

Select Board
September 28, 2023
Via Zoom Remote Conferencing*

Robert Czekanski, Chair
Stan Wysocki

Don Lowe, Town Administrator
Jenny Jacobsen, Town Secretary

Mr. Czekanski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Select Board member Brian Boyle was not in attendance due to a schedule conflict.

EVENT REQUEST

Adrienne Hoey, organizer of the race and new Bolton resident, was in attendance to request permission to hold the Stow Gobbler which runs through Bolton. The event has police approval. The event is a 5K capped at 1,000 runners.

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Czekanski the Board voted by roll call unanimously to approve the Stow Community Chest for approval of Stow Gobbler Race on Thursday, November 23, 2023 beginning at 8am conditional upon the receipt of the requisite insurance certificate to be sent in early October. (Wysocki-yes, Czekanski-yes)

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING REVIEW

Mr. Lowe reported that the meeting went smoothly with great support of the Nashoba staff and Honor Society students who set up the chairs. One clicker was reported as not working which was swiftly replaced. Mr. Lowe highlighted the collaboration with the Town of Harvard for significant cost savings to both towns. Ms. Jacobsen echoed Mr. Lowe's comments and added that Rose and Andrew, the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk from Harvard were a pleasure to work with and will be great co-collaborators in the future.

CHAPTER 61A

Brandon Ducharme was in attendance on behalf of Laurie Ducharme to request the waiver of the right of first refusal to purchase the property located at Map7.C Parcel 17.1, **0 Harvard Road**, and owned by Ms. Ducharme and held in Chapter 61A. The land is farm-restricted open space land that was part of the North Woods subdivision. It is open space in perpetuity.

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Czekanski the Board voted by roll call unanimously to exercise its right to not purchase property located at Map7.C Parcel 17.1 and owned by Laurie Ducharme and held in Chapter 61A contingent upon the receipt of the necessary documentation submitted to the Board of Assessors. (Wysocki-yes, Czekanski-yes)

COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION COMMITTEE

Lynn Dischler was in attendance to report on the progress with the application pending with the Department of Public Utilities to develop a community choice aggregation plan for the Town of Bolton. The application has been in process for three years. Thirty-five towns are in the same situation awaiting approvals. The DPU has proposed in docket 23-67 that they are going to make it more difficult and costly for Towns to apply and make amendments to applications once they are submitted. The public comment period for the docket ends on October 6th. Colonial Powers is requesting that Towns speak up against these

changes. Committee member John Petrin pointed out that this hold up is specifically with one small agency of the state adding that other legislative members including the Governor's office and legislative delegation that are supportive but lack the power to get this moving.

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Czekanski the Board voted by roll call unanimously to support the comments to Department of Public Utilities docket number 23-67 presented by the Community Choice Aggregation and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign on behalf of the Board. (Wysocki-yes, Czekanski-yes)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Grant Update

Mr. Lowe followed up on the \$938K MassWorks grant which will be used for the intersection at the high school along with the \$500K Complete Streets grant award. The Town applied for an additional \$62K to bring the total to \$1.5M for the project. There is no guarantee that we will be awarded the additional funds. Mr. Lowe recommended using Chapter 91 funds if there is an overage beyond the \$1.5M budget. Mr. Lowe plans to go through the bidding process over the winter to begin the work in the spring. Mr. Lowe reported the award \$3,850 from DEP under the Sustainable Materials Program.

All-In School Project Cost

Mr. Lowe sent a request to the superintendent for the calculations for the all-in costs including the interest on the borrowing.

Plans for FY24

Mr. Lowe announced his plans to retire in June of 2024. Mr. Lowe offered assistance with the search in any way the Board deemed appropriate commenting that Bolton is a wonderful place to work and should attract quality candidates.

Mr. Czekanski noted the excellent job Mr. Lowe has done in securing grants and staffing the Town. Mr. Wysocki who was on the original search committee agreed and thanked Mr. Lowe for his work.

SELECT BOARD BUSINESS

Public Service Announcements

There were none.

Future Agenda Items

Mr. Wysocki requested that the Board defer the discussion item related to the school rankings and amend the agenda item to Discussion: US News and World Report/SchoolDigger.com. Mr. Czekanski commented that the Board is getting far afield from the work the Select Board should be doing and denied the request to place the item on a future agenda without a vote of the Board to do so explaining that as a member of the School Building Committee and a vocal proponent of the project he chose open discussion on points related to the school building project to avoid appearance of a conflict of interest. Now that the decision has been made on the project is underway, the Select Board should not be injecting itself in areas where voters have already delegated responsibilities to citizens. Mr. Wysocki disagreed that this agenda item is related to the school building project.

Mr. Czekanski added the formation of a search committee for the Town Administrator to the next agenda.

Mr. Czekanski requested extension of the Select Board meeting schedule through May 2024.

Liaison to the School Committee

Mr. Wysocki requested the item be deferred to the next meeting as Mr. Boyle was not in attendance.

Continuation of Remote Meetings

Moved to next meeting.

Bills/Payroll Warrants

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle the Select Board voted by roll call unanimously to approve warrants W24-06 and W24-06A. (Wysocki-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 accept the minutes of August 24th, 2023. (Wysocki-yes, Czekanski-yes)

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Boyle the Select Board voted by roll call unanimously to adjourn at 7:46 pm. (Wysocki-yes, Boyle-yes, Czekanski-yes)

Respectfully submitted by J. Jacobsen.