

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 11, 2022 AT 5:15PM  
TOWN HALL, SELECT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM**

**CALL TO ORDER/OPENING**

Chair Antanavica called the meeting to order at 5:19pm. 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.

**Motion 041122-1:** A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Mr. Phillips to allow Mr. Antanavica to place a coin from tomb of the unknown soldier on the veterans POW MIA table in the Select Board Conference Room. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

Ms. Provencher arrived at 5:25pm.

**1. SCHEDULED ITEMS**

**a. 5:30pm – Discuss/Vote on Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles (Select Board & Advisory Committee)**

The Select Board and Advisory Committee discussed establishing a donation account for Bark Park to be spent by the Bark Park Committee or the Select Board, the one-to-one revolving account which collects technology fees for the repair of school laptops, the proposed FY23 operating budget including objections to the school spending taxpayer dollars on a public relations firm, variances in school sports fees, a spreadsheet on the school budget put together by the Advisory Committee Chair, school savings accounts that carry over from year to year because the Town does not fully fund the school budget, cutting the school budget to \$16,500,000, the fact that the school committee discusses items at public workshops and votes on them at public meetings and the importance of transparency.

**Motion 041122-1a:** A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Mr. Phillips to make a recommendation on Article 4 on Town Meeting floor. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

**b. 6:30pm – Eagle Scout Presentation – Xavier Morales**

This item was passed over.

**c. 6:45pm – School Waiver Request – Athletic Regulations**

The Board clarified that the schools are able to move soccer nets as much as want and that the regulations are referring to not moving the goal posts.

**Motion 041122-1c:** A motion was made by Mr. Duggan and seconded by Mr. Shocik to grant the school department a waiver to use the turf field for practices from August 15<sup>th</sup> through the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

**d. 7:00pm – Open Space and Recreation Plan Discussion**

Mary Hannah Smith with the Central Mass Regional Planning Commission noted she has been working with the Town since February of 2021 to update Leicester's Open Space and Recreation Plan so the Town can remain eligible for a variety of grant programs that support parks and recreation. The goals of Leicester's plan are to protect open space and natural resources, especially water, to provide and maintain recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities, to build a strong constituency of open space and recreation advocates, to increase public participation in open space and recreation planning and to identify appropriate resources to

support these goals. The plan provides for a variety of objectives that support these goals and result in an action plan with many items that are assigned to various town boards and committees.

**Motion 041122-1d:** A motion was made by Mr. Duggan and seconded by Ms. Provencher to authorize the Chair to sign a letter of review for the Leicester Open Space and Recreation Plan five-year update. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

**e. 7:15pm – Discuss/Vote on Becker Properties Available for Disposition (Vet Clinic & Others)**

Peter Cusolito representing the Becker Reuse Working Group, discussed the group's recommendations for the Becker buildings. Looking for an authorization for disposition of buildings. Had to identify reuse restrictions. Declare available, survey properties, and determine fair market value. The group recommended keeping Fuller Campus Center, Campus Center West, Borger Academic, Knight Hall, Marsh Hall, Swan Library, Gym and Turf Field for the future High School. The group also recommended keeping the historic May House and Bark Park for the Town. The group recommended leasing Berkshire Hall, Hampshire Hall, the Animal Health Center, the Staff House and the Facilities Maintenance Building. Finally, the group recommended selling Winslow Hall, Hitchcock Hall, Lane Hall, 1812 House, Russell Hall and Barrett Hall. The Reuse group met with the Zoning group and recommended utilizing the Town's nonconforming use zoning bylaw and obtaining a special permit from the ZBA to allow for a similar nonconforming use at these buildings. Mr. Cusolito discussed the need to survey certain properties due to property line, frontage, and access issues along with the need to fence off the large dorms from the school properties and add parking.

