

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Chairman Buckley called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. Chair Thomas E. Buckley III, Vice-Chair Dianna Provencher, 2nd Vice-Chair Matthew Dennison, Selectman Douglas Belanger, Selectwoman Sandra Wilson and Town Administrator Kevin Mizikar were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(1): To consider discipline of an employee

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Dennison at 6:07pm to enter into executive session under MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), Exception 1 – to consider discipline of an employee, and to resume in open session.

Vote by Roll Call:

Buckley – Aye

Provencher - Aye

Dennison – Aye

Belanger – Aye

Wilson – Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No comments

1. SCHEDULED

A. 7:00pm – Goods for Guns Presentation

Dr. Hirsch, Director of Public Health for the City of Worcester, discussed the Goods for Guns program which has run for 13 years in the City of Worcester. This program provides an exchange opportunity whereby gun owners who no longer want their firearms can receive gift cards in the amounts of \$25 for long rifles, \$50 for pistols and \$75 for semi-automatic guns. To date, the City has received 2,396 weapons, three quarters of which are semi-automatic or handguns. These are the most common weapons involved in interpersonal violence. Unsecured weapons in a home are a public health threat and increase the risk of homicide, suicide, femicide and accidental child shootings. The total cost of the program to date is \$127,050 which is less than the cost of caring for 3 gunshot victims. The Town has the opportunity participate in this year's Good for Guns day taking place on December 3, 2014, the approximate 2 year anniversary of the Newtown shootings. Volunteers would come out to the Leicester Police Station to run the program and provide the gift cards.

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Mr. Dennison to authorize and support the Town of Leicester's Goods for Guns program on December 3, 2014. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Buckley asked how the program will be advertised. Sergeant Doray responded that the Chief will advertise the program on social media and the changeable sign in front of the Police Station.

B. 7:15pm – Class II License for 724 Main Street

Mr. Buckley read the public notice for a Class II License request for Jim Auto Sales to be located at 724 Main Street. A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to open the public hearing at 7:16pm.

Vote by Roll Call:

Buckley – Aye

Provencher - Aye

Dennison – Aye

Belanger – Aye

Wilson – Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mizikar noted that no comments were received from the public. Mr. Glenton Campbell, owner of Jimp Auto Sales, presented his request and stated he has lived in Worcester County for 10 years and worked for a car dealership for 7 years. Mr. Buckley asked if the lot is large enough for the requested 25 cars. Mr. Campbell stated he did the measurements and the lot is large enough once brush is cleared off the lot. Mr. Dennison noted that the cars may fit but expressed concern about how cars would be moved around for test drives and pulling in and out of Route 9. Ms. Wilson noted there should be additional space for customer and personal vehicles. Mr. Campbell stated there is room in front of the building for these additional cars. Mr. Belanger stated the Board is supportive and wants to see the business succeed but expressed concerns regarding the number of cars requested and asked what the lowest number of cars Mr. Campbell would be comfortable starting out with. Mr. Campbell replied 15 cars. Mr. Belanger responded that this is good place to start and advised Mr. Campbell to keep the property neat and not allow it to become a junk lot. Mr. Campbell requested the hours of operation be set as Monday through Saturday from 9am-6pm. Mr. Belanger stated the preference of the Board is to give a wider latitude of time so the owner does not have to come back should they decide to expand their hours and asked if 8am to 9pm would be acceptable. Mr. Campbell responded in the affirmative. Ms. Provencher asked about Sunday hours. Mr. Campbell said he would only occasionally sell cars on Sunday but would not be open regular business hours.

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Mr. Dennison to approve the Class II License for 15 cars for Jimp Auto Sales, to be located at 724 Main Street, and set the hours of operation at Sunday through Saturday from 8am to 9pm. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Wilson to close the public hearing at 7:31pm.

Vote by Roll Call:

Buckley – Aye

Provencher - Aye

Dennison – Aye

Belanger – Aye

Wilson – Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

C. 7:30pm – Sweet Escapes Common Victualler License Transfer Application

Chris Sullivan and Becky Mongiat, owners of Sweet Escape, presented a request to transfer their license to the former Rochdale Burgers, Subs and More at 610 Pleasant Street which has closed. Mr. Belanger asked when the owners would be ready to move and Mr. Sullivan responded immediately and that the hours of operation would remain the same, including 6am-3am baking hours.

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Mr. Dennison to approve the license transfer contingent upon completing the license application process including signed approval from all departments. The motion carried unanimously.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Accept Parks and Recreation Toll Both Donations

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Provencher to accept the Parks and Recreation Toll Booth donations in the amount of \$1,328.88 and to deposit the funds in the Parks and Rec donation account. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Accept Senior Center Donation

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Dennison to accept a \$200 donation to assist with heating costs for the Senior Center on behalf of the Golden Needles Club and to deposit the donation in the Senior Center donations account. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Accept Copeland Library Donation

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Ms. Wilson to accept a donation for Copeland Library in the amount of \$691.82 for repairs on behalf of the Friends of the Copeland Library and deposit the funds in the Copeland Library donation account. The motion carried unanimously.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointments

i. Fire station Building Committee At-Large Position

Mr. Buckley stated the Board asked the Town Administrator to make a recommendation on the best candidate for the Fire Station Building Committee at-large position out of the five who applied. Mr. Mizikar recommended Brian Cooper as the best candidate for the position.

