

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
September 19, 2022**

6:30PM

Memorial Hall

Present: Anthony Renzoni, Stephanie Mulroy, Geri Herlihy Richard Bates, Thomas Curran

Others Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager
Steven Madaus, Town Counsel
Liz Fotos, Town Recorder (Participating remotely)

Chairman Renzoni called the meeting to order. The Board stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Renzoni welcomed Sel. Curran to the Board.

1. Appointments, Licenses, Permits

Motion by Sel. Bates, seconded by Sel. Mulroy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPOINT THE ELECTION OFFICERS: SUSAN CASSIDY, LAUREN CACELA, CHRISTINE DALEY, AND MICHAEL MCAULIFFE AS ELECTION OFFICERS AS PRESENTED.**

2. CMMPO North Representative Election Meeting

Chairman Renzoni asked if there was any interest in any of the Board members representing the North Region for the CMMPO. Sel. Mulroy indicated she was interested; no members of the Board objected. Chairman Renzoni asked Mr. Lukes to follow up with CMMPO.

3. Citizens Address

The resident living at 56 Fox Hill Drive was present at the meeting. He stated that he had a question regarding the 2023 budget and Green Communities. He stated that he thought the Town applied in 2009 and paid into the program and would get reimbursed for qualified projects. He asked if there were any projects in the current budget that may qualify for this and if not what they could do about it.

Chairman Renzoni called a brief two minute recess to get to Citizens Address.

Chairman Renzoni called the meeting back to order.

4. Town Manager Goals 2023

Chairman Renzoni stated that this is a fluid process and all Board members should send him and the Town Manager any goals they have for next year for the manager. He stated they will start to get consensus of goal in a list and they will work together with the

manager to come up with a final list. He stated without objection they can begin this process and have an idea of some of these by next meeting.

Mr. Lukes stated that he had sent the Board an email about some suggestions already and reminded the Board that the other criteria they had were that they were reasonably obtainable in year and or some sort of measurable benchmark to figure out how they were done.

Chairman Renzoni stated they do like to have the goals in place so that the Manager can have them in mind for his budget.

5. Dawson Recreation Project

Chairman Renzoni stated that he asked to put this on the agenda because they were moving towards Special Town Meeting and that was largely for the Dawson Recreation Expansion Project.

Mr. Lukes stated that he had sent out an overhead plan but that basically it would encompass two new synthetic fields at Industrial Drive. He stated that on that parcel they intended to put a parking lot with 98 spots, small size field for u9 and u10 and a larger size field that could take them up to high school level sports. He stated additionally it would have a drop off lane, lights, a covered pavilion, picnic tables, benches, bleachers, and a track. He stated there would also be a board walk that could connect with the back fields of Dawson Baseball fields. Mr. Lukes stated that the baseball fields would also be converted to synthetic turf and the playground would be updated as well as improved vehicle access and pedestrian access.

Mr. Lukes stated that they were additionally in the middle of a facelift for the basketball courts. He stated that they have since swapped land with DCR so that the town owned the land with the tennis courts, baseball field, etc on it. Mr. Lukes stated that they had gotten it through legislature and the Governor signed off on it. He stated that once the land was transferred they could focus on the eroded land and resurfacing it, relining the courts, and adding a fence.

Mr. Lukes stated that the funding formula was about complete and they had been in contact with bond counsel. He stated that the way it looked they were probably going to be asking for \$5million for debt exclusion. He stated that they were hoping to get approved to move forward in January / February.

Mr. Lukes stated that they were also trying to calculate revenues for these types of fields. He stated that with this expansion they would be able to extend recreation programs as well.

Mr. Lukes stated that 2028 would be the last year of debt for the Public Safety Building. He stated that once that comes off the stress on the debt would be relieved. He stated that there would be a few years in between that both would be on the books but he feels that

the town has an appetite for this project. He stated that under normal circumstances they would not borrow it all upfront but the way the rates were going they did not want to gamble on them going up.

Sel. Curran asked if any grants that the Town got after could be applied to debt service.