**Motion 041122-1e1:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Duggan to declare the following buildings available for disposition with the conditions specified for each. Uses are restricted to those provided in the Town of Leicester Zoning Bylaw, the Architectural District Bylaw, and the Watershed Overlay District except those that are permitted under Section 1.4 which allows for nonconforming use provided that the change use is not a substantially different use, and approval for the change is granted by a Special Permit by the Board of Appeals.

- No other special permits from the Zoning Board of Appeals will be considered.
- All activities, approved in the Leicester Zoning Bylaw for a Residential 2 zone will be considered for Winslow Hall, Hitchcock Hall, Lane Hall, 1812 House, and the Staff House.
- The following activities, approved in the Leicester Zoning Bylaw for a Business zone will not be considered for Russell Hall:
  - Marijuana related business or treatment activities
  - Restaurant, brew pub, or similar business
  - Solar activities
- The following activities, approved in the Leicester Zoning Bylaw for a Business zone will not be considered for the Animal Health Center or Facilities Maintenance Building:
  - Family childcare
  - Childcare facility
  - Mixed development
  - Marijuana related business or treatment activities
  - Restaurant, brew pub, or similar business
  - Solar activities

**Properties available for disposition through lease**

- Hampshire Hall
- Berkshire Hall

- Animal Health Center
- Staff House
- Facilities Maintenance

**Properties available for disposition through sale**

- Winslow Hall
- Hitchcock Hall
- Lane Hall
- 1812 House
- Barrett Hall
- Russell Hall

**Motion carries 5:0:0.**

**Motion 041122-1e2:** A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Duggan to put out the RFP for the vet clinic. **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 presented highlights from their written report.

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

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

**c. Select Board Reports**

The Select Board discussed various topics including Second Chance at the Senior Center on May 18<sup>th</sup> from 9-12, Becker Working Group meetings, the 3am fire alarm that went off in Cherry Valley, Bark Park grand opening on April 30<sup>th</sup>, the Deja New 2021 first Annual Report, and cleanup from the Fire at Leicester Housing.

**4. RESIGNATIONS & APPOINTMENTS**

**a. Retirement – Kristopher Soucie – Firefighter**

**Motion 041122-4a:** A motion was made by Mr. Duggan and seconded by Mr. Phillips to accept with regret the retirement of Kristopher Soucie from the Fire Department. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

**b. Resignation – Tyler Jefferson – EMT**

**Motion 041122-4b:** A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Duggan to accept the resignation of EMT Tyler Jefferson from the EMS Department. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

**c. Appointment – Megan Canavan – Animal Inspector**

**Motion 041122-4c:** A motion was made by Mr. Duggan and seconded by Ms. Provencher to reappoint Megan Canavan as the Animal Inspector for the Town of Leicester. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

**d. Appointment – Kristen Johnson – Part Time Non-Benefitted EMT**

**Motion 041122-4d:** A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Ms. Provencher to appoint Kristen Johnson as a part time non-benefitted EMT. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

e. **Appointment – Kristopher Mastromatteo – Part Time Non-Benefitted Paramedic**

**Motion 041122-4e:** A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Ms. Provencher to appoint Kristopher Mastromatteo as a part time non-benefitted paramedic. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

f. **Appointments – On Call Firefighter Recruits – James Whittimore Jr., Tanisha Rodriguez, Thomas Missiewicz**

**Motion 041122-4f1:** A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Shocik to appoint James Whittimore Jr. as an on-call firefighter recruit. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

**Motion 041122-4f2:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to appoint Tanisha Rodriguez as an on-call firefighter recruit. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

