

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 7, 2022 AT 6:00PM  
TOWN HALL, SELECT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM**

**CALL TO ORDER/OPENING**

Chair Antanavica called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. Chair Rick Antanavica, Vice-Chair John Shocik, Second Vice-Chair Herb Duggan Jr., Selectman Allen Phillips, Town Administrator David Genereux and Assistant Town Administrator Kristen Forsberg were in attendance. Selectwoman Dianna Provencher was absent.

**1. SCHEDULED ITEMS**

- a. **6:00pm - Executive Session, MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a):**
  - i. **Exception #2 - Negotiations with Nonunion Personnel (Interim EMS Director, Treasurer/Collector)**
  - ii. **Exception #3 - Strategy with Respect to Collective Bargaining (Police Union Promotion Process)**
  - iii. **Exception #6 - Lease of Real Property (Swan Library & Field Shed)**

**Motion 020722-1:** A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Shocik to enter into executive session at 6:02pm under MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), Exception #2, for negotiations with nonunion personnel (Interim EMS Director, Treasurer/Collector), Exception #3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (Police Union promotion process), and Exception #6, to discuss the lease of real property (Swan Library & Field Shed). The Chair declared that to discuss these matters in open session would compromise the position of the Town. **Roll call: 4:0:0.**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

John Bujak from 30 Rawson Street spoke about use of the Becker gymnasium and difficulty finding space at the schools due to ongoing issues. Mr. Bujak asked the Select Board to reconsider their position on barring rentals at the Becker gym at least while the school issues are going on to help alleviate the current mental health crisis. Mr. Bujak has run some numbers on operating costs he will share with the Board.

**3. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. **Student Liaison Reports**

The Student Liaisons presented updates from the Leicester Public Schools.

- b. **Report of the Town Administrator's Office**

The Town Administrator presented highlights from the written report of the office activities.

- c. **Select Board Reports**

The Select Board discussed various topics including a request from Vibra for ambulance assistance, reopening of 1073 Main Street, thanks to the highway department for their hard working during the nor'easter and the ice storm, thanks to fire and EMS for their service to our community, filling potholes ASAP, getting a list of roads to be asphalted by the end of the month including difficult roads with drainage, please use your real name when putting in public records requests which cost time and money and don't ask for the same thing under a different name, February is heart month, and getting a list of roads that need striping.

**4. RESIGNATIONS & APPOINTMENTS**

- a. **Retirement - Donna Johnson - Library Cataloguer**

**Motion 020722-4a:** A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Duggan to accept the retirement of Donna Johnson and to send a letter of thanks for her service. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

**b. Resignation – Tim Newton - Regional Public Health Officer**

**Motion 020722-4b:** A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Shocik to accept the resignation of Tim Newton from the position of Regional Public Health Officer. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

**c. Resignation – Amy McInerney - Regional Public Health Officer**

**Motion 020722-4c:** A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Shocik to accept the resignation of Amy McInerney from the position of Regional Public Health Officer. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

**d. Resignation – Valerie Kokernak – Commission on Disabilities**

**Motion 020722-4d:** A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Shocik to accept the resignation of Valerie Kokernak from the Commission on Disabilities. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

**e. Resignation – Lisa Wall – Advisory Committee**

**Motion 020722-4e:** A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Duggan to accept the resignation of Lisa Wall from the Advisory Committee. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

**f. Resignation – Melanie Jackson - Treasurer/Collector**

This item was passed over as Ms. Jackson's resignation was accepted at the December 6, 2021 meeting.

**g. Appointment – Trevor Bruso - Regional Public Health Coordinator**

**Motion 020722-4g:** A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Mr. Phillips to appoint Trevor Bruso to the position of Regional Public Health Coordinator. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

**h. Appointment – Chris Wilson - Regional Public Health Epidemiologist**

**Motion 020722-4h:** A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Shocik to appoint Chris Wilson to the position of Regional Public Health Epidemiologist. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

**i. Appoint & Execute Contract – Kimberly Burton – Treasurer/Collector**

**Motion 020722-4i1:** A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Mr. Phillips to appoint Kimberly Burton to the position of Treasurer/Collector. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

Ms. Forsberg presented a proposed standard contract with Ms. Burton which offers a salary of \$74K, four weeks vacation and a 180 probationary period.

