

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2020 at 6:30pm
TOWN HALL, SELECT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Chairwoman Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Chair Sandra Wilson, Vice-Chair Harry Brooks, 2nd Vice-Chair Rick Antanavica, Selectwoman Dianna Provencher, Selectman John Shocik, Student Liaisons Katheryn Stapel and Jacob Stolberg, Town Administrator David Genereux and Assistant to the Town Administrator Kristen Forsberg were in attendance.

1. SCHEDULED ITEMS

None

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Joel Hart discussed a petition circulating around town to have the Select Board move the school special town meeting back to May 5th at the Leicester Town Hall and asked that the Board reconsider the date and location. Mr. Hart felt the topic of the meeting was not well advertised and would like another opportunity for the public to attend and discuss the date and location. Mr. Hart requested this topic be placed on the March 9th agenda.

3. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Student Liaison Reports

The Student Liaisons presented updates from the Leicester Public School.

b. Select Board Reports

The Select Board discussed a variety of topics including the ice being thin and to be careful, the blocked sign at crosswalk at Giguere's which has been moved, the CVRWD meeting which discussed selective timber harvesting of land owned by the water district, the Library legislative breakfast, Dianna's retirement from work, the 100% school schematic design package and budget presented to MSBA on February 13th at a total cost of \$90.6M with the Town's share being \$51.3M and the Swan Tavern fundraiser at the Leicester Country Club on March 28th which will feature raffles and a band.

c. Town Administrator Report

The Town Administrator presented highlights from his written report.

4. RESIGNATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

None

5. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Senior Center Donation

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Ms. Provencher to accept a \$1,000 donation to the veterans' breakfast at the Senior Center from ERA Key Charitable Organization. The motion carried 5:0:0.

b. Vote warrant closing date for Spring Annual Town Meeting (5/5/19) and Special Town Meeting (5/9/19) for March 19, 2020 at 4:00 pm

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Ms. Provencher to close the Spring Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting warrants at 4pm on March 19, 2020. The motion carried 5:0:0.

c. One Day Liquor License Request – Becker College – March 12th, 2020

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Mr. Shocik to approve the March 12th one day liquor license request for Becker College. The motion carried 4:0:1 (Ms. Provencher abstained).

d. Intermunicipal Agreement – Towns of Leicester and Spencer – Accounting Services

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve an Intermunicipal Agreement between the Towns of Leicester and Spencer for Accounting Services. The motion carried 5:0:0.

e. Letter of Support – Small Bridge Program Grant (Auburn St. Bridge)

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Ms. Provencher to authorize the chair to sign a letter of support for the Auburn Street Small Bridge Program Grant application. The motion carried 5:0:0.

f. Contract Amendment #3 – VHB – Fire & EMS HQ Engineering Review

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Antanavica to approve a contract amendment with VHB for services related to the engineering review of the Fire & EMS Headquarter drainage issues. The motion carried 5:0:0.

g. Authorization to Proceed – Complete Streets Phase II – Howard Stein Hudson

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Ms. Provencher to authorize Howard Stein Hudson to proceed with Phase II of the Complete Streets Grant project. The motion carried 4:1:0 (Ms. Wilson opposed).

h. Delegation Agreement – Civil Service – Sergeant Assessment Center

A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Mr. Shocik to approve a delegation with the State Human Resources Division (HRD) for a sole sergeant assessment center. The motion carried 4:1:0 (Ms. Wilson opposed).

i. 3-5 Year Select Board Goals

The Board requested a retreat at Becker be scheduled on an upcoming Saturday at 9am to discuss their 3-5-year goals.

j. Mosquito Control Discussion

The Board discussed the possibility of joining the State Mosquito Control Program which comes off the cherry sheet at a cost of approximately \$64,000. Mr. Genereux noted that the highway position is still coming out of free cash this year because the Town will not get this \$64,000 in revenue if they opt-in to the program. The program requires a minimum three-year commitment. The Board requested a meeting be set up with the Board of Health and the State Mosquito Control Program so the Boards and the public can discuss this matter further.

k. Memorial School Disposition Discussion

Mr. Genereux noted that the Town Meeting vote to dispose of the Memorial school did not include the fields, as GIS data showed the entire property as one parcel. The Memorial School Disposition Subcommittee has requested that disposition of the fields parcel be added to the Annual Town Meeting warrant so it can be sold together. If the school is sold first, the fields will be landlocked. Mr. Genereux expressed reservations about placing this item on this Town Meeting due to the potential appearance of forcing the school vote, but stated the property does have more value if it can be sold together. The Board will discuss this further as part of the warrant process.

I. FY21 Budget Discussion

Mr. Genereux noted that version 2 of the budget has corrected minor scribner's and chart errors. There have been no financial or substantive changes. This item will continue to be discussed on future agenda.

6. MINUTES

a. February 10, 2020 (Regular and Executive Session)

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve the minutes of February 10, 2020. The motion carried 5:0:0.

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve the executive session minutes of February 10, 2020 with one scribner's error. The motion carried 5:0:0.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION, MGL CHAPTER 30A, SECTION 21A

a. Exception 3 – Discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (Fire, Police and Highway Unions)

Prior to entering into executive session, the Chair permitted Ryan Plante, head of the Firefighters Association to briefly speak regarding the union's request to allow firefighters to work until age 70 as auxiliary firefighters with specific, limited duties. Mr. Plante noted that as firefighters approach 65, many have a lifetime of experience serving the Town and want to continue to give back to the community and share their knowledge with new members coming up through the ranks. Mr. Plante noted that the union met with the Board of Fire Engineers and has their support for this request.

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Mr. Antanavica to enter into executive session at 7:42pm under Mass General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21A, Exception 3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (Fire, Police and Highway Unions). The Chair declared that to discuss these matters in open session would compromise the position of the Town. Roll call: 5:0:0.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Mr. Antanavica at 8:28pm. The motion carried 5:0:0.