

Bills/Payroll Warrants

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle, the Board voted by roll call vote unanimously to approve bills/payroll warrants W24-8 and W24-8A. (Boyle-yes, Wysocki-yes, Czekanski-yes)

Minutes

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle, the Board voted by roll call vote unanimously to approve the minutes of October 12th, 2023. (Boyle-yes, Wysocki-yes, Czekanski-yes)

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle, the Board voted by roll call vote unanimously to adjourn at 8:19pm. (Boyle-yes, Wysocki-yes, Czekanski-yes)

Respectfully submitted by J. Jacobsen.