

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 7, 2022 AT 5:30PM
TOWN HALL, SELECT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Chair Antanavica called the meeting to order at 5:36pm. 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. SCHEDULED ITEMS

a. 5:30pm – Executive Session, MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), Exception #3

i. Discuss Strategy with Respect to Collective Bargaining (Police Officer Union)

Motion 030722-1a: A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded Ms. Provencher to enter into executive session at 5:38pm under MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), Exception 3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (Police Officer Union). The Chair declared that to discuss this matter in open session would compromise the position of the Town. Roll call: All Ayes. Mr. Antanavica and Mr. Phillips recused themselves from executive session and left the room.

b. 6:00pm – Discuss/Vote on One Day Liquor License Requests (30) – Maple Hill Disc Golf, Steve Dodge

Steve Dodge with Maple Hill Disc Golf stated he is looking to expand operations to include Maple Hill Weekends with food and beer/wine. If all goes well, Mr. Dodge intends to apply for a liquor license for next year. Ms. Forsberg noted the paperwork is in order and the maximum number of one day licenses allowed annually is 30.

Motion 030722-1b: A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Shocik to approve the request for 30 one day liquor licenses for Maple Hill Disc Golf, manager Steve Dodge, pending concurrence from the Police Chief. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

c. 6:00pm – Discuss/Vote on One Day Liquor License Requests (15) – Maple Hill Disc Golf, Kevin Jarvi

Kevin Jarvi of Alta Vista Farm and Milk Room Brewing Company presented a request for 15 one day liquor licenses for Milk Room Brewing Company to serve beer and wine at events at Maple Hill Disc Golf.

Motion 030722-1c: A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve the request for 15 one day liquor licenses for Milk Room Brewing Company, manager Kevin Jarvi, pending concurrence from the Police Chief. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

d. 6:15pm – Discuss/Vote on Road Conversion Request – Virginia Drive

John Stelmach with Oakridge Estates presented a road conversion request for Virginia Drive to turn it into a public road. The development began in 1998 and is subject to the 2010 road acceptance policy. Mr. Antanavica noted there are a number of outstanding issues including four manholes that stick up above the asphalt that will damage Town plows and the need for pictures from inside of the manholes to confirm the pipes are properly cemented. A site walk with the Road Conversion Committee will be required and this request will likely go to Fall Town Meeting, not Spring Town Meeting. This item was tabled to a later meeting after the Road Conversion Committee meets.

e. 6:30pm - Discuss/Vote on Request to Approve Use of Roads – Tarentino Strong 5K – May 15th

Trish Tarentino with the Tarentino Strong 5K discussed this community event which starts at the High School at 10am on May 15th. Ms. Tarentino has sought and received approval from the Police Chief and the School Department for this event.

Motion 030722-1e: A motion was made by Mr. Duggan and seconded by Mr. Phillips to approve the use of Town roads for the Tarentino Strong 5k race on May 15th. **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. Report of the Town Administrator's Office

The Town Administrator presented highlights from the written report detailing office activities including discussion of a recent insurance claim regarding a federal court case from a former school employee and a request from the Highway Superintendent to use Chapter 90 funds to purchase a Kubota excavator with trailer at a cost of \$115,185 off the State bid list.

c. Select Board Reports

The Select Board discussed various topics including the Becker Reuse Working Group meeting, how to share information across working groups, the red reflective number signs in Town sponsored by the Leicester Firefighters Association which can be purchased and installed for \$20, use of ARPA funds to pay off CVSD loans which is not allowed, getting a town car for patrols by Joe Fontaine, a video shown on LCAC by a former Selectboard member, ARPA funds to pay for a feasibility study for the Moose Hill reservoir, congrats to the girls LHS basketball team, ARPA funding for the recycling center or permission to use one of the sheds behind the vet clinic, keys to Becker for the Select Board, the Annual Town Election, reading a poem to veterans and the Becker Educational Working Group meeting this Wednesday at 6pm.

4. RESIGNATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

a. Resignation – Charles Laperle Jr. – Police Officer

Motion 030722-4a: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to accept with regrets the resignation of Charles Laperle Jr. and to send a letter of thanks for service. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

b. Appointment – Christopher Goodney, Jr. – Per-Diem EMT

Motion 030722-4b: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to appoint Christopher Goodney Jr. to the position of per-diem EMT. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

c. Appointment – Zachary Clements – Per-Diem Paramedic

Motion 030722-4c: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Phillips to appoint Zachary Clements to the position of per-diem paramedic. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

d. Appointments – Bark Park Committee

Motion 030722-4d1: A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Mr. Shocik to appoint Allen Phillips as the Select Board member on the Bark Park Committee. **Motion carries 4:0:1 (Mr. Phillips abstained).**

Motion 030722-4d2: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Phillips to appoint Stephanie Parke to the Bark Park Committee. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

Motion 030722-4d3: A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Ms. Provencher to appoint Peggy Prynosi to the Bark Park Committee. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

Motion 030722-4d4: A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Shocik to appoint Courtney Skouby to the Bark Park Committee. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

Motion 030722-4d5: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Phillips to appoint Richard Spaulding to the Bark Park Committee. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