**Motion 020722-4i2:** A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Duggan to execute a contract with Kimberly Burton, Treasurer/Collector. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

**5. OTHER BUSINESS**

**a. Accept Senior Center Donation**

**Motion 020722-5a:** A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Duggan to accept a \$500 donation from ERA Key Realty Services Charitable Trust Foundation. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

**b. Contract Amendment – Interim EMS Director – Brian Kelley**

Mr. Genereux presented a proposed contract amendment with Interim EMS Director Brian Kelley. Mr. Kelley has been here for six months and has made great progress working with the Fire Chief and EMS personnel on departmental changes. However, there are still issues with staffing and vehicles that need to be resolved prior to advertising for a permanent EMS Director.

**Motion 020722-5b:** A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Mr. Duggan to approve the proposed contract amendment with Interim EMS Director Brian Kelley. **Motion carries 4:0:0**

**c. Request to Surplus Vehicle – 1986 Hahn Fire Engine – Auction on February 19, 2022 at 10:00 AM**

Mr. Genereux requested permission to surplus the 1986 Hahn Fire Engine since the Town has taken possession of its new fire engine. A live auction would be held on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am with a snow date of the following Saturday at the same time at 3 Paxton St. Mr. Genereux noted there are some interested parties in Town.

**Motion 020722-5c:** A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Mr. Duggan to surplus the 1986 Hahn Fire Engine and to hold an auction for sale of the vehicle on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am, snow date February 26<sup>th</sup> at 10am. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

**d. Set Close Date for Annual Town Meeting Warrant – March 17, 2022 at 5:00 PM**

**Motion 020722-5d:** A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Duggan to set the close date for the Annual Town Meeting warrant as March 17, 2022 at 5pm. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

**e. Discuss/Vote on Bark Park (Dog Park at Former Becker College Campus)**

Mr. Phillips presented a proposal from the Becker Veterinary Reuse Working Group for a dog park called “Bark Park”. The proposed park would be fenced in and include separate areas for large dogs and dogs under 25 lbs along with benches and dog cleanup stations. The Leicester Christmas Lights Display has offered to donate the sign.

**Motion 020722-5e:** A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Duggan to designate land in front of the veterinary clinic for a dog park to be named “Bark Park”, to repair the fence in the rear of the property, to put out the agility equipment for use by the public and to open the park in the spring (late March/April) once the snow has cleared. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

**f. Discuss/Vote on Closure of Town Hall, Senior Center and Library Due to COVID-19**

**Motion 020722-5f:** A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Duggan to reopen the Town Hall, Senior Center and Library and to make masks optional in these buildings. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

**g. Discuss/Vote on Lease of Real Property – Swan Library**

Mr. Genereux discussed the proposal from the Massachusetts State Police Museum and Learning Center (MSPLC) for Swan Library. It is a one-year agreement beginning on March 1, 2022. It sets up a lease agreement for Swan Library and the ballfield field house for storage of vehicles. The rent would be \$2,915 per month for Swan Library and \$1,000 for the field house. The Town would be responsible for maintenance and the upkeep of the grounds. The State Police would be responsible for snow removal on the sidewalks and porch. Dick Belanger with the MSPLC discussed the mission of the State Police nonprofit which includes children’s education and various community trainings on topics such as narcotics.

**Motion 020722-5g:** A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Shocik to approve the lease for the Swan Library and the lease for the ballfield field house with the Massachusetts State Police Museum and Learning Center. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

**6. MINUTES**

- a. **January 3, 2022**
- b. **January 11, 2022**
- c. **January 18, 2022**

d. **January 24, 2022**

**Motion 020722-6:** A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Mr. Phillips to approve the minutes of January 3, 11, 18 and 24, 2022. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

**Motion 020722-7:** A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Shocik at 8:44pm. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**