

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 1, 2022 AT 6:00PM
TOWN HALL, SELECT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Chair Allen Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. Chair Allen Phillips, Vice Chair Rick Antanavica, Second Vice Chair Dianna Provencher, Selectman Herb Duggan Jr., Selectman John Bujak, and Town Administrator David Genereux were in attendance.

1. SCHEDULED ITEMS

6:00pm – In Person Appointments

a. **Per Diem EMT – John Wojcik IV**

Motion 080122-1a: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Bujak to appoint John Wojcik IV to the position of Per Diem EMT. Motion carries 5:0:0.

b. **On Call EMT – A.J. Drenzo**

Motion 080122-1b: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Bujak to appoint A.J. Drenzo to the position of On Call EMT. Motion carries 5:0:0.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No members of the public provided comment.

3. CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. **Leicester Harvest Fair – September 17, 2022 (10:00 am – 4:00 pm)**

b. **Concerts on the Common**

August 3rd “VIVA LAS ELVIS” - Dan Fontaine & The Memphis Sun Mafia Band (Rain Date August 4th)

August 10th CHANGES IN LATITUDE– premier tribute show to Jimmy Buffett (Rain Date August 11th)

4. REPORTS

a. **Student Liaison Reports**

The Student Liaisons are on vacation for the summer.

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 a variety of topics including the Senior Center ice cream social, complaint regarding demolition of a potentially historic building, a State proclamation for Farmers Market Week in August, Senior Center fall flu clinic sponsored by Walgreens and the Health Dept, changes to meeting dates in September, reiterating that requests for assistance from the Highway Dept must go through the Town Administrator’s office.

5. RESIGNATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

a. **Appointment – Interim Town Clerk – Lisa Johnson**

Motion 080122-5a: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Bujak to appoint Lisa Johnson to the position of Interim Town Clerk until the next Annual Town Election in 2023. Motion carries 5:0:0.

b. Appointments – Arts Council

Motion 080122-5b: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Bujak to appoint Arts Council members as follows:

- Christie Higginbottom to be Ex Officio, Term 2 ended 5/10/22
- Sharon Nist to be taken OFF Ex Officio 7/16/22 and vote as a member Term 1
- Dianne Lennerton, Term 1 ends 9/27/22 vote for Term 2
- Elizabeth Mac-Aurele Term 2 ends 10/5/22 vote for Ex Officio
- Chip Leis Term 1 ends 11/2/22 vote for Term 2

Motion carries 5:0:0

c. Appointments – Library Assistants and Senior Workers – Special Municipal Employees

Motion 080122-5c: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Bujak to appoint Library Assistants and Senior Workers and Special Municipal Employees. Motion carries 5:0:0.

d. Appointment - Part Time Non-Benefitted EMS Supervisor/Lieutenant – Jeremy Parkinson

e. Appointment - Part Time Non-Benefitted EMS Supervisor/Lieutenant – Rob Fitzgerald

Motion 080122-5d&e: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Bujak to appoint Jeremy Parkinson and Rob Fitzgerald to the position of part time non-benefitted EMS Supervisor/Lieutenant. Motion carries 5:0:0.

f. Appointment – Truck Driver/Laborer – Han Tu

Motion 080122-5f: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Bujak to appoint Han Tu to the position of Truck Driver/Laborer for the Leicester Highway Department. Motion carries 5:0:0.

g. Appointment – Truck Driver/Laborer – Keith John

Motion 080122-5g: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Bujak to appoint Keith John to the position of Truck Driver/Laborer for the Leicester Highway Department. Motion carries 5:0:0.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Set Date, Time, and Location for 2022 State Primary –September 6, 2022, 7am-8pm, Town Hall Gym

Motion 080122-6a: A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Ms. Provencher to set the date, time and location for the 2022 State Primary as September 6, 2022 from 7-8pm in the Town Hall Gym. Motion carries 5:0:0.

b. Use of Roads for 2022 Midstate Trail Race – October 8-9, 2022

Motion 080122-6b: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Bujak to approve the use of town roads for the 2022 Midstate Trail Race. Motion carries 5:0:0.

c. Leicester High School Campus Update – Authorization of renovations, purchases, and/or bids

Mr. Genereux discussed Becker progress updates including costs for required and recommended upgrades, estimated at just under \$1.93M. There are \$2,070,000 in project funds available for these improvements from the borrowing. The most critical improvements are those at the campus center for the high school move. The Board discussed the merits of the items on the list.

Motion 080122-6c: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Antanavica to authorize the Town Administrator to solicit bids for the future Leicester High School campus items as listed with the exception of the interactive touch panels, netting, and partitions (not including the permanent wall). Motion carries 5:0:0.

d. **Town/School Grant Writer Position**

This item was passed over pending a joint proposal with the schools.

e. **Police Officer and Supervisor Unions MOAs**

Mr. Genereux discussed the two MOAs for FY23 which include 2% cost of living increases and competitive educational incentives for the first-time, which will should help retain police officers.

Motion 080122-6e: A motion was made by Mr. Duggan and seconded by Mr. Bujak to approve the FY23 MOA's with the police officer and police supervisor unions. Motion carries 4:0:1 (Mr. Antanavica abstained).

f. **Designation of Police Chief to appoint officers at polling places during elections pursuant to MGL Chapter 54, Section 72.**

Town Clerk Debbie Davis discussed a change in Mass General Laws related to appointing officers at polling locations. Ms. Davis requested the Select Board delegate this responsibility to the police chief so it does not need to come before the Board.

Motion 080122-6f: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Bujak to designate the police chief to appoint officers at polling places during elections pursuant to MGL Chapter 54, Section 72. Motion carries 5:0:0.

g. **Consideration of forming Becker Property Advisory Workgroup or Committee**

Mr. Genereux noted that nothing is currently being done with the dormitories as they are being looked at by Planning Board for zoning bylaw changes, there is another interested party in the vet clinic, Swan Library is slated for school expansion should there be enough funding available for the required ADA improvements and Knight Hall is not being renovated at this time as it requires substantial work due to the size of the building including fire alarms, sprinklers, elevator, and interior work to create offices and classrooms. Mr. Genereux stated that as it sits now every building is moving in a direction. The Board discussed disbanding the working groups and creating one group called the Becker Advisory Group. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

7. MINUTES

a. **July 18, 2022**

Motion 080122-7a: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Bujak to approve the minutes of July 18, 2022. Motion carries 5:0:0.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION, MGL CHAPTER 30A, SECTION 21(a)(2) & (6)

a. **Exception 2 – Conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel (Interim EMS Director, Assistant Town Administrator, and Town Accountant positions)**

Motion 080122-8a: A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Mr. Bujak to enter into executive session at 8:58pm under MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2)&(6) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel (Interim EMS Director, Assistant Town Administrator and Town Accountant positions). The Chair declared that to discuss these matters in open session would compromise the position of the Town. Roll call: All Ayes

Motion 080122-9: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Bujak and seconded by Mr. Duggan at 10:06pm. Motion carries 5:0:0.