

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 18, 2023 AT 6:00PM
LEICESTER TOWN HALL, LEICESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01524**

Chair Rick Antanavica, Dianna Provencher, Selectman Kevin Menard, Town Administrator David Genereux and Grants Manager, Samantha Chatterton.

ATTENDANCE:

Chairman Rick Antanavica	Present
Vice Chair Dianna Provencher	Present
Selectman Kevin Menard	Present
Selectman John Bujak	Not Present

1. SCHEDULED ITEMS

6:00 PM Resignations and Appointments

Mr. Antanavica opened the meeting at 6:07 PM. He read the veterans poem and expressed grievances for a former Select board member who recently passed away.

a. Connor Lavin (Fire/EMS)

Deputy Chief Tebo announced 6 appointments that will occur over the current and future meetings. Mr. Lavin stated he lives in Leicester and discussed his education and sports he played in town. He stated he is a criminal justice major at Anna Maria college. He said he puts his best foot forward to meet and maintain goals for his colleagues and himself.

Ms. Provencher asked why he wanted to work in Leicester.

Mr. Lavin stated he wanted to work in Leicester because his family lives in Leicester and his historic ties to the community.

Ms. Provencher made the motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Menard. Motion passes 3-0-0.

Jeff Natale

Mr. Genereux said although Mr. Natale was not on the agenda, the board could allow him to speak and administratively appoint at the next meeting. Mr. Natale spoke about the positive things he had heard about the town and said he own a business which left him time to dedicate to the fire/EMS department.

Mr. Menard asked if his business would interfere with his duties on the fire department.

Mr. Natale said he did not see any conflicts.

The board agreed they will officially appoint at the next meeting.

b. Thara Abdallah (Fire/EMS)

Ms. Abdallah said she is a student OF Worcester State and is majoring in education and that her schooling and work on the Fire/EMS department would not conflict with her schooling. She stated she is very interested in the position to help the community and she sees this as a way to dip her toes in the fire department to determine if she would like to pursue it as a career.

Mr. Antanavica asked if she was pursuing a firefighter, EMT or both.

Ms. Abdallah said she is looking to pursue firefighting first.

Ms. Provencher made a motion to approve. Mr. Menard seconded. Motion passes 3-0-0.

c. Marcos Alfonso (Fire/EMS)

Mr. Alfonso stated he is 18 years old and has lived in Leicester his entire life and he is attending school as machinist. He stated he wants to join the fire department to help the community as he loves the town and his goal in the future is to become an army medic and this experience would greatly assist with that.

Ms. Provencher asked why he wanted to work in Leicester.

Mr. Alfonso said because he is dedicated the community.

Ms. Provencher made the motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Menard. Motion passes 3-0-0

d. Jason Morton (Fire/EMS)

Mr. Morton stated he has lived in Leicester for three years and his wife was born and raised here. He said his brother-in-law was on the fire department and Ryan Plante convinced him to become a bigger part of the community. He stated his father worked for the Framingham Fire Department.

Ms. Provencher made the motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Menard. Motion passes 3-0-0

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Antanavica asked for public comment to no response.

3. CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Genereux and Mr. Antanavica wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

a. MSBA Announcement

Mr. Genereux announced the school is under preliminary review for MSBA approval. He stated if they move on in the process a special town meeting will be required to establish money for a feasibility study. He stated plans will have to be delivered to MSBA from the superintendent. He said he intends to put forward the entire second floor, roof, HVAC and an all-encompassing remodel of Borger. He said the project also covered the vet clinic and Swan Library for school uses. Mr. Genereux stated the process does take longer under MSBA funding and the focal point will be the repairs and modernization of systems. He stated the key is finding the right people to manage the project and the right engineers to correlate that the desire is to modify the current buildings to just be functional.

Mr. Menard asked how the town got to this point and the process of MSBA approval.

Mr. Genereux stated the town wanted the kids on the same campus and the town had previously put in for an MSBA project and town officials toured MSBA officials around the campus to show them the work that has gone in thus far and the work that still needed to be done. He clarified state reps had written letters of support for the project. Mr. Genereux said Leicester is one of 19 towns considered for this.

Mr. Menard asked if Tufts would be interested in the vet clinic after the MSBA project was complete and the building was updated.

Mr. Genereux stated Tufts previously liked the building, but they had some concerns regarding the current state of the buildings because of the new codes. Once the building is complete, the town would attract organizations looking to implement an animal sciences program.

Mr. Antanavica thanked Mr. Genereux for the commentary provided to the school building authority. He also thanked Senator Anne Gobi and representative David LeBeouf and the other state representatives who had expressed interest in the project.

b. Hazard Mitigation Plan Schedule of Tasks

Mr. Genereux stated the managers of the project were about 25 percent done and they would attend the meeting at a future date to discuss further details.

Mr. Antanavica read the plan provided by the Emergency Management Director and the Advisory Board Chair.

c. Vote and sign new HCA agreement – Cultivate Cultivation

Mr. Genereux stated there were two agreements in the packet and they were both re-written under the new owners. He stated the marijuana types are under a reimbursement basis under the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) for HCA agreements. The CCC ruled they could charge up to 3

percent of expenses incurred related to the facility. Mr. Genereux stated even though the monetary amount is much lower than in prior years, the updated type of agreement is what the CCC was hoping to implement.

d. Vote and sign new HCA agreement – Cultivate Leicester

Ms. Provencher made a motion to allow the Town Administrator to sign both agreements. Seconded by Mr. Menard. Motion passes 3-0-0

e. Set Special Town Meeting date (Feb 6, 2024