**Motion 041122-4f3:** A motion was made by Mr. Duggan and seconded by Ms. Provencher to appoint Thomas Missiewicz as an on-call firefighter recruit. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

g. **Appointment – Library Assistant – Marie Paquette**

**Motion 041122-4g:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to appoint Marie Paquette as a Library Assistant. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

h. **Special Municipal Employee Appointment Request – Town Recycling Committee**

**Motion 041122-4h:** A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Duggan to name the Recycling Committee as Special Municipal Employees. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

i. **Reappointment – Matt Thompson – Memorial Day Committee**

**Motion 041122-4i:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to reappoint Matt Thompson to the Memorial Day Committee. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

j. **Appointment – William Frink – Part-Time Paramedic**

**Motion 041122-4j:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to appoint William Frink as a part time paramedic. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

k. **Appointment – Mark Byron – Per-Diem Paramedic**

**Motion 041122-4k:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to appoint Mark Byron as a per-diem paramedic. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

l. **Appointment – Samantha Weaver – Per-Diem EMT**

**Motion 041122-4l:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to appoint Samantha Weaver as a per-diem EMT. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

m. **Appointment – Trina Deary – Recreational Field Organizer (RFO)**

**Motion 041122-4m:** A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Mr. Phillips to appoint Trina Deary to the position of Recreational Field Organizer for the Town of Leicester. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

**5. OTHER BUSINESS**

a. **Accept Recycling Center Donation**

**Motion 041122-5a:** A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Ms. Provencher to accept a \$197.43 donation from Deja New to the Recycling Center. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

b. **2022 License Renewal – Wings & Co, 1072 Main Street – Common Victualler License**

**Motion 041122-5b:** A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Ms. Provencher to renew the common victualler license for Wings & Co at 1072 Main Street for 2022. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

c. **Right of First Refusal – Pine Street Land**

**Motion 041122-5c:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to not exercise the Town's right of first refusal for the land on Pine Street. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

d. **Becker Working Groups Update**

The Board discussed the signs for Bark Park, the educational group is at a standstill until an agreement is reached between the Select Board and the School Committee regarding the care, custody and control of the future high school buildings, research done on lifts to be installed and fire suppression systems.

e. **Discuss/Vote on Out-of-Town Recreation Fees**

**Motion 041122-5e:** A motion was made by Mr. Duggan and seconded by Ms. Provencher to adopt the out of town and pro/semi pro recreation fee schedule **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

f. **Request to Use Becker Turf Field – Evolution Field Hockey Club**

This item was passed over.

g. **Approval of Highway Department MOU**

**Motion 041122-5g:** A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Shocik to approve the Highway Department MOU. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

h. **Accept Senior Center Donation**

**Motion 041122-5h:** A motion was made by Mr. Duggan and seconded by Ms. Provencher to accept a \$500 check from the Camosse Family Foundation. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

i. **Vote to Set the Annual Town Election for June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, from 12pm to 8pm in the Town Hall Gym**

**Motion 041122-5i:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to set the Annual Town Election for June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 12pm-8pm in the Town Hall Gym. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

j. **Discuss /Vote Ballot Questions – Annual Town Election**

**Motion 041122-5j:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Duggan to add the ballot question associated with May Town Meeting Article 13 regarding appointing as opposed to electing Moose Hill Water Commissioners to the June Annual Town Election ballot. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

k. **Discuss/Vote on Juneteenth as a Municipal Holiday for Town of Leicester**

This item was passed over.

l. **Discuss/Vote Surveying Contract – Tauper Land Survey**

**Motion 041122-5l:** A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Ms. Provencher to authorize the Town Administrator to execute the surveying contract with Tauper Land Survey in the amount of \$28,500. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

m. **Discuss/Vote on Use of ARPA Funding for Additional Equipment for New Fire Pumper - \$33,707**

**Motion 041122-5m:** A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve the use of an additional \$33,707 in ARPA funding for equipment for the new fire pumper. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

n. **Accept PD Donation**

**Motion 041122-5n:** A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Ms. Provencher to accept a \$100 donation from Brenda and Robert Riopel to the Police Department. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

**6. MINUTES**

a. **March 21, 2022**

b. **March 26, 2022**

**Motion 041122-6:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Duggan to accept the minutes of March 21, 2022 and March 26, 2022. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

**Motion 041122-7:** A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Duggan at 9:12pm. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**