

Approved by Select Board on 8-15-23

Select Board
July 13th, 2023
Via Zoom Remote Conferencing*

Robert Czekanski, Chair
Stanley Wysocki
Brian Boyle

Don Lowe, Town Administrator
Jenny Jacobsen, Town Secretary

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Czekanski called the meeting of the Select Board to order at 7:00 p.m.

JOINT MEETING WITH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON END-OF-YEAR TRANSFERS

A quorum was present from the Advisory Committee: Bob Guerriero, Craig Lauer, Don Cole, and William Nickels.

Mr. Guerriero called the meeting joint meeting with the Advisory Committee to order at 7:03pm.

Both committees reviewed the list of end-of-year transfers prepared by the Town Accountant, Ninotchka Rogers and distributed to the Board in advance of the meeting.

On a motion made by Guerriero and seconded by Lauer the Advisory Committee voted to approve the end-of-year transfers as presented. (Guerriero-yes, Lauer-yes, Cole-yes, Nickels-yes)

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

On a motion made by Guerriero and seconded by Lauer the Advisory Committee voted to adjourn. (Guerriero-yes, Lauer-yes, Cole-yes, Nickels-yes)

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BONDING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

Treasurer Kristen Noel was present. Ms. Noel will represent Bolton on the committee along with financial representatives from the other two towns. Ms. Noel reminded the Board that the Town of Bolton went through a similar process 3 years ago to refinance debt to save a lot of money in interest. The process involved getting a bond rating to determine the credit worthiness of the debt that they are looking to sell. Ms. Noel will bring her experience to the committee both from the Bolton experience and a similar experience with another community prior to Bolton.

Mr. Wysocki asked if the district needs to borrow the entire \$241M. Ms. Noel will have more information after her first meeting with the committee.

The committee will meet for two meetings during the day.

The Board thanked Ms. Noel and offered the support of the Board as needed.

PARKING SIGNS ON MAIN STREET

The Board reviewed the memo from DPW Director Randy Heglin requesting the codification of no parking zones with the placement of additional no parking signs near the intersection of Wattaquodock Hill Road in the west and eastbound lanes. There were no events that precipitated the request. Mr. Czekanski was in favor of delaying a vote to allow residents time to voice their concerns. The Board agreed. The item will be moved to the August 24th meeting

BOLTON ACCESS TELEVISION

Nicky McGachey appeared before the Board to request the release of \$12K for capital for Bolton Access Television.

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle the Select Board voted to approve the request from Bolton Access Television for the release of the 2023 capital payment in the amount of \$12K. (Wysocki-yes, Boyle-yes, Czekanski-yes)

OPEN SPACE HOLDING-CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Rebecca Bucciaglia, Conservation Agent, appeared before the Board with a request from the Conservation Commission to accept the holding of open space in fee, which means holding the right of ownership of 18.11 acres of Open Space. Ms. Bucciaglia explained the request to the Board and responded to questions. There will other opportunities for the Board to weigh in before the project is approved. Ms. Bucciaglia explained that to her understanding the Select Board needs to accept all gifts and this FOSPRD process involves a sizeable donation. Mr. Czekanski suggested the Planning Board should consider alternative ways to hold land without it coming out of the 2 ½% levy capacity.

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle the Select Board voted by roll call unanimously to approve the request from the Conservation Commission to continue negotiations regarding the holding in fee of the 18.11 acres of Open Space offered by the project applicant for S. Bolton Road FOSPRD MPA 2.C Parcel 23 to be held by the Town under the management of its Conservation Commission by right of MGL Ch 40 Section 8.C and Article 97. (Wysocki-yes, Boyle-yes, Czekanski-yes)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Lowe recognized the work that Ms. Bucciaglia did to host a joint learn to fish event with the Mass Wildlife Angler program that was very well attended.

