



Select Board Minutes
Tuesday, April 4, 2023
7:00pm

The Select Board Regular Meeting was held virtually in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2023 to Provide for Supplementing Certain Existing Appropriations and for Certain Other Activities and Projects, and signed into law on March 29, 2023, this meeting will be conducted via remote participation. Interested individuals can listen in and participate by phone and/or online by following the link and phone number below.

Select Board participants:

Rich Maiore, Erin McBee, Kara Minar, Charles Oliver, Don Ludwig

Town Department participants:

Town Administrator Tim Bragan, Assistant Town Administrator Marie Sobalvarro and Executive Assistant Julie Doucet

Additional participants:

David Kendall and Glen Frederick

Minutes

By a roll call vote, McBee – aye, Minar – aye, Ludwig – aye, Oliver – aye, Maiore – aye, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of 2/28, as presented.

Review of Town Meeting warrant articles and decide on article assignments

The board members decided which member would speak to which article formalizing article assignments. Charles Oliver requested feedback from the Capital Planning & Investment Committee (CPIC) on why they decided to fund the dump truck through excluded debt. The CPIC Chair will be invited to the next Select Board meeting. They continued review of the warrant articles along with the FY24 omnibus budget.

By a roll call vote, McBee -aye, Minar -aye, Ludwig – aye, Oliver – aye, Maiore – aye, the board voted unanimously to support the annual town meeting warrant. They will possibly change the funding for the DPW dump truck after further discussion with the CPIC Chair.

Townwide clean up; funding for supplies (May 4-May 7)

By a roll call vote, McBee -aye, Minar -aye, Ludwig – aye, Oliver – aye, Maiore – aye, the board voted unanimously to approve funds in support of the townwide clean up.

Affordable Unit Sales

By a roll call vote, McBee -aye, Minar -aye, Ludwig – aye, Oliver – aye, Maiore – aye, the board voted unanimously to not exercise their right of first refusal for 15 Littleton Rd Unit 3B.

By a roll call vote, McBee -aye, Minar -aye, Ludwig – aye, Oliver – aye, Maiore – aye, the board voted unanimously to not exercise their right of first refusal for 11B Trail Ridge Way.

Repairs of town clock/bell

Glen Frederick and David Kendall spoke on behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Church where the clock and bell are located. David Kendall has solicited quotes for the repairs and is recommending The Verdin Company as the best choice to handle the project. They have the most experience and are the most reputable. He

explained the clock controller requires repair along with a new strike and the bell needs reattaching to the frame. By a roll call vote, McBee -aye, Minar -aye, Ludwig – aye, Oliver – aye, Maiore – aye, the board voted unanimously to utilize the Rantoul Trust account to fund repair of town clock, bell, and controller. The church will fund any repairs to the frame that is necessary.

Review FY23 Select Board goals

Chair Rich Maiore read through the goals with discussion on progress thus far.

Goals they focused on for attention next were:

- 1) Transfer Station by forming an ad-hoc committee to investigate ways to boost usage, understand desire of town residents to maintain Transfer Station operations or move to townwide pickup and funding options – will form an ad-hoc committee; Rich Maiore will draft a charge.
- 2) ARPA funds to implement form-based code – focus for fall town meeting

The board decided to meet on Wednesday, April 26th instead of Tuesday the 25th to accommodate the League of Women Voters candidates' night.

Staff Report/updates (Attachment A)

Discussion ensued on the disappointment of no Fireworks at Fruitlands this year to celebrate the 4th of July. Tim Bragan shared the sentiments expressed by the Select Board members and explained there were various factors that lead to this decision. Everyone agreed if there is a way to salvage the tradition that is the best outcome with the understanding this may not be possible.

Select Board Reports

Erin McBee reported the Planning Board hearing on the Ayer Road overlay district was continued to April 24th. The applicant requested the hearing be closed.

Executive Session per MGL Ch. 30A, s. 21(a)3

By a roll call vote, McBee– aye, Minar – aye, Ludwig – aye, Oliver – aye, Maiore – aye, the board voted unanimously to enter executive session at 8:40pm as per MGL 30A Sec. 21.3 To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigating position. The Board will reconvene into open session only to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm

Documents referenced:

Town Meeting Warrant – dated 4.29.2023

Town wide clean up – dated 3.17.2023

15 Littleton Rd letter of intent – 3.29.2023

FY23 Select Board Goals

**Staff Report
April 4, 2023**

1. Miscellaneous updates:

- a. The Town Clerk has notified us that all nomination papers have been returned and certified. (See attachment)
- b. The Board's next meeting is scheduled for the 25th of April, given the 17th is during school vacation week. The League of Women Voters is holding their candidate's night on the 25th. Does the Board wish to meet on Wednesday the 26th instead that week?
- c. The 4th of July committee has announced that they will not be doing fireworks this year due to logistical issues and financial constraints. The other 4th of July activities will happen but they are also having a hard time in getting volunteers and if they can't get enough people to volunteer then other events may need to be canceled.
- d. Bill H.3424, An act Authorizing the Town of Harvard to establish and enforce speed limits on Certain Public ways in the town, is back before the legislature
- e. The Commission on Disabilities conducted a town-wide survey in December and the results are attached.
- f. The Town's Chief Procurement Officer (Marie) continues to turn our junk into revenue. Attached you will see that she got \$2,100 for a forklift we were going to pay to have hauled away, and another \$1,725 in miscellaneous police vehicle equipment that is outdated and unused.
- g. Marie and Julie continue to work with FinCom and Jared to get the book to the printer this week. They finished and the book is up on-line today.
- h. The State Legislature finally acted and the Governor signed Chapter 2 of the acts of 2023 into law. This among other things, extends the remote meeting authorization for another two years, until March 31, 2025.
- i. FEMA Region 1 is having a Naloxone (Narcan) Training Webinar for First Responders and Emergency Managers on Thursday, April 13, 2023 from 1PM to 2:30PM. This training is open to the public, so anyone can join. It will be held on Zoom and the **Meeting ID is 16 294 8683 and the passcode is 600767**

