

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MAY 16, 2022 AT 5:00PM
TOWN HALL, SELECT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Chair Antanavica called the meeting to order at 5:06pm. Chair Rick Antanavica, Vice-Chair John Shocik, Second Vice-Chair Herb Duggan Jr., Selectman Dianna Provencher, Town Administrator David Genereux and Assistant Town Administrator Kristen Rubin were in attendance. Selectman Allen Phillips was absent.

1. SCHEDULED ITEMS

a. 5:00pm – Executive Session

- i. Discussion pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a) (2),(3), & (6) - To discuss strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining and non-union personnel regarding addition of Juneteenth as a Leicester municipal holiday, and to consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property regarding former Becker College buildings and other facilities**

Motion 051622-1a: A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Mr. Duggan to enter into executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a) (2),(3), & (6) to discuss strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining and non-union personnel regarding addition of Juneteenth as a Leicester municipal holiday, and to consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property regarding former Becker College buildings and other facilities. The Chair declared that to discuss these matters in executive session would compromise the position of the Town. Roll call: All Ayes

b. 6:00 pm - Discuss/Vote on Interim In-Town Recreation Fees & RFO Scheduling Matters

Mr. Shocik expressed concerns about three-hour minimums for nonprofits and the cost. Mr. Genereux recommended the board temporarily vote in the existing Parks and Rec fee schedule for in town use until Mr. Phillips is back.

Motion 051622-1b1: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to adopt the current Parks and Rec in-town use fee schedule until the Becker Athletic Working Group presents their in-town fee recommendations. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

The Board clarified that pro/semi-pro groups would be organizations where players are earning a wage.

Motion 051622-1b2: A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve a two-hour resident reservation for the Tarentino basketball court at a cost of \$12.50/hour with a two-hour minimum. Under discussion, Mr. Genereux will discuss how to handle a private party with Chief Antanavica, RFO Trina Deary will send a confirmation email that the group can use as proof that they have the court reserved, and a sign will be posted 24 hours in advance notifying the public of the closure of the court. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

The Board asked that the remaining questions be sent back to the Becker Athletics workgroup to be addressed.

c. 6:30 pm – Present Retirement Plaque for Donna Johnson

Ms. Provencher presented Donna Johnson with a retirement plaque recognizing her 29 years of service.

d. 6:30 pm – Discuss/Vote on Ambulance Vehicles, Staffing, and Salaries/Wages Modifications

Interim EMS Director Brian Kelley presented a request to make pay changes as follows:

- Pay the part-time hourly rate to all per-diem and on-call EMTs and Paramedics so there is one full time rate and one part time/per-diem/on-call rate.

- Pay \$30 for EMT private details, \$35 for AEMT private details, and \$40 for paramedic details
- To have LPS pay \$175 for away game sports details
- To pay driver/BLS techs \$175 for long distance inter facility transports and to pay ALS techs \$250 for long distance inter facility transports

Motion 051622-1d1: A motion was made by Mr. Duggan and seconded by Mr. Shocik to accept rates as written. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

Motion 051622-1d2: A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Mr. Duggan to retain the old A2 as a backup ambulance to be named A4 as a BLS truck and standby for ALS. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

Mr. Kelley presented a request for the following staffing changes in light of the new Vibra contract:

- “Promote” the current Part-Time Benefited Paramedic, Colleen Plante to Full-Time (a 36 hour per week position) or if required, re-post this position as Full-Time (36 hours per week) position.
- Recommend not filling the second position due to recommendation of the interview panel instead reposting it as a Full-Time (36 hour per week) position.
- Eliminate current Part-Time Benefited Paramedic (36 Hour / 24 Hour) Positions.

These changes would cost between \$10,000 to \$15,000 annually depending on the level of experience of each Paramedic. The increased in hours and filling the second position with a full-time employee will increase the current pre-scheduled 911 ALS Coverage Level to 92.8%.

Motion 051622-1d3: A motion was made by Mr. Duggan and seconded by Mr. Shocik to create two full time positions and offer Colleen Plante an interim full-time position which will be posted internally for promotional purposes only. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No members of the public provided comment.

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.

c. Select Board Reports

The Select Board discussed various topics including a possible ceremony to open a town time capsule buried 50 years ago, free vet exam with vaccines being offered by Second Chance at the senior center on May 18th, the Mandeian community center grand opening last Sunday, the grand reopening of the senior center, the senior pancake breakfast, the legions and VFW placing flags around town at veterans squares for Memorial Day, the Tarentino 5K race yesterday, reconsidering the lieutenant promotion process, the Becker energy and heating audit, the landscaping company did not pick up sticks or pull out weeds at Becker, updating the dig safe markings on Old Main Street, and mattress removal happening tomorrow night for refugees.

4. RESIGNATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

a. Resignation – Sarah Miller – Economic Development Committee

Motion 051622-4a: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to accept the resignation of Sarah Miller from the Economic Development Committee and to send a letter of thanks for service. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

b. Appointment – Sergeant Matthew Brady – Constable & Agent to the Select Board

c. Appointment – Sergeant Frank Bulman – Constable & Agent to the Select Board

Motion 051622-4b&c: A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Ms. Provencher to appoint Sergeant Matthew Brady and Sergeant Frank Bulman as Constables and Agents to the Select Board. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

5. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Discuss/Vote Juneteenth as a Leicester Municipal Holiday

Mr. Genereux noted that Juneteenth is now a State and Federal holiday. Town Counsel has confirmed that Town Hall is required to be closed. Mr. Genereux recommended the Board adopt Juneteenth as a paid municipal holiday for 2022, amend the personnel bylaw at fall town meeting and bargain with the unions.

Motion 051622-5a: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to accept Juneteenth as a paid Leicester municipal holiday for 2022, bring forth an amended personnel bylaw at fall town meeting, and work with the unions to amend collective bargaining agreements. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

b. Discuss/Vote Municipal/School Agreement for Former Becker Campus Buildings & Other Facilities

Mr. Antanavica discussed the proposed lease between the Select Board and the School Committee for the former Becker campus facilities to be used as a high school. The agreement states that that the school will be permitted use the Campus Center, Borger, Knight Hall, Marsh Hall, and Swan Library as school buildings, the school shall have scheduling priority over all other organizations for the turf field and the gym, the management and supervision of all facilities on the former Becker campus lies with the Select Board and Town Administration, maintenance shall be overseen and funded by the Select Board and Town Administration, and the School Administration will be responsible for all internal cleaning, IT, and utility costs. Mr. Antanavica stated that school buildings in other towns, including Oxford, are maintained by the Town, not the schools. Other towns, including West Boylston, oversee fields and charge schools a fee to use them. Mr. Antanavica stressed the urgency of executing this agreement executed so students can move to Becker in time for the fall semester. Mr. Genereux noted that the Board and the School Committee have not reached an agreement despite conversations with legal counsels and time is running out. If an agreement can't be reached in time for the fall semester, issues at the Middle School will need to be addressed. Mr. Antanavica

c. Discuss/Vote on Portable Toilets at Town Hall for Concerts on the Common

Motion 051622-5c: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Duggan to allow an accessible porta potty to be placed at the Town Hall during the summer concerts on the common. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

d. Discuss/Vote to Fly Flag at Half Staff on May 22nd in Memory of Fallen Police Officer Ronald Tarentino

Motion 051622-5d: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to fly flags at half staff on May 22, 2022 in memory of fallen police officer Ronald Tarentino. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

e. Discuss/Vote on Tata & Howard Stormwater Contract

Motion 051622-5e: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Duggan to approve the \$69,000 contract with Tata & Howard for Years 4 and 5 stormwater services. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

f. **Discuss/Vote on Disposition Methodology for Surplused Becker Victorian Houses**

Mr. Genereux noted that the Becker Building Conditions and Reuse working groups have determined that the Town should put the Victorian houses out to sale. Mr. Genereux recommended using the Zekos Group who successfully sold the former Water Street fire station and well over the price the Town anticipated receiving. The Zekos Group would like to start a marketing campaign and begin advertising the future sale.

Motion 051622-5f: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to authorize the Zekos group to begin advertising the sale of the Victorian houses. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

g. **Discuss/Vote on Becker Vet Clinic RFP**

Mr. Genereux noted that no proposals were submitted by the RFP deadline of May 9, 2022. The Town has since become aware of an interested party and recommended putting the RFP back out to bid.

Motion 051622-5g: A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Ms. Provencher to put the vet clinic RFP back out to bid. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

h. **Discuss/Vote on Police Lieutenant Promotion Process and Timeline**

Mr. Genereux stated that the Town's Lieutenant is slated to retire soon. There is an existing civil service list that has one candidate remaining on it. However, the Board, police union, police chief and Town Meeting supported exiting civil service and moving towards a more assessment-based hiring process. As the Town will be filing for special legislation to remove these positions from civil service, Mr. Genereux recommended holding off on this promotion and doing a regular advertisement and promotion process once this has occurred. The Police Chief concurred but made it clear that the Lieutenant position should not be eliminated.

Motion 051622-5h: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to put the police lieutenant promotion process and timeline on hold until after the Town exits civil service. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**

6. MINUTES

- a. **April 2, 2022**
- b. **April 25, 2022**
- c. **May 2, 2022**
- d. **May 3, 2022**
- e. **May 9, 2022**

Motion 051622-6: A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve the minutes of April 2, April 25, May 2, May 3, and May 9. **Motion carries 4:0:0**

Motion 051622-7: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Ms. Provencher at 8:30pm. **Motion carries 4:0:0.**