

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 17, 2022 AT 6:00PM  
TOWN HALL, SELECT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM**

**CALL TO ORDER/OPENING**

Chair Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Chair Allen Phillips, Vice Chair Rick Antanavica, Second Vice Chair Dianna Provencher, members Herb Duggan Jr and John Bujak, Town Administrator David Genereux, Assistant Town Administrator Chris Vitale, and Executive Assistant Maria Cataloni were in attendance.

**1. SCHEDULED ITEMS**

- a. 6:00 pm - RFO Discussion (Postponed to future meeting)

- b. 6:00 pm Borger HVAC update

Mr. Genereux spoke about the inspections done at the Borger building by the State, which conclude that more airflow is needed. Mr. Genereux has been in touch with engineers to see what can be done. He is hoping to be in touch with those State inspectors in the next week or so to see what prompted the unannounced inspection. Inspectors planned to come back in the next few weeks to look at the Vet Clinic.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Paul Fontaine of 450 Bond Street discussed the CARE Group that included himself as well as Cheryl Cooney and Linda Colby. The group started back in late May or early June with the goal of addressing needs in the town from ARPA funds. Mr. Fontaine said that letters were written to the Town and were not answered. Mr. Antanavica proposed to have a formal discussion of the CARE Group and their goals at the next Board Meeting.

**3. CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Special Fall Town Meeting is Tuesday October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Gym.

**4. RESIGNATIONS & APPOINTMENTS**

- a. Appointment - Donna McCance – Council on Aging

Donna would like to join the Council on Aging help seniors and youth in town fulfill opportunities.

**Motion 101722-4a:** A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Ms. Provencher to appoint Donna McCance to the Council on aging. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

- b. Resignation – Paul Latino – Paramedic

**Motion 101722-4b:** A motion was made by Mr. Duggan to accept, with regret, the resignation of Paul Latino. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

**5. OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. Vote Recommendations for October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Special Town Meeting

Article 10, Fire Station #2: Two quotes were received and after much discussion with the Fire Chief, it makes more sense to keep the building with oil and get a new tank. Fire Chief Dupuis will make a motion at Town Meeting to pass over this item. The article for ballistic vests for FD/EMS will remain in place.

b. Assignment of motions to members of the Board

1. Mr. Phillips
2. Ms. Provencher
3. Mr. Antanavica
4. Mr. Duggan
5. Mr. Bujak
6. Mr. Duggan
7. Mr. Antanavica
8. Mr. Phillips
9. Ms. Provencher
10. Mr. Bujak
11. Mr. Phillips
12. Ms. Provencher
13. Mr. Antanavica
14. Mr. Bujak (\*this item to be passed over)
15. Ms. Provencher
16. Mr. Antanavica (\*this item to be passed over)
17. Mr. Duggan (\*this item to be passed over)

c. Vote Warrant for 2022 State Election

**Motion 101722-5c:** A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Mr. Bujak to sign the Massachusetts Warrant so it will appear on the ballot. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

d. Vote of Flammable Storage License – BP Leicester Fee Owner LLC

**Motion 101722-5d:** A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Mr. Duggan to approve the license for BP Leicester Fee Owner LLC. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

e. Use of Former Becker Campus Buildings – Marsh Hall & Barrett Hall

**Motion 101722-5e:** A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Ms. Provencher to retain both buildings, contingent upon a permanent vote later. Marsh Hall would be designated for the Board of Health and Barrett Hall as an emergency shelter. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

f. Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Proposal – Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management

This is a planning study, contingent upon receiving grant funding. It would include all town facilities (minus some Becker) for ADA improvements. Mr. Bujak inquired whether the funds were strictly for ADA construction. Mr. Phillips asked if there was anything binding by completing this study. Resident Peter Cusolito was concerned that this study repeats work that has already been done. Mr. Phillips and Mr. Antanavica would like more information and specifics to discuss at the next meeting.

g. Discuss end date of Covid-Time Classification

Ms. Provencher clarified that under the current Covid Policy, employees are not expending their own accrued sick time. Mr. Genereux confirmed it is true. Ms. Provencher also asked how other towns are handling this. It is a split with what other local communities are doing. Mr. Duggan and Mr. Bujak both state that with recent treatments and vaccinations, the Town is at a place to end this Policy. Mr. Phillips mentions that the State of Massachusetts has also ended their Covid Policy and in conjunction with pre- and post-Covid treatments, an end date be set for this Policy.

**Motion 101722-5g:** A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Mr. Bujak to end the Covid Policy as of October 31, 2022. **Motion carries: 5-0-0.**

h. Disposition of Victorian Houses

Mr. Genereux gives a brief history on prior votes and the formation of the Former Becker Advisory Committee in relation to the disposition of the Victorians. He said that time was running out for the previously discussed option of an auction. He asks the Board for guidance on how they would like to proceed.

A discussion is had regarding the way to go about selling the Victorians. Mr. Phillips would like to stick with the vote from last May, but is open to voting again if the Former Becker Advisory Committee has new information to offer. He suggests a joint meeting of the Select Board and the Former Becker Advisory Committee. Concerns are raised by Mr. Bujak about the zoning bylaws and how they need to be updated to maximize the sales values of the buildings and also allow the Town to have some control over their use. Further concerns are raised by Mr. Antanavica in regard to the cost of maintenance and upkeep, especially in the winter months, and climbing interest rates in the real estate market that could hinder sales. A meeting with the Former Becker Advisory Committee is tentatively agreed upon for the following week to allow further discussion.

**6. MINUTES - none**

**7. REPORTS**

a. Student Liaison Reports

Student Liaisons were not in attendance

b. Report of the Town Administrator's Office

Mr. Genereux gives an overview of his meeting with Red King Cinema, a production company interested in filming on the Former Becker Campus. Filming will take place over 2 days, possibly utilizing students as extras.

c. Select Board Reports

The Select Board discussed various topics including the opening of the WorcShop, a water pump on the Becker Campus, re-surfacing the gym floor and multiple sports lines on the floor, the unfortunate loss of Mr. Stewart, the potential for a stop sign at the exit of the high school campus, the services of the Hearts for Heat organization, a reminder to check smoke detector batteries, broken windows being boarded up at the Memorial School, and the facilities maintenance plan for the Town.

**Motion 101722-8:** A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Antanavica at 8:59 PM and seconded by Mr. Bujak. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

**ADJOURN**