

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING  
March 22, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Daniel W. Trabucco (Chairman), Tracy Marino (Vice Chair), John G. Brown, Jr. (Clerk), Rebecca Coletta (Selectwoman), Steven Ciciotti (Selectman), William Chenard (Town Manager), Sabrina Chilcott (Assistant Town Manager), Kathy Benvie, Chief Richard MacDonald, Chief Jason Viveiros, Gretchen Emmetts, Aaron Bourque, Fraser Townley, Vince Cogliano, Richard Flynn, Dana Bean, David McPhillips, Becky Malamut (NSRWA), Bob DeMarzo, Elin Flashman, and others.

At 7:00 pm Mr. Trabucco opened the meeting with the Chairman's statement. It was announced that on March 28, 2023, there was a groundbreaking ceremony at the Community Center at 4pm. On March 30, 2023, at 7pm there was a public forum at the library for the Public Safety Building project.

**POLE HERAING: NATIONAL GRID PLAN 30742843 TAYLOR STREET – INSTALL ONE POLE #18-84.**

Aaron Bourque was present from National Grid and presented the plan to install a new pole at the intersection of Taylor Street and Washington Street. Ms. Marino moved to grant approval to National Grid on their petition requesting permission for a pole installation of one pole on Taylor Street, Pole #18-83 in accordance with plan #30742843 dated February 27, 2023, Mr. Brown seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT: DISCUSSION OF SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE ACTION – MGL CH. 59, SECTION 5, CLAUSE 22H**

Mr. Chenard explained class 22H that was passed at town meeting during the prior year. He stated that the clause did not take effect immediately. This legislation would allow the applicant to receive the exemption for FY23 as opposed to waiting until FY24. Mr. Chenard stated that it would need to go in the special within the annual warrant and then the vote would be sent to the representatives. Veterans Agent David McPhillips informed the board that he attended the Board of Assessors meeting and the act affected one family in town. Ms. Marino spoke to Josh Cutler and stated that it appeared that town meeting would vote to petition the legislature. Mr. Chenard agreed that town meeting would be faster. Mr. Trabucco asked if the warrant could be opened at the next meeting, Mr. Chenard stated that the warrant would be opened on April 5<sup>th</sup> to insert a few other items. By consensus, the board agreed to open the warrant on April 5<sup>th</sup> to insert this matter into the special warrant.

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT: BECKY MALAMUT, NSRWA/STEERING COMMITTEE PRESENTATION: LUDDAMS FORD DAM**

Becky Malamut presented the progress of the steering committee regarding Luddams Ford Dam. Ms. Coletta stated that the committee had met since the fall, and that they had been working on a plan to remove the dam which included cost and what it would look like. Ms. Malamut stated that the cost had come to just under \$200,000. The project was fully funded by a pool of money set aside by Mass DEP along with the fireworks site clean up fund. Ms. Malamut stated that there is an information session for those interested on March 30.

Ms. Malamut gave an overview of Luddams Ford dam, its composition, and impacts. Ms. Malamut discussed the benefits of dam removal including restoring ecosystem functions, restoring the herring spawning habitat, climate change resilience, and it would eliminate liability for towns in the event of a breach. Ms. Malamut explained that the reconnaissance study was completed in the fall, the feasibility study was the next step, followed by design, engineering, permitting and finally construction to remove the dam. The town decision should come by early 2024. Mr. Ciciotti asked if the removal was funded by DEP, Ms. Malamut stated that there is funding available to apply for to move forward with next steps. She stated that the grant is only for removal for habitat restoration, not dam repair. Mr. Mark Ames and Ms. Malamut discussed the potential impacts on the residents living on the pond. Ms. Malamut stated that she had door knocked to discuss the impact on those residents. Ms. Malamut discussed the involvement of the Wildlands Trust who owns trails along the waterway. Ms. McNamara asked if FEMA would be involved, and if residents would need to

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obtain flood insurance. Ms. Malamut stated that water was expected to decrease in the area, but she could not be sure until the study was completed.

### **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT: FY24 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Chenard stated that he had met with both state representatives that afternoon, he expected that good news would be forthcoming on the state level. Mr. Chenard announced that the Library Trustees voted at their meeting to appoint Kathy Benvie as the Library Director. Mr. Chenard began with the Board of Health budget, which saw no significant changes to the FY24 budget, salaries fell under the Department of Municipal Inspections. Ms. Emmetts presented the Council on Aging budget to the board. She detailed the staffing at the center, as well as the services provided. She stated that there were no significant changes to their operating budget, other than increased transportation.

Ms. Emmetts announced the blood drive at the center the following weeks. She stated that herself and the public safety chiefs and the Sheriffs department were working on a triad to help with services to the senior residents. She also stated that they were looking for loss counselors and the center would be providing training for that.

Mr. Chenard stated that the new community center was scheduled to open in April 2024 and most of the Council on Aging numbers would remain the same, with adjustments coming at the fall and spring town meetings. Ms. Coletta asked about a day program for the new building, Mr. Chenard stated that those discussions would be forthcoming.

