

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 23, 2021 AT 4:00PM
TOWN HALL, SELECT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Chair Antanavica called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. Chair Rick Antanavica, Vice-Chair John Shocik, Second Vice-Chair Herb Duggan Jr., Selectman Dianna Provencher, Selectman Allen Phillips, Town Administrator David Genereux and Assistant Town Administrator Kristen Forsberg were in attendance.

1. Cancel Becker Special Election Set for December 7, 2021, Town Hall Gym, 12pm-8pm

Mr. Genereux stated that thanks to our legislators and the Governor, special legislation was passed that no longer requires the planned special election.

Motion 112321-1: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to cancel the Becker Special Election set for December 7, 2021 in the Town Hall Gym from 12pm-8pm. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

2. Housing Authority Fire Update

Town Administrator David Genereux stated there was a fire at the Leicester Housing Authority this morning. No injuries were reported. There are, however, long term effects on the building resulting in the displacement of 41 residents.

Emergency Management Director Jason Main stated that residents will be allowed back into their apartments this evening to get clothing and pets. Salvation Army will be providing dinner and those who need housing will be shuttled to a hotel in Auburn. A Thanksgiving dinner will be provided by volunteers to those who are displaced on Thursday. On Friday, WRTA will bus residents from the hotel to Town Hall where a recovery center will be set up from 8am-12pm to provide resources including housing, food, mental health, veterans' services and both short- and long-term services. Based on the damage, it could be anywhere from 6-12 months before residents can move back in.

Fire Chief Mike Dupuis stated the fire department was notified of the fire just before 4am this morning. The fire was in the ceiling of the building. Fortunately, the only damage is in the hallways, not in the individual units as the doors were closed. The source of the fire is likely electrical in nature. It is possible that the fire burned from 1:30am to 4:00am when it was discovered based on camera footage and when the feed shorted out. Chief Dupuis stated that until the fire comes out of the roof no one would notice it.

The Board expressed their gratitude to the first responders, volunteers, legislators, employees, WRTA, Leicester Housing Authority, Farmhouse Diner and all who assisted today. The community and staff came together, and everyone deserves thanks. The Board mentioned the possibility of using Becker for short term housing.

Motion 112321-2: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Shocik at 4:27pm. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**