

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021
TOWN HALL, SELECT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Chair Antanavica called the meeting to order at 6:03pm. Chair Rick Antanavica, Vice-Chair John Shocik, Second Vice-Chair Herb Duggan Jr., Selectman Dianna Provencher, Selectman Allen Phillips, Town Administrator David Genereux, members of the Capital Improvement Planning Committee, members of the Advisory Committee and Assistant Town Administrator Kristen Forsberg were in attendance.

1. SCHEDULED ITEMS

- a. **6:00pm – Transfer & Pledge of Liquor License/Common Victualler License – Crossroads Marketplace – 1060 Main St., Leicester**

Ms. Forsberg read the license transfer public hearing notice and introduced the new owners of Crossroads Marketplace who are requesting the package store beer/wine and Common Victualler Licenses be transferred to them. Thomas Truax, attorney for Wael and Hanan Tawfik, stated the new owners are TIPS certified, Mr. Tawfik has three years of experience working at a package store, they will have a deli and will be adding a new POS system that allows license to be scanned.

Motion 091321-1a: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to approve the transfer and pledge of Liquor License and transfer of the Common Victualler License for Crossroads Marketplace.

Motion carries: 5:0:0

- b. **6:05pm - Discuss EMS Staffing and Vehicles – Interim EMS Director Brian Kelley**

Interim EMS Director Brian Kelley discussed issues with the Town's 3 ambulances. For better part of August, 2 ambulances were out of service and for one week all 3 were out of service. All three trucks have been assessed and the recommendation was to get rid of A1 (2015 Terrastar) immediately as it will be a money pit and there is no salvaging this vehicle due to its continuous mechanical issues, then get rid of A3 (2006 Ford) due to the cost of needed repairs, and to look at purchasing two used ambulances. Mr. Kelley noted that the EMS maintenance budget is gone for the year and it's only September. He is looking locally and out of state for two used ambulances and requested authorization to spend \$90,000. One would last 2-3 years under the department and can recoup enough ambulance receipts reserved to purchase a new ambulance and the other would last 5-7 years. The first used vehicle would be paid out of ambulance receipts reserved with some funding from a reserve fund transfer or the EMS operating budget to be backfilled at Town Meeting and the second vehicle would need to be funded via free cash transfer. Mr. Kelley noted we have a new ambulance on order but the parts are on backorder with no expected delivery date. The plan would be to trade in or sell A2 once the new ambulance arrives. Mr. Kelley stated that remounting a vehicle is extremely problematic and very expensive. His goal is to work with the Town Administrator to create an enterprise fund for EMS so that new vehicles can be paid for out of ambulance receipts every 3-5 years instead of out of capital.

CAPITAL COMMITTEE MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Margadonna and seconded by Mr. Duggan to authorize the expenditure of \$90,000 on two used ambulances. **Motion carries: 6:0:0**

Mr. Kelley began discussing raising the Town's EMS insurance billing rates and employee salaries.

Motion 091321-1b: A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Shocik to table the EMS billing rates and employee salaries discussion to a future meeting. **Motion carries: 5:0:0**

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No members of the public provided comment.

3. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Student Liaison Reports

The Student Liaisons provided updates from the Leicester Public Schools.

b. Town Administrator Report

The Town Administrator presented highlights from his written report.

Motion 091321-3b-BF: A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Ms. Provencher to authorize the High School to use the Becker field for sports games/practices on 9/17, 9/24 and 10/4 (pending the outcome of the Becker vote). **Motion carries: 5:0:0**

Motion 091321-3b-ED: A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Mr. Shocik to appoint Dianna Provencher to the select board voting position on the Economic Development Committee. **Motion carries: 5:0:0**

c. Select Board Reports

The Select Board discussed various topics including Jimmy Fund telethon and the \$42K donation from Terry Brennan, the Becker Town Meeting Info Session, the Spencer Water District Meeting at which it was clarified that there is no Moose Hill Shaw Pond project, the Maple Hill Disc Golf Open, the Becker Open House, the memorial at the CV Legion on 9/11, Town Meeting on Becker tomorrow at 7pm, Becker election on 9/21, the need to cut overgrowth on Rt 9 from the center to the Worcester line, the need to increase EMS salaries soon, and the potential expansion of Maple Hill Disc golf.

4. RESIGNATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

a. Resignation – DIS Director/Town Planner – Michelle Buck

Motion 091321-4a: A motion was made Mr. Shocik and seconded by Ms. Provencher to accept the resignation of DIS Director/Town Planner Michelle Buck with a letter of commendation and thanks. **Motion carries: 5:0:0**

b. Appointment – Cable Advisory Committee – Doug Belanger, John Hopkins and Art Paquette

Motion 091321-4b: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to appoint Doug Belanger, John Hopkins, and Art Paquette to the Cable Advisory Committee. **Motion carries: 5:0:0**

c. Appointment – Cable Advisory Committee – Select Board Representative

Motion 091321-4c: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to appoint Allen Phillips as the Select Board representative to the Cable Advisory Committee. **Motion carries: 5:0:0**

d. Reappointments – Arts Council – Judy Ivel, Sharon Nist (Ex-Officio)

Motion 091321-4d: A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Ms. Provencher to reappoint Judy Ivel and Sharon Nist (Ex-Officio) to the Arts Council. **Motion carries: 5:0:0**

5. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Discuss Becker Special Town Meeting (9/14/21)

Mr. Genereux had a meeting with the Moderator and Town Clerk this afternoon. The Moderator is only allowing registered voters, the press, our elected representatives, and department heads at the meeting. Non-registered voters and nonresidents are not allowed. There will be two presentations and the school visioning presentation will not be shown. The Board assigned the reading of the motions. Mr. Belanger noted that WRTA van service

will be available from both the Town Hall and Becker parking lots to the Becker gym. The Board discussed long term maintenance of both Becker and all Town owned buildings.

b. Potential Vote on Mallinckrodt Bankruptcy Settlement re: Opioid Litigation

Town Counsel has recommended the Town vote in the affirmative on the Mallinckrodt bankruptcy settlement due to Leicester being a relatively small player in this multi-state litigation, voting yes increases the chances of a settlement payment and the Town will likely incur additional legal fees if they stand alone.

Motion 091321-5c: A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Ms. Provencher to authorize Town Counsel to execute the Town of Leicester's vote in favor of the Mallinckrodt bankruptcy restructuring plan as more fully outlined in the September 7, 2021 letter from the plaintiff's executive committee and the opioid litigation special counsel, and to take other action necessary to effectuate this vote. **Motion carries: 5:0:0**

c. Review Fall Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles (10/26/21)

Mr. Genereux provided a brief overview of the proposed Fall Town Meeting topics including prior year bills, Town Clerk salary adjustment, FY21 budget adjustments, police cruiser purchase, police officer training, highway vehicle repairs and reimbursements, funding curb and sidewalk improvements at Towtaid Park to match a State grant, installation of security cameras and town parks and buildings, FY22 capital improvement plan, creating a marijuana HCA stabilization fund, amending the revolving fund bylaw, Warren Ave, Gleason Way and Harberton Drive easements and a zoning bylaw amendment.

6. MINUTES

a. August 23, 2021

Motion 091321-6a: A motion was made by and seconded by to approve the minutes of August 23, 2021. **Motion carries: 5:0:0**

b. August 30, 2021

This item was passed over.

Motion 091321-7: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Ms. Provencher at 8:56pm. **Motion carries: 5:0:0**