

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 20, 2023, AT 5:30 PM  
TOWN HALL, SELECT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM**

**CALL TO ORDER/OPENING  
VETERANS POEM**

Chair Allen Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:40PM. Chair Allen Phillips, Vice Chair Rick Antanavica, Second Vice Chair Dianna Provencher, Selectman Herb Duggan Jr, Town Administrator David Genereux, and Assistant Town Administrator Chris Vitale were in attendance.

**1. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion 032023-1.1:** A motion was made by Mr. Duggan to go into Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Provencher. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 5:42pm.**

- a. **Meeting in Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, § 21(a)(3) and Suffolk Construction v. DCAM, 449 Mass. 444 (2007) to Discuss Legal Advice from Town Counsel and Opioid Litigation Special Counsel re the Nationwide Opioid Multi-District Litigation, and pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(7) "[t]o comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements," specifically the Public Records Law, G.L. c. 4, s. 7(26) (discuss privileged email communications from Town Counsel and Opioid Litigation Special Counsel).**

*A motion was made in Executive Session at 5:47pm. The motion will be announced at a future Select Board meeting.*

- b. **To consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(6) – Disposition of Former College Victorian Properties**

**Motion 032023-1.3:** A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica to exit Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Provencher. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 5:59pm.**

*Mr. Phillips reconvened open session at 6:02pm.*

**2. RESIGNATIONS & APPOINTMENTS**

- a. **Resignation, Nicole Bourassa-Pratt – EMS**

**Motion 032023-2a:** A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica to accept the resignation, seconded by Ms. Provencher. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent)**

- b. **Appointment – Sandra Martin – Bark Park Committee (Continued from 03/13/2023)**

Ms. Martin introduced herself. Ms. Martin lives in Leicester and is a Girl Scout Troop Leader. She enjoys community service, likes dogs, and is hoping to get involved.

**Motion 032023-2b:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher to appoint, seconded by Mr. Duggan. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent).**

- c. **Appointment – Debra Friedman – Architectural Conservation District (Continued from 03/13/2023)**

Mr. Genereux stated Ms. Friedman was unable to attend on 03/13, but she is here now. Ms. Friedman stated she served 30 years on the Planning Board. She has a background in history. She believes it is important to address the historical significance of properties without being overly restrictive.

*No motion was made by the Select Board on this agenda item.*

d. **Appointment – Vanessa Lopez – Conservation Commission**

Mr. Genereux began the discussion by stating the town is still looking for volunteers and appreciates anyone that steps up and serves. Ms. Lopez stated she works for Groveland's Conservation Commission. Ms. Lopez stated she wants to get to know her town better.

**Motion 032023-2d:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher to appoint, seconded by Mr. Duggan. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 6:06pm.**

e. **Appointment – Robert Noone – Police Officer (Leicester Police Department)**

Mr. Antanavica began discussion by stating the Police Department went through a rigorous application process. The Town received 28 applicants, of which 18 passed academy. The Town interviews five candidates and are putting forward the top 3 finalist for appointment.

Officer Noone has 17 years of experience. Mr. Noone stated he was a Worcester resident up until a few years ago. He currently lives in Paxton. Mr. Noone stated public safety is his second career. He likes Leicester for the department size and the specialty options available are a good fit for him. Mr. Noone stated the recent hires make it better, and he is ready to take the next step in his career.

**Motion 032023-2e:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher to appoint, seconded by Mr. Duggan. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 6:09pm.**

f. **Appointment – Joshua Paradiso – Police Officer (Leicester Police Department)**

Mr. Antanavica stated Mr. Paradiso comes to Leicester with 6+ years of experience. Mr. Paradiso stated he graduated the academy in 2016. Mr. Paradiso previously worked for UMass and looking to get closer to home with this position. Mr. Phillips joked about no mustaches.

**Motion 032023-2f:** A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica to appoint, seconded by Ms. Provencher. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 6:10pm.**

g. **Appointment – Ryan Sweeney – Police Officer (Leicester Police Department)**

Mr. Antanavica stated Mr. Sweeney comes to Leicester with 5 years of full-time experience. Mr. Sweeney stated he is from Oxford and has been in law enforcement for 9 ½ years. Mr. Sweeney stated he sees Leicester as having a progressive, supportive police department and wants to continue his career in this community.

**Motion 032023-2g:** A motion was made by Mr. Duggan to appoint, seconded by Ms. Provencher. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 6:12pm.**

h. **Appointment – Megan Canavan – Inspector of Animals**

**Motion 032023-2h:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher to appoint, seconded by Mr. Duggan. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 6:13pm.**

### 3. REPORTS

#### a. Student Liaison Reports

Student Chloe Bouchard stated that Spring team sports started today. The middle school clothing drive is still going on. On Thursday, the elementary school will drop everything and read between 1:55pm and 2:15pm as part of national reading month.