2. State Fiscal Notes of Interest: (State House News Service)

- a. Governor Healy signed the \$1.1 Billion supplemental budget that contains \$740 million in borrowing and the rest (some \$388 million) is to backstop and expand Massachusetts' family shelter system, to provide enhanced food aid, and to fund the free lunch program through the end of the current academic year.
- b. The Lottery announced that scratch ticket sales rebounded in February.
- c. Tax relief bill put forward by the Governor has gained some support from House Speaker Mariano, but still has some democrats are divided over the idea of tax cuts.
- d. The legislature included an additional \$150 million in their bond bill for road repairs. These funds were not put into Chapter 90 but instead into other road programs that have an application process and are not necessarily used for fixing/paving roadways. The MMA supports the additional funding but points out it does nothing to increase the \$200 million for road repairs, which has been the same amount since 2011 and is equal to only \$68.6 Million in today's dollars.
- e. Governor Healy's Housing Secretariat plan is gaining traction.

3. PFAS:

- a. The BOH held their Private Wells and PFAS information meeting and update on the 23rd of last month and it was a huge success. The video of the meeting can be found at <https://vimeo.com/812152583> and the power point slides can be viewed at <https://www.harvard-ma.gov/board-health/pages/resources-regarding-pfas>
- b. In a recent Lowell Sun article they reported that the joint committee on Ways and Means recently held a budget hearing and they heard quite a bit about PFAS from the EEA Secretary, the Undersecretary of EEA, and the DEP Commissioner. They were all pushing for the administration to make PFAS testing, mitigation and treatment, and research a top priority.

4. Police:

- a. The department responded and/or initiated service calls for 591 calls from February 28, 2023 until March 27, 2023. The department continues to respond to traffic issue and complaints with a visible presence for deterrence of speeders. Officers completed 127 radar assignments and 87 motor vehicle stops for that time period.

- b. Chief Babu received approximately \$5500 in grants from the state from the FY23 Traffic Safety Grant. The funds could only be used to purchase new speed enforcement equipment. We purchased three new Stalker Hand Held KA Band radars and one Stalker Hand Held LiDAR.
- c. HPD is working with DPW on installation of new traffic poles for Still River Road and Bolton Road. Hoping to have them installed soon so we may transition the older portable radar units to permanent mounts.
- d. Chief Babu is happy to report that we were awarded the Combination Dynamic Speed Feedback and School Zone Speed Limit Sign grant. The new flashing school zone signs are equipped with solar power, integrated radars and traffic analysis hardware and software. These units will be installed at the Immaculate Heart School on Still River Road in the near future. Installation of the traffic equipment will be paid for by the school. He believes that the addition of these units coupled with a clearly marked school zone designation will accomplish a dual purpose. Making the school crossing safer for everyone but will also fulfill the goal of speed reduction on Still River Road.
- e. The Chief has been busy working on the new Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) Grant with the State and Paul McKenzie from CM Geeks. DMH Electrical will be coming to setup all the wiring from the "Computer Room" to the Booking Room. Paul will be finalizing all the networking and working with the State Police.
- f. The Harvard Police Department hosted 40 hours of Critical Incident Training for Mental Health in March. After this class every officer will have attended this very important training that teaches officers in understanding behavioral health, developing empathy, navigating community resources, de-escalation skills and practical application. This is one of the recommended trainings that POST would like to see officers certified in. The Department also hosted the Open Sky Mental Health First Aid Training on 3/28. This one-day class meets the requirements for the extra training required under MPTC and POST on an annual basis. Detective Fortunato also attended a 2 Day training in Southbridge Academy for SRO Adolescent Mental Health Training.
- g. Detective Fortunato assisted the Worcester PD with the sudden death of Sergeant Derrick Leto. Daniele and Dusty are part of the "Crisis Intervention Stress Management" team and assisted the officers with this crisis. Assistance dogs from Lunenburg and Holden were also there.

5. Notice, Reminders, and Updates:

- a. Holy Trinity Catholic Parish will be holding their annual event of the Procession of the Cross from Harvard to Bolton on Good Friday, April 7, 2023 beginning at 3:30 PM.
- b. Please RSVP to lkelly@harvard-ma.gov for the State Ethics Commission training which has been changed to 04/11/2023 from its original date of 3/14/23, which was canceled due to weather. The training will start at 7:00 p.m. at **Town Hall**. (This is a change in venue from the original meeting date.)
- c. Bromfield's Global Health Society, in partnership with Massachusetts General Hospital, is sponsoring a blood drive at Bromfield on April 11, 2023 between 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM.
- d. National Grid has applied for a pole hearing on Fairbank Street, which will take place either at your next meeting or the first meeting in May.
- e. The Townwide Cleanup and Garlic Mustard pull will be May 4th to May 7th.
- f. The Select Board will again offer financial assistance to Bromfield seniors through the Ginny Thurston Scholarship fund. Interested students should visit the Select Board page on the town website for more details or contact Executive Assistant Julie Doucet jdoucet@harvard-ma.gov in the Select Board office. **Letters of interest are due no later than Friday, April 28th.**