Mr. Chenard presented the Veterans Services budget, which showed no significant changes. The library budget was presented with no significant changes other than contracted services, which increased due to some heating issues. He stated that salary increases were at 2%.

Mr. Chenard updated the board about the Recreation Director position, stating that he had received applications and would be scheduling interviews. He reviewed the budget, noting the director's salary increase based on salary surveys. Mr. Chenard paused to explain the significant phone issues that the town had been experiencing. There was a discussion regarding security of phones at the police station.

Mr. Chenard presented the community center budget which he noted was challenging for FY2024 with a new building coming online in the spring. He presented the Town Landing budget, noting that there would be swim lessons this summer. He noted that there was a revolving fund in that budget to pay for other expenses. Mr. Chenard discussed the boards and committees such as the Commission on Disabilities, the Lydia Drake Library, Herring Fisheries, Clock Winder, Memorial Committee which saw an increase for special events, Plymouth County Cooperative, and the Historic District Commission.

### **BOARD ACTION: VOTE TO APPOINT STEPHANIE CALLANAN TO THE BOARD OF REGISTRARS**

Ms. Marino moved to approve the request for appointment of Stephanie Callanan to the Board of Registrars, term to expire 2024, Mr. Ciciotti seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

### **BOARD ACTION: VOTE TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 22, 2023**

Mr. Brown moved to accept the minutes of February 22, 2023; Ms. Marino seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

### **BOARD ACTION: VOTE TO SUBMIT BALLOT QUESTION TO TOWN CLERK FOR INCLUSION IN ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION BALLOT: PROPOSITION 2 ½ OVERRIDE – DEBT EXCLUSION TO CONSTRUCT PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING(S)**

Mr. Chenard stated that the ballot question needs to be approved 30 days before the election, and a ballot question is required for the passing of the project. Mr. Ciciotti stated that he would like to wait to vote until after the community forum. Mr. Trabucco agreed to wait until after the forum. The topic was tabled until April 5.

### **BOARD ACTION: EXECUTION AND VOTE OF TOWN MANAGER'S REVIEW**

Mr. Trabucco explained how the review process happened for the Town Manager. Mr. Ciciotti moved to accept the review responses to become public record, Ms. Marino seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

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MR. Trabucco stated that Mr. Chenard had a good review with some criticisms and areas of improvement. Mr. Chenard thanked the board for evaluating him and being honest about ways to improve. He thanked the department heads for their participation as well.

### **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Public Safety Building Committee Update:** Mr. Chenard reminded the public that there was a community forum at the library on March 30. Questions would be welcome. Mr. Chenard presented a new image of the public safety building; he stated tonight's presentation would be posted to the website by the end of the week. He presented updates regarding the traffic assessment, departmental programming updates, phase I environmental assessment completion, preliminary geotechnical survey, and test pit completion. Mr. Chenard reviewed the headquarters plan, including a large decon area for fire department gear. There will be a triage area off the lobby as well. Mr. Chenard and the board discussed the uses of the proposed training rooms and the revenue that could be generated. He reviewed the floor plan of the main building. He discussed the fire substation floor plans. He noted that it would be referred to as the School Street station as opposed to the Monroe Street station as the entrance and exit were located on School Street. The estimated cost of both buildings was \$61,140,000. Mr. Ciciotti, the board, and Mr. Chenard discussed the cost in depth. The tax impact was presented, stating that it would, on average, cost \$545.82 per year. Discussion ensued regarding the impact, financially, on the residents. Mr. Chenard stated that the project required an appropriation approval vote at the town meeting as well as an approval at the election in May. Ms. Coletta would like the public to see the existing conditions at the fire and police stations. Mr. Chenard stated that these would be presented at the forum and available online. Discussion ensued regarding the existing conditions.

### **LIAISON UPDATES**

Mr. Brown stated presented the February numbers of the Council on Aging, which had increased. Ms. Coletta asked about donating for the exercise classes, Mr. Brown stated that the Hope Fund was still active, and donations could be made there.

### **COMMUNITY COMMENT**

Ms. Marino asked if the town was still accepting donations for the Commission on Disabilities, Mr. Chenard stated that at the present time there was nowhere to store the equipment. He also stated that the Council on Aging was accepting donations of equipment as well.

Mr. Trabucco discussed resident concerns about speeding and speed limits throughout the town. He asked Mr. Chenard to include the speed limit sign process in his next Town Manager report. He stated that the police department would be conducting more enforcement moving forward. He also spoke to the Police Chief who advised that if speeding was occurring in a neighborhood, to call the business line to report it and the police would have a civil conversation with the resident speeding. Mr. Ciciotti asked the best way to report a pothole, Mr. Chenard stated to report the pothole directly to the DPW unless after hours, then call the business line at the police department.

Mr. Trabucco read the upcoming issues. At 9:35pm, Mr. Brown moved to enter Executive Session not to return to open session, Ms. Marino seconded, the motion passed unanimously by roll call.

### **MATERIALS & EXHIBITS**

Pole Hearing Application (TM Office)  
FY24 Budget (TM Office)  
Minutes (TM Office)  
Ballot Question (TM Office)