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Dennison to appoint Brian Cooper to the Fire Station Building Committee At-Large position. The motion carried unanimously.

ii. Special Police Officers (2)

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Dennison to appoint Sergeant Joseph Fontaine and Officer Michael Kemp to the position of Special Police officers. The motion carried unanimously.

iii. Arts Council – Elizabeth Marc-Aurele

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Wilson to appoint Elizabeth Marc-Aurele to the Arts Council for a three year term. The motion carried unanimously.

iv. Burncoat Park Committee – John Cove

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Dennison to appoint John Cove to the ad-hoc Burncoat Park Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Resignations

Mr. Mizikar presented a letter of resignation from Matt Thompson, Emergency Management Director, effective January 1, 2015.

A motion was made by Mr. Dennison and Mr. Belanger to accept the resignation of Matt Thompson and to send a letter of appreciation. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Provencher noted that Mr. Thompson is in charge of the LEPC and the CERT team. Ms. Wilson asked about LEPC certification. Mr. Mizikar responded that the Town is currently working with MEMA to complete the certification process.

C. Airport Update

Mr. Mizikar introduced Steven Zieff of Eden Management, a consultant working with the Town to use the airport as a catalyst for regional growth. Mr. Zieff stated that the Worcester Regional Airport is physically comparable to a Class B airport and is well suited to providing a range of services. Logan Airport passenger growth is at a rate of 2:1 compared to the National average. Mr. Zieff noted the CMRPC 2011 Mobility Study did not include Leicester and he has asked CMRPC to revisit this plan. The airport is spending \$35M on system upgrades which will make it more reliable. The airport is located 4 miles off of major highways which is comparable to Manchester airport. Travel time is 6-7 minutes by car from major highways to the airport versus 40-45 minutes from Worcester to Logan according to Massport. Mr. Zieff noted that being involved in creating an accessible and convenient airport with a positive outcome for Leicester is a reasonable and worthwhile investment which will pay for the upfront soft costs easily.

Mr. Belanger noted that the airport upgrades will happen anyway and the Town should have a seat at the table to mitigate negative impacts and gain financially. Mr. Dennison noted that the Town can't stop air traffic but could position itself to attract hotels and restaurants adjacent to the airport. Mr. Mizikar noted there will be no investment in the near term but this is a starting point to ensure the Town has a seat at the table and is able to advantage of economic development opportunities and mitigate any negative impacts that airport expansion could have on the Town.

D. Town Administrator Performance Review

The Town Administrator Performance Review was moved to executive session and continued to open session on October 20, 2014.

E. Liquor License Sunday Hours Modification Requests

Mr. Mizikar presented five requests from package stores for a change in Sunday hours from noon to 10am effective October 26, 2014 per new ABCC regulations approved over the summer.

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve the change in Sunday hours from noon to 10am for all five package stores. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Energy & Infrastructure Project – Designate Energy Services Company

Mr. Mizikar stated the Energy Study Advisory Committee has worked over the past 8 weeks to advertise and select a firm to undertake an energy audit of all Town buildings. On September 10, 2014, the Committee interviewed all 3 firms which submitted proposals. The Committee voted unanimously to select Honeywell to undertake the energy audit with a goal of using energy savings to cover the cost of upgrades. Mr. Mizikar noted that the cost of the audit (\$18,300) will get rolled into the overall cost of the project.

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Dennison to enter into a contract with Honeywell. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Warrant for State Election

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Provencher to authorize the Town Clerk to post the warrant for the State Election to be held on November 4, 2014 from 7am-8pm at the Town Hall. The motion carried unanimously.

H. Sign 2014 MOA – Police Sergeant Unit *** I. Sign 2015-2017 MOA – Police Sergeant Unit**

Mr. Mizikar presented the 2013-2014 Police Sergeant MOA for Board consideration. Ms. Wilson noted that only the date has changed and there is no change in costs or benefits. Mr. Mizikar also presented the 3 year

agreement (2015-2017) which is the fifth and final three year agreement with the Police Sergeants and noted the base increases are consistent with the previously negotiated Police Officer agreement.

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve the 2013-2014 Police Sergeant Unit MOA and the 2015-2017 Police Sergeant Unit MOA. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Library Director Contract

Mr. Mizikar presented the Library Director Contract for Board consideration. This is the first 100% performance based contract for any Town employee where raises are determined based on the goaling process. Mr. Mizikar is moving in this direction with all department head contracts. The Board of Trustees supports this contract.

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Dennison to approve the Library Director Contract. The motion carried unanimously.