#### b. Select Board Reports

Ms. Provencher stated it was good to see a lot of people stepping up and volunteering.

Mr. Duggan stated he is on cloud nine with the police recruitments, and believes the department is soaring in the right direction.

Mr. Antanavica is glad to see new faces at the police department. Mr. Antanavica encouraged benefits-eligible residents to take advantage of the National Grid Connect to Caring program. This program helps with electric bill management.

Mr. Phillips asked for an update on aggregate energy issues. Mr. Genereux stated the town is slowly but surely addressing issues. Mr. Phillips stated the town needs to monitor the parks more, and mentioned recent damage caused by snowboarding. Mr. Genereux stated the town's consultant is mapping out camera placements, and procurement will be coming up. Mr. Genereux stated the additional staff at the PD will allow the town to do more check-ups.

### 4. SCHEDULED ITEMS

#### a. 6:10PM – Request for an Alcohol One-Day Special Permit (Senior/Senior Prom)

Dr. Kustigian stated this is a senior program put on by senior students. Senior citizens would like to drink wine during the prom.

Mr. Genereux stated the event will need to be catered and insured to prevent overdrinking. The alcohol would not be sold.

Mr. Antanavica read the event announcement, and stated if the event organizers waived the \$10 fee for attendees, he would pick up the tab.

**Motion 032023-4a:** A motion was made by Mr. Duggan to approve the one-day permit with the stipulations discussed, seconded by Ms. Provencher. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 6:26pm.**

#### b. 6:20PM – General Entertainment License Renewal (The WorcShop)

Ms. Provencher stated the shop is phenomenal and asked for the owner to provide some more information about it. Owner Randall Gardner stated it's a membership-based maker space organization. They are working through the Planning Board on adding auto repair and working on concept-market business assistance.

Mr. Phillips encouraged Mr. Gardner to connect with the schools.

**Motion 032023-4b:** A motion was made by Mr. Duggan to approve the license renewal, seconded by Ms. Provencher. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 6:29pm.**

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

*Public comment was reopened at 7:45pm.*

Resident Bill Roberts stated he would like to see a meet and greet event on the Town Common with the town's Police Department. Mr. Roberts says the public doesn't know the new officers. Mr. Phillips asked if the town could plan a spring event and include Police, Fire, EMS, and Highway.

Mr. Antanavica stated the town has not received the hydrant agreements from two of the water authorities. Mr. Phillips asked Mr. Genereux to call them. Mr. Antanavica stated it is creating an issue for insurance. Select Board members asked if this could be on the next agenda.

## 6. CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Genereux stated Spring Town Meeting is May 2, 2023, at 7:00PM. Mr. Genereux stated the town will be discussing holding a public information session for the DHCD proposal.

## 7. OTHER BUSINESS

### a. Police K-9 Discussion

Chief introduced Sgt. Matthew Brady and K-9 Cooney. Chief Antanavica stated the town has tried to get a K-9 over the years, and now the town has an opportunity knocking at the door. Through grant funding and private donations, the Chief wants to bring a K-9 on board. The Chief would convert a cruiser to K-9 vehicle. Over the years, LPD has a lot of calls that requires a K-9. Officer Fenuccio has been a handler for 5 years in a smaller community. A K-9 program offers a great repayment for the department, including confidence building, community presence, and department positivity.

Cooney is a 5-year-old German Shepard. He is trained in apprehension. His number one priority is locating tool. He has had close to a dozen apprehensions with no biting. His presence stops disturbances very quickly and limits officer injuries.

Mr. Phillips asked what the total cost of the program would be.

Chief Antanavica stated the town would have to purchase the dog for \$1875. Equipment would be provided from the Stanton Foundation at no cost – no cost to it with agreement. The Grants Manager is looking at several opportunities to cover operational costs. As of now, the only financial costs would be in the event of an emergency callout for overtime.

Mr. Phillips asked if the town needs to purchase a vest for the dog. Officer Fenuccio stated he has a custom vest as of now. When it does need to be replaced, they will try to purchase with grant funding.

Mr. Phillips asked if the dog could be brought to community events. Officer Fenuccio stated yes assuming behaviors match up well.

Mr. Duggan knows the dog and spoke highly of his skills. Mr. Duggan stated if needed, the cost could tap into its HCA funding.

**Motion 032023-7a:** A motion was made by Mr. Duggan to approve, seconded by Mr. Antanavica. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 6:44pm**

**b. Request to Use Former Leicester Middle School – Leicester School Department**

Mr. Genereux provided an overview of the request in the packet. This request is tied in with the school's proposed Building and Maintenance Program. The program would utilize two classrooms in the back of the building and the garage area. The Superintendent wants permission to take it over. Dr. Kustigian stated this is the perfect place for the program. Dr. Kustigian stated the building needs a bit of work, but his goal for it would be mobile workshops.