Mr. Lukes replied that they could not do that and any grants would need to be put towards the construction. He stated another question they are investigating anything under for DPW can we then focus it on another park of Industrial Drive such as the parking lot. He stated they were investigating all aspects of it and its funding.

The Board of Selectmen Meeting was interrupted due to a lightening strike near by.

The Board came back in session.

Chairman Renzoni stated he was asking about Citizen oversight before they were interrupted.

Mr. Lukes replied that he was working on an Executive Order to charge a Citizen Committee.

Chairman Renzoni stated that he would urge that within that structure there were some members of the local youth sports to have representation.

Mr. Lukes replied that there were already interested parties from youth sports.

Chairman Renzoni off subject can we reach out to the new superintendent to remind them that the high school is public property and that the public is allowed on that property.

Sel. Mulroy wondered why rates went up for use of fields. I'm wondering if we will see savings come back around in years to come.

Mr. Lukes replied that they would look into it but that all of the reseeding costs were passed along and they were going to review that and scale it back so some of those costs were absorbed by Buildings and Grounds and some by Recreation before the rest was assessed to the youth sports.

Chairman Renzoni stated that they would have to take about in district rates versus out of district rates as well.

Mr. Lukes stated that they were not just talking about just youth sports, they were also talking about adult leagues as well.

Sel. Curran asked if it would be a different rate for night time/ light usage then during the day.

Mr. Lukes confirmed there would be.

Sel. Curran asked if they looped in White Oak of Conservation. Mr. Lukes replied they had not yet but were working with Conversation and they could loop others in.

6. Open/Set/Close Warrant for Special Town Meeting

Motion by Sel. Bates, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO OPEN THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT.**

Chairman Renzoni stated that he wanted to suggest a third article place holder for the All- Inclusive Playground Committee to authorize some current recreational funds in order for them to have a budget for some design and specs.

Mr. Lukes replied that he was waiting on an estimate.

Chairman Renzoni stated that the Town Manager and himself met with the All Inclusive Playground Committee and discussed their progress. He stated that they felt that they did all the work a citizen committee could do and additionally met with the planning professionals in town. He stated that at this point they were looking for some architectural design money in order to bring something forward to Annual Town Meeting. He stated that if they set this as a place holder for the Special Town Meeting they could use the next few weeks to discuss how much money should be allocated.

Chairman Renzoni stated that this was not a traditional project and he felt as though they could use about \$30,000 -\$40,000 from the Recreation Revolving Fund of which there was about \$600,000 currently in it. He stated that if they do not do that then they will have to wait until Annual Town Meeting to move forward.

Chairman Renzoni stated that he was asking tonight that the Board add a place holder for a third article in order to appropriate money for architecture design for an all inclusive playground. Chairman Renzoni offered the motion and Sel. Bates seconded it.

Sel. Mulroy asked if there was any set dollar amount.

Chairman Renzoni stated that tonight's vote was to set the placeholder for it but in the event they did not have the dollar amount at the Special Town Meeting they would pass over the Warrant Article.

Chairman Renzoni stated that it was not unusual to not have a number this far in advance for Warrant Article and they typically post a meeting before Town Meeting in order to finish the Boards business and take position votes.

Sel. Mulroy stated that she felt that waiting would be a loss of time and that they should approve it as it was a place holder. Sel. Bates agreed.

Mr. Lukes stated that they would need to have a meeting between now and the next scheduled meeting to post the Warrant Articles.

Mr. Madaus stated that relative to the sum of money, Holden has a history of not posting the exact sum of money in the Warrant Articles. He stated that traditionally Holden lists the sum of money in the motion and we emerge from the meeting with a sum certain.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Bates, it was **UNANIMSOULY VOTED TO ADD A WARRANT ARTICLE TO SPECIAL TOWN MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOCATING FUNDS FOR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN FOR THE ALL INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND AS PRESENTED .**

Motion by Sel. Bates, seconded by Sel. Mulroy, it was **UNANIMSOULY VOTED TO SET THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT AS AMMENDED.**

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Bates, it was **UNANIMSOULY VOTED TO CLOSE THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT.**

7. Water and Sewer Bylaw Discussion

Sel. Bates did some research relative to the Board of Selectman's authority as Water Sewer Commissioners by reading Massachusetts statutes and is unsure if the Board has authority as Water Sewer Commissioners.