K. Contract for Roadway Salt

Mr. Mizikar presented a contract for roadway salt for Board consideration. The price per ton has increased by \$16.90, or 23.1%, for a total increase of \$19,000 over last year. The Town has a guaranteed minimum of 1,125 tons. Mr. Mizikar stated he reached out to the City of Worcester and the State but pricing was the same. The recommended contractor is required to have salt on hand in Massachusetts at the beginning of the agreement.

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Ms. Wilson to approve the contract for roadway salt with Morton Salt, Inc. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Wilson asked if the contract is for green salt. Mr. Mizikar responded in the affirmative. Mr. Dennison noted that white salt, while cheaper at \$15/ton, is not as effective so more must be used. Green salt requires less sand which makes for a cheaper and easier for spring cleanup in addition to the environmental benefits. The long and near term benefits bring the costs close to being the same.

L. Hillcrest Boiler Contract

Mr. Mizikar presented a contract for Board consideration in the amount of \$67,250 between the Town of Leicester and Royal Steam Heater Company to provide a complete new heating system and remove the old system at the Hillcrest Country Club. Funding would come from the Hillcrest Revolving Fund.

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve the contract with Royal Steam Heater Company to replace the heating system at Hillcrest Country Club. The motion carried unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION/OLD BUSINESS

A. Review Draft Special Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Mizikar presented a preliminary list of warrant articles for the November 18th Special Town Meeting. The warrant currently includes 14 articles. Six of the articles require funding, all of which can be raised through the general tax levy.

B. Hunting on Town Owned Land

Mr. Mizikar has received questions from residents regarding hunters seen in and around the area of the landfill and the recycling center. There are currently no regulations regarding hunting on Town on land and no posted signs. Mr. Mizikar recommended the Town work with the Conservation Commission to develop policies relative to hunting on Town owned land. Mr. Belanger stated that public hearings should be held to seek input first and that hunting is a long tradition in Town. Ms. Wilson stated that the landfill cap should be off limits and no trespassing signs should be posted. Mr. Dennison proposed the idea of discussing a buffer zone around parks. Mr. Belanger asked the Town Administrator to connect with the Rod and Gun club which teaches safety programs. Mr. Dennison expressed concerns about out of town hunters who do not belong to the Rod and Gun club and wander upon Town parks as residents get concerned when people with guns appear behind the ball field. Mr. Buckley asked the Town Administrator to keep the Board apprised of calls and concerns.

C. Remote Meeting Participation

Mr. Mizikar stated he has received a request from the Finance Advisory Committee to allow for remote meeting participation in accordance with Mass General Laws which allows for meeting participation via technology so long as a physical quorum is present. Ms. Wilson stated there is no technology in any of the meeting rooms and that cell phone reception is spotty at best. Mr. Buckley expressed concern about securing executive sessions via technology. The Board consensus was to not move forward with remote meeting participation at this time due to lack of technology.

D. Trick or Treating Hours

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Wilson to set the trick or treating hours from 5pm-7pm on Halloween.

Mr. Dennison noted he has received many requests to have expanded hours in Town and suggested setting the hours from 5-8pm or 6-8pm. Ms. Wilson stated that 5-6pm is still light enough for the little kids and 6-7pm is dark but still safe for older kids. Mr. Belanger noted that other functions in Town such as the parades begin around 7pm.

The motion carried 4:1 with Mr. Dennison casting the opposing vote.

E. Collection Boxes

Mr. Buckley referenced a Collection Box Bylaw established by the Board in May of 2001 and asked for the Town Administrator to identify the locations of Collection Boxes in Town and confirmation that Certificates of Compliance have been issued.

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Wilson to direct the Town Administrator to find the locations of all Collection Boxes in Town and ensure Certificates of Compliance have been issued. The motion carried unanimously.

F. 9 Water Street

Ms. Wilson presented a memo recommending the Town seek a historic designation on the National Register for 9 Water Street. Mr. Belanger stated that the Town should seek public input on this issue and that he needs

time to review the memo. Mr. Buckley echoed Mr. Belanger's request for time to review the memo and noted that many buildings in town could be placed on the Historic Register.

5. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Mizikar presented highlights from his Town Administrator report.

6. BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORTS

Mr. Belanger requested that the changes to the public access channels be posted on the bulletin board in the center of Town and on the Town's website. Mr. Belanger also noted it is Breast Cancer Awareness month.

Ms. Wilson noted that as part of the digital upgrade, all Town residents must obtain a box from Charter which is free for one year in order to continue to receive service.

Mr. Dennison noted that National Grid costs are going up by 37% and asked the Town Administrator to look into solar on Town owned land which could be sold back to residents.

Ms. Provencher mentioned the CMRPC buy local initiative which brings restaurants and farmers together and asked residents to consider joining the SERT team.

7. MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Ms. Wilson to accept the minutes of September 22, 2014. The motion carried unanimously.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Dennison and seconded by Ms. Provencher to enter into executive session at 9:42pm and to resume in open session.

Vote by Roll Call:

Buckley – Aye

Provencher - Aye

Dennison – Aye

Belanger – Aye

Wilson – Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Wilson at 9:59pm. The motion carried unanimously.