Mr. Duggan stated they should have the Board of Health do an air quality test.

Dr. Kustigian stated he met with Mr. Genereux and the DPW Director and will follow the recommendations of the Board of Health and Mass Department of Health to make sure it is an acceptable space. He stated he wants the space to sparkle and include new equipment.

Mr. Phillips stated that the school should be aware of other groups utilizing the facility throughout the year, such as the police.

Mr. Duggan stated to be aware of potential flooding during heavy rain events.

**Motion 032023-7b:** A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica to approve, seconded by Mr. Duggan. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 6:49pm.**

**c. May House Proposal**

Mr. Genereux provided an overview of the request in the packet. Ms. McCance presented the proposal for May House Committee (MHC). This new committee's mission would be to restore and conserve the May House into an Educational and Community Center. The Select Board appointed committee would include 9 members. Ms. McCance stated the May family is in support of this initiative. The May House was recently acquired through the purchase of Becker and is a historical landmark. Ms. McCance stated she would like to incorporate Becker alumni involvement and has connected with the president of Becker's Alumni Association.

Ms. McCance would want the May House to operate similar to Swan Tavern. The town would be responsible for maintenance and upkeep, while the committee would be responsible for programs and improvements. Mr. Phillips stated individuals would need to come at a separate meeting to be appointed and submit volunteer forms.

**Motion 032023-7c:** A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica to create the May House Committee, with the stipulation that no town funds be used to renovate the building, seconded by Mr. Duggan. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:01pm.**

**d. FY24 Budget and Annual Town Meeting Warrant**

Mr. Genereux stated the town has released Version 3 of the FY24 budget. The main adjustment is the removal of three articles, which were incorporated into DPW budget. Mr. Genereux stated \$28K was restored to the Police overtime budget.

*No action was taken by the Select Board on this agenda item.*

e. **Recommendations for Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles**

Mr. Phillips stated this is the vote to support or not support articles. There is no public discussion on this agenda item. Mr. Phillips stated public discussion will take place on the Town Meeting floor. Mr. Genereux provided an overview of each article and voting rules.

ARTICLE 1 – PRIOR YEAR’S BILLS

**Motion 032023-7e.1:** A motion was made by Mr. Duggan to support Article 1, seconded by Ms. Provencher. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:06pm.**

ARTICLE 2 – DEPARTMENT AND/OR WARRANT ARTICLE TRANSFERS - FY2023

**Motion 032023-7e.2:** A motion was made by Mr. Duggan to support Article 2, seconded by Ms. Provencher. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:09pm.**

ARTICLE 3 – ELECTED OFFICIALS SALARIES

**Motion 032023-7e.3:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher to support Article 3, seconded by Mr. Duggan. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:10pm.**

ARTICLE 4 – FY 2024 OPERATING BUDGET

**Motion 032023-7e.4:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher to support Article 4, seconded by Mr. Duggan. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:11pm.**

ARTICLE 5 – CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION BASED ON PROPOSITION 2 ½ OVERRIDE VOTE

**Motion 032023-7e.5:** A motion was made by Mr. Duggan to support Article 5, seconded by Mr. Antanavica. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:12pm.**

ARTICLE 6 – VOCATIONAL TUITION

**Motion 032023-7e.6:** A motion was made by Mr. Duggan to support Article 6, seconded by Mr. Antanavica. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:12pm.**

ARTICLE 7 – CENTRAL MASS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

**Motion 032023-7e.7:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher to support Article 7, seconded by Mr. Duggan. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:13pm.**

ARTICLE 8 – FUNDING OPERATIONAL COSTS OF THE LEICESTER HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS AND ASSOCIATED PROPERTIES

**Motion 032023-7e.8:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher to support Article 8, seconded by Mr. Duggan. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:13pm.**

ARTICLE 9 – FY 2024 EMS (AMBULANCE) ENTERPRISE ACCOUNT APPROPRIATION

**Motion 032023-7e.9:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher to support Article 9, seconded by Mr. Duggan. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:14pm.**

ARTICLE 10 – FY 2024 CABLE PEG ACCESS ENTERPRISE ACCOUNT APPROPRIATION

**Motion 032023-7e.10:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher to support Article 10, seconded by Mr. Duggan. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:15pm.**

ARTICLE 11 – STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

*This article was passed over, as it is now in the general fund.*

ARTICLE 12 – GROUNDWATER STUDIES AT LANDFILL

*This article was passed over, as it is now in the general fund.*

ARTICLE 13 – TOWN-OWNED DAMS

*This article was passed over, as it is now in the general fund.*

ARTICLE 14 – FY 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Mr. Genereux requested this article be passed over for now. The CIPC plans to meet to make their recommendations. This will be on the next meeting agenda.

