

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 25, 2022 AT 6:00PM
SELECT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM, TOWN HALL**

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Chair Antanavica called the meeting to order at 6:04pm. 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. 6:00 pm – Appointment LRPHC Human Services Director – Miriam Nyante

Motion 042522-1a: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to appoint Miriam Nyante to the position of LRPHC Human Services Director and to execute her department head contract. Motion carries 5:0:0.

b. 6:05 pm - Appointment – Assessors Department Assistant – Sarah Morin

Motion 042522-1b: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Duggan to appoint Sarah Morin to the position of Department Assistant for the Assessing Department. Motion carries 5:0:0.

c. 6:10 pm – Appointment – DIS Department Assistant – Tina Stratis

Motion 042522-1c: A motion was made by Mr. Duggan and seconded by Ms. Provencher to appoint Tina Stratis to the position of Department Assistant for the Development & Inspectional Services Department. Motion carries 5:0:0.

d. 6:15 pm – Appointment – Library Assistant – Carol Whitcore

Motion 042522-1d: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to appoint Carol Whitcore to the position of Library Assistant. Motion carries 5:0:0.

e. 6:20 pm – Social-J LLC (Host Community Agreement – Marijuana Delivery Operator)

Social-J LLC is seeking a host community agreement (HCA) from the Town of Leicester for an adult use delivery business at 88 Huntoon Highway. The proposed HCA provides the Town with 3% of gross sales in addition to the 3% local sales tax revenue. Preferences will be given to Leicester residents and businesses. All hybrid and electric vehicles will be garaged in Leicester, thereby bringing additional excise tax revenue to Town. The business is estimated to be operational in the next 6-8 months. Revenue for Leicester from the HCA and local sales tax over 5 years is estimated to exceed \$1M. Social-J will delivery adult use marijuana all over the State but Leicester retains all tax revenue.

Motion 042522-1e: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Duggan to execute a host community agreement with Social-J LLC for adult use marijuana delivery at 88 Huntoon Highway. Motion carries 5:0:0.

f. 6:45 pm - Request to Use Becker Turf Field (Evolution Field Hockey Club)

Meighan Allison with Evolution Field Hockey Club presented a request to use the Becker gym and turf field as a home base for their club starting in the fall going forward. The Club would use up to 4 hours per week for training sessions. The Board discussed the schools having priority over the facilities and the need to schedule through the new Recreational Field Organizer (RFO).

Motion 042522-1f: A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve the Evolution Field Hockey Club request to use the Becker turf field and gym subject to the terms of the athletic facility rules and regulations and availability as determined by the RFO. Motion carries 5:0:0

g. 7:00 pm - Discuss/Vote on Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles – Assign motions

Motion 042522-1g1: A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Shocik to approve the change to Article 2 which increases the snow and ice budget by \$21,000 using surplus funds from the unemployment insurance line item. Motion carries 5:0:0.

Motion 042522-1g2: A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Genereux to approve the change to Article 11 which increases the funding for the fuel island from \$45,000 to \$50,300 using funds from free cash. Motion carries 5:0:0.

Mr. Genereux discussed a clarification made to Article 15. The new proposed motion specifies removing all police patrol AND all supervisory positions, including sergeant and lieutenant positions, from civil service. No vote is required to make this clarification.

Mr. Genereux discussed Article 4, the proposed FY23 operating budget. The proposed budget is \$31,372,910 which is an increase of \$551,052 over FY22, or an increase of 1.97%. Mr. Genereux noted he has only maintained the school/town split that was here when he arrived by increasing each budget by the same percentages annually. The Board discussed reducing the school budget due to funding needs including building and field maintenance and Becker.

Motion 042522-1g3: A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Mr. Phillips to vote on Article 4 on Town Meeting floor. Motion carries 5:0:0.

The Chair assigned the reading of the Town Meeting motions to the Board members.