2nd Means of Egress

Mr. Lowe reached out to CEI Engineers to get an estimate for what engineering might cost the Town. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday July 18th. Mr. Lowe is working with Senator Trahan's office to identify a grant that could assist with the engineering. DOT Rural Assistance program is a first come first serve grant program that could be a nice fit for the planning phase of the project.

Parks and Recreation

Mr. Lowe announced the family fun day hosted by the Parks and Recreation Commission on August 5th at camp resolute. The cost is \$20/family.

Youth Sports Announcements

Mr. Lowe announced the accomplishments of several local youth baseball teams. The U12 all stars advanced to the state tournament. U10 won the state championship and will advance to the Regional Cal Ripken Tournament in CT and the U8 are going for back-to-back state championships.

Mr. Lowe announced that Lisa Shepple and the Parks and Recreation Commission earned a community supporter certificate from the Girl Scouts of Central Massachusetts.

SELECT BOARD BUSINESS

News and Announcements

Mr. Wysocki reminded residents to bring bottles and cans with deposit returns to the red barn and to use the orange green bags for the disposal of their refuse.

Future Agenda Items

Mr. Wysocki asked for an item in August to let people know the implications of the bonding of the borrowing for the high school and to request a copy of the audit of the school budget from the school committee.

Building Permit Fees

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Mr. Lowe updated the Board on the legal issues with the building permit fees. As long as the Town is implementing fees that are not excessive. The law is in place to prevent the Town from using the fees as a revenue generator. The Town is under no obligation to waive the building permit fees.

Since the Town is following standard procedure in assessing the fees, the Board was in agreement that no vote was necessary.

Longevity Payments

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle the Select Board voted by roll call unanimously to approve the an additional \$100.00 in longevity pay for service throughout fiscal year 2024 to the seven employees who will meet this criteria:

Warren Nelson	July 1, 2023	30 years of service
Kelly Collins	January 5, 2024	25 years of service
Lorraine Kenney	October 5, 2023	25 years of service
Donna Farnsworth	June 14, 2024	24 years of service
Nate Berry	October 10, 2023	23 years of service
Kimberly Barry	July 1, 2023	22 years of service
Scott Dwinells	Dec 16, 2023	21 years of service

(Wysocki-yes, Boyle-yes, Czekanski-yes)

Approval of Gifts

Mr. Czekanski read the list of gifts received for FY23 totaling \$29,264.00.

Ambulance Gift Fund 1,150.00
Conservation Gift Fund 6,000.00
Hometown Heroes 1,315.00
Library Memorial Fund 1,100.00
Parks and Rec Gift Fund 450.00
Police Gift Fund 10,600.00
Senior Fuel Assistance 8,229.00
Wreath Donation Fund 420.00

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle the Select Board voted to accept the gifts as read totaling \$29,264. (Wysocki-yes, Boyle-yes, Czekanski-yes)

Library Trustee Appointment

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle the Select Board voted by roll call unanimously to appoint Beth Connors to the open position on the Library Trustees. (Wysocki-yes, Boyle-yes, Czekanski-yes)

Bills/Payroll Warrants

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle the Select Board voted by roll call unanimously to approve the warrants W23-25 & W23-25A, W23-26 & W23-26A, W23-27 & W23-27A, W24-00 & W24-00A, W24-01 & W24-01A. (Wysocki-yes, Boyle-yes, Czekanski-yes)

Minutes

Ms. Jacobsen displayed changes to the minutes of June 8th, 2023. The minutes of May 25th had no changes.

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle the Select Board voted by roll call unanimously to approve the minutes of June 8th, 2023 as displayed. (Wysocki-yes, Boyle-yes, Czekanski-yes)

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On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle the Select Board voted by roll call unanimously to approve the May 25th, 2023 minutes as displayed. (Wysocki-yes, Boyle-yes, Czekanski-yes)

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle the Select Board voted by roll call unanimously to adjourn at 8:01pm. (Wysocki-yes, Boyle-yes, Czekanski-yes)

Respectfully submitted by J. Jacobsen.