Mr. Madaus under general laws the town may elect or appoint Water/ Sewer Commissioners. He stated that Holden never did so as default it was the Board of Selectmen were that body.

Mr. Lukes stated that there was some question on whether the Water/ Sewer Advisory Commission should weigh in on this matter. He stated that they have been presented with the information but have not opined as they were not asked their opinion on the matter.

Sel. Bates stated that this was a tricky situation as the Board of Selectmen was not experts on this matter. He stated that he felt they needed more time to discuss and reflect.

Chairman Renzoni stated that for information for Sel. Curran; if a decision was made by the Water/ Sewer Superintendent there was currently no appeals process in town that a resident could move forward with outside taking the matter to court. He stated that the conversation was as to whether the Board wished to add in an appeals process that would allow citizens to bring the appeal to an elected board. He stated the question they were working on was whether to be involved and to what degree they wanted to include the Water/ Sewer Advisory Committee. He stated that they would get Sel. Curran all the information on this matter so that at the next meeting they could move forward with a working group and discussion.

Mr. Madaus wished to clarify that the question on the table right now as regarding sewer only not water. He stated that he currently had not reviewed or proposed an amendment for water as well.

Mr. Madaus stated that this had started as a request to amend the sewer appeals procedures within the regulations. He stated that this would give residents a more immediate reconsideration but then the Board would also need to consider what matters they wished to hear and how they wanted the Advisory Committee involved as well.

Mr. Lukes stated that as a point for the Board, an unfavorable determination by the Board could still go to the court system which then the Board could be brought into that appeal process as well.

The Board discussed if they would hear every appeal or not.

Chairman Renzoni suggested coming back in a few weeks where they can regroup and redraft something on this matter.

Mr. Madaus asked how many of these appeals the Board thought they would have volume wise as well.

Chairman Renzoni stated that he was not sure but that they could bring it to the professionals for that information and input on the draft as well. He asked for this to be added to the next agenda item in addition to adding an Executive Session to get all new members up to speed on Town business.

8. Follow Up to Citizens Address

Sel. Herlihy stated that she did not believe we were a green community.

Mr. Lukes stated he would look into it.

9. Selectmen Minutes

None

10. Town Manger Update

See Attached

11. Selectmen Miscellaneous

Sel. Bates I was approached by resident he thought he was curious that there was an issue with site lines by sand and gravel. He wanted to know what the use of the land was going to be down there.

Mr. Lukes stated he would look into it.

Sel. Mulroy thanked Mr. Lukes for his help with Jackson Woods Developer. I think being able to field their concerns helped them.

Mr. Lukes stated that the DPW director also heard from them.

Sel. Herlihy stated that the Oct 4th and 5th information session would be held over Yum Kippur and she wanted to know if they were being recorded.

Mr. Lukes yes and they would also be stream lived.

Sel. Herlihy I had my working group with MMA on energy and we were working on best practices for Storm Water Enterprise Funds. I will sit with Mr. Woodsmall at some point.

Sel. Curran asked if the Town couldn't promote the fields as Selectboard members but they could as individual.

Mr. Lukes agreed and stated that the meeting was for information purposes only.

Sel. Curran asked how that was different for Shrewsbury Street.

Mr. Lukes replied that it was subject to election and debt exclusion so municipal resources couldn't be used.

Chairman Renzoni you as an elected official can promote your position on a matter as an individual.

Chairman Renzoni, I know when we were looking at HCTV to get more involved but would there be any other outreach you were using.

Mr. Lukes stated they would work on that. We will work with Holden Cable as well.

Chairman Renzoni went to Jed's Hardware on Saturday. We authorized the Town Manager to sign a Certificate to Recognition to them as the winners of 2022 Home Building Supply and Dealer All-Stars in MA.

12. Selectmen Subcommittee

None

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Curran, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADJOURN THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AT 7:50PM.**

Approved: 1/9/23 AS CORRECTED