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 of the office.

c. Select Board Reports

The Select Board discussed various topics including the Senior Center pancake breakfast, the Senior Center employee/volunteer appreciation lunch, kudos to Officers Lombardozzi, Moughan and Fontaine for getting an illegal ghost gun off the streets, Earth Day, Bark Park Grand Opening April 30th from 12-2pm, picking up trash at community field, and thanks to all the volunteers in Town.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Discuss/Vote on Juneteenth

The Board discussed various concerns including the date of the holiday, required union negotiations, having the holiday default to a Thursday if it falls on a Saturday and to a Monday if it falls on a Sunday, adoption for nonunion employees, it is now an official State holiday,

Motion 042522-4a: A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Ms. Provencher to table this item for further discussion. Motion carries 5:0:0.

b. Discuss/Vote Becker Mowing bid – Global Maintenance LLC

Motion 042522-4b: A motion was made by Mr. Duggan and seconded by Ms. Provencher to award the Becker mowing bid from May 2, 2022-November 18, 2022, to Global Maintenance, LLC in the amount of \$65,296 and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the contract. Motion carries 5:0:0.

c. Discuss/Vote Chemical disposal quote (Borger Hall) – Triumvirate

Motion 042522-4c: A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve the quote from Triumvirate from chemical disposal in the amount of \$25,396 and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the contract. Motion carries 5:0:0.

d. Discuss/Vote Vibra EMS Transport Contract

Interim EMS Director Brian Kelley discussed efforts made to increase revenue and address staffing issues including itemized billing, increased collections, increased ALS staffing from 39% to 66% and hired 10 new employees including a new part time benefitted paramedic position currently being advertised. Mr. Kelley stated he received an email from Vibra stating that their current non-emergency transport company cancelled their contract and asking if Leicester would be willing to provide these services. The State has been strongly encouraging municipalities to consider providing these services to support residents and facilities in their communities due to EMS and healthcare workforce shortages.

The proposed agreement will provide the Town with staffing for a second ambulance as the Town only has one ambulance currently staffed. This agreement would provide the revenue to staff the second ambulance at a minimum of 40 hours per week. Since July 1, 2021, to present the Town has received 197 second medical calls and were only able to cover them 67 times which places a large burden on mutual aid towns. The agreement was structured to provide second ambulance coverage during the Town's busiest times which are 10am-6pm. The agreement only requires the Town to provide local transports to contiguous towns. When transports are not occurring, the Town will be able to make use of the second ambulance.

Key points of the agreement include:

- Agreement would begin July 1, 2022
- Services would be available M-F from 10:30am-5:30pm, with staff arriving at 10am and leaving at 6pm
- Priority is to be given to emergency calls in Leicester over Vibra patient transport
- Leicester EMS has the right of first refusal for all Vibra patient transports. Vibra can enter into backup contracts with other ambulance services, but all transports are offered to Leicester first.
- Contiguous towns are Worcester, Auburn, Oxford, Charlton, Spencer and Paxton so the ambulance can be available for in-town emergency calls
- No crew will be forced to do patient transports except for the crew specifically hired to do so
- Vibra will purchase and give the Town a portable ventilator and portable pump that the Town will keep permanently
- Contract is for 3 years, automatically renewing for successive one-year terms thereafter unless terminated

- Vibra will pay the Town directly for every transport at 375% of the medicare rates
- The Town will need to hire one FT paramedic and one FT EMT for 40 hours per week to staff the second ambulance. The main ambulance remains staffed 24/7, dedicated exclusively to Leicester and shall not perform non-emergency interfacility transports. EMTs/Paramedics can pick up transport shifts if they choose.
- One BLS call per day will generate over \$600 in daily revenue, bringing in up to \$200K in profits per year
- Full time EMT/Paramedics are paid more per hour in accordance with the rates set by the Select Board. Employees hired for the transport positions are paid more because they will be full time employees, not because they are doing transports. These positions will be posted both internally and externally with preference given to internal candidates.

Motion 042522-4d: A motion was made by Mr. Duggan and seconded by Mr. Shocik to execute the Inter-Facility Transportation Provider Agreement with Vibra Hospital. Motion carries 4:0:1 (Mr. Phillips abstained).

e. **Discuss/Vote Declaration of Surplus Property – Becker Mattresses**

Motion 042522-4e: A motion was made by Mr. Duggan and seconded by Mr. Shocik to declare mattresses at the Becker dorms as surplus property and to dispose of them through Deja New and Acton Recycling Center at no cost. Motion carries 5:0:0.

5. MINUTES

a. **April 11, 2022**

b. **April 20, 2022**

Motion 042522-5: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to approve the minutes of April 11 & 20, 2022. Motion carries 5:0:0.

c. **April 21, 2022 - Executive Session**

This item was passed over

Motion 042522-6: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Shocik at 8:52pm. Motion carries 5:0:0.