Motion 030722-4d6: A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Ms. Provencher to appoint Paul Stimson to the Bark Park Committee. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

5. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Accept Senior Center Donation

Motion 030722-5a: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to accept the \$2,000 donation to the Senior Center from the Camosse family. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

b. Discuss/Vote on Police Union Memorandums of Understanding (3)

Mr. Genereux noted that the union has requested that only two contracts be voted on at this time although all three were discussed in executive session without significant issues. The first MOU is a resolution of a personal day grievance from November 7, 2021. This MOU would allow the named supervisors to be credited with 55% of the personal days they were entitled to but not credited for between the years of 2001-2021 to be used at the discretion of the Police Chief. The second MOU is regarding impact bargaining for body worn cameras. This MOU would provide \$300 per member per year for two years only and no further compensation thereafter for wearing the cameras. The cameras are to be worn by all on duty officers and the Police Department received a grant in the amount of \$40,000 to purchase the cameras. The estimated total cost of this MOU is \$12,000.

Motion 030722-5b: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to approve the resolution of personal day grievance of November 7, 2021 and the impact bargaining regarding body worn camera MOUs. **Motion carries 3:0:2 (Mr. Antanavica and Mr. Phillips abstained).**

c. Discuss/Vote on Swan Library Lease with Massachusetts State Police Museum and Learning Center

Mr. Genereux stated he received correspondence over the weekend from the Massachusetts State Police Museum and Learning Center (MSPMLC) regarding immediate withdrawal from the Swan Library lease. The MSPMLC did additional research regarding the installation of an elevator to meet ADA requirements. They were given a soft price of \$150K, not including addressing the potential concerns of ledge and/or groundwater. MSPMLC secured \$50K for the elevator and stated they were only looking at a two-year occupancy which made the project prohibitively expensive. The lease of the Swan Library was referred back to the Swan Library Reuse Working Group.

d. Discuss/Vote on ARPA Funding (Moose Hill)

Mr. Genereux stated that regulations have been loosened regarding the use of federal ARPA funding. The approval to spend these funds lies with the Select Board. Mr. Genereux discussed a request to use ARPA funding for the \$220K Town match to the Moose Hill Feasibility Study One Stop Grant. The total cost of the study is \$620K and the grant would cover \$400K. The grant would fund the planning and permitting associated with designating the Moose Hill Reservoir as a Class A drinking water supply. The Board discussed the viability of Moose Hill, the outcomes of previous Moose Hill studies, the purpose of the study, etc.

Motion 030722-5d: A motion was made by Mr. Duggan and seconded by Mr. Phillips to take this item up at a Select Board meeting to be held next Monday night. **Motion carries 5:0:0**

e. **2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Discussion**

Mr. Genereux discussed the first draft of the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Most articles are fairly standard. New articles include establishment of an EMS enterprise account and an appropriation of funds to this account, changing the Moose Hill Water Commission appointments from elected to appointed, removal of the position of Police Chief from Civil Service, and removing the provision to send mailers for ballot measures.

f. **Discuss/Vote on Leicester Athletic Field Regulations**

Mr. Phillips discussed the rules and regulations for the recreational facilities in Town as drafted by the Becker Athletic Working Group. This includes rules for the turf field and for Bark Park. Most rules were unanimously agreed to except the rule to bar practices from the turf field. Nate Hagglund requested the Select Board suspend rule 13 (day of rest) and rule 15 (not moving the net) for the schools. Mr. Hagglund noted the schools looked at seven nearby single turf field communities that Leicester plays against, and none have rest days for their turf fields. Mr. Hagglund added he spoke with the former Becker athletics director Frank Miller and learned that Becker put in the "Cadillac" of turf fields in 2018 with top-of-the-line plastic and they fluffed it 3-4x per semester. Per Becker, the weather wears a field out more than play time. Jen Reynolds, Athletic Director for the Schools, noted that all colleges play on turf fields, and it is a different level of play. There is no home field advantage for Leicester if they can't practice on the turf field. Turf fields are safer, and the ball moves at a totally different speed, so players need to spend time getting used to it. The Select Board recommended the schools come back and seek a waiver for these rules.

g. **MSBA Statement of Interest & School Closure Statement – Leicester High School Boiler Replacement**

Ms. Tencza noted that the schools applied to the State MSBA Accelerated Repair Program for the high school boiler replacement several years ago but did not receive funding. The project does meet the minimum grant criteria of 25 years old and over \$25,000 but often projects that are even older receive funding. Ms. Tencza asked that the Board sign a school closure statement required to apply for these funds. The statement says the Town has closed a school in the last 10 years (Memorial School) and intends to close a school in the next 10 years (Middle School).

Motion 030722-5g: A motion was made by Mr. Duggan and seconded by Mr. Phillips to authorize the Select Board Chair to sign the School Closure Statement as part of the MSBA Statement of Interest for the Leicester High School Boiler Replacement project. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

6. MINUTES

- a. **February 17, 2022**
- b. **February 22, 2022**
- c. **February 28, 2022**

Motion 030722-6: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to approve the minutes of February 17, 22 and 28, 2022. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

Motion 030722-7: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Mr. Shocik at 9:29pm. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**