ARTICLE 15 – POLICE CRUISERS

**Motion 032023-7e.15:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher to support Article 15, seconded by Mr. Duggan. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:16pm.**

ARTICLE 16 – ESTABLISH REVOLVING FUND ANNUAL SPENDING LIMITS

Mr. Genereux stated the name has to be changed on the Becker Revolving Fund. Mr. Phillips asked what the technology fund was. Student Chloe Bouchard stated she believed that was for the 1-1 Chromebook, which was correct.

**Motion 032023-7e.16:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher to support Article 16, seconded by Mr. Duggan. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:17pm.**

#### ARTICLE 17 – AMEND THE REVOLVING FUND BYLAW

*This article was passed over, as it was approved at the 2023 Winter STM.*

#### ARTICLE 18 – AMEND THE REVOLVING FUND BYLAW

**Motion 032023-7e.18:** A motion was made by Ms. Duggan to support Article 18, seconded by Ms. Provencher. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:18pm.**

#### ARTICLE 19 – ADOPTION OF NEW BYLAW – BUSINESS REGISTRATION

Mr. Antanavica asked what the purpose of this article was. Mr. Genereux stated it came from the Fire Department to have landlords have their tenants register with the town. Currently, there is no requirement for all businesses to register with the town. This article would give the town a better handle on businesses coming in.

**Motion 032023-7e.19:** A motion was made by Ms. Duggan to support Article 19, seconded by Ms. Provencher. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:20pm.**

#### ARTICLE 20 – AMEND THE PERSONNEL BYLAW IN RELATION TO THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD AND THE USE OF LEAVE

**Motion 032023-7e.20:** A motion was made by Mr. Duggan to support Article 20, seconded by Mr. Antanavica. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:21pm.**

#### ARTICLE 21 – AMEND THE ADVISORY AND BYLAW COMMITTEES' BYLAW IN RELATION TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Motion 032023-7e.21:** A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica to not support Article 21, seconded by Mr. Duggan. **Motion carries 3-1-1 (Ms. Provencher Opposed, Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:23pm.**

#### ARTICLE 22 – BYLAW FOR THE RECALL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

**Motion 032023-7e.22:** A motion was made by Mr. Duggan to not support Article 22, seconded by Ms. Provencher. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:24pm.**

#### ARTICLE 23 – ADOPTION OF A NEW BYLAW - ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher to support Article 23, seconded by Mr. Duggan. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:25pm.**

#### ARTICLE 24 – AMEMENDMENT OF BYLAW GOVERNING ILLICIT DISCHARGES TO THE MUNICIPAL STORM DRAIN SYSTEM

Ms. Provencher asked what MS4 is. Mr. Genereux stated it is the State's stormwater regulations for properties.



A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica to support Article 24, seconded by Mr. Duggan. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:28pm.**

#### ARTICLE 25 – AMEMENDMENT OF STORMWATER BYLAW

A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica to support Article 25, seconded by Ms. Provencher. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:29pm.**

#### **f. Disposition of town-owned Victorian properties**

Mr. Genereux began the discussion by stating FBAC met last Thursday to establish limitations on the terms of sale and deed of the property. Mr. Genereux stated FBAC discussed requiring bidders to show their financial capability to fix properties at the time of purchase, requiring non-profits to commit to a PILOT program to match property tax rate, and the use restrictions that the Select Board vote on at their 04/11/2022 meeting. Mr. Antanavica stated he would like to ease the previously voted on restrictions with the exception of marijuana-related businesses or treatment activities. Mr. Joe Lennerton, Chair of the Historical Commission also provided deed restriction language with regards to the historic properties. Mr. Lennerton stated there is zoning related language. Mr. Lennerton stated he recommends removing the color and materials restriction language. Mr. Antanavica asked how the properties can be on the National Register and be allowed to have certain materials used. Mr. Lennerton stated the reality is the materials now are a better quality and you can't tell if something is vinyl anymore. Mr. Lennerton stated they didn't want to be overly restrictive.

**Motion 032023-7f:** A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica to move forward with the disposition of the town-owned Victorians with the three pages of conditions set forth by FBAC and amendments discussed, seconded by Ms. Provencher. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:42pm.**

#### **8. MINUTES**

- a. March 6, 2023 (Joint Meeting)
- b. March 13, 2023

**Motion 032023-8a:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher to approve the 3/6/23 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Duggan. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:43pm.**

**Motion 032023-8b:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher to approve the 3/13/23 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Duggan. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:43pm.**

**Motion 032023-9:** A motion was made by Ms. Provencher to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Antanavica. **Motion carries 4-0-1 (Mr. Bujak Absent) at 7:48pm.**

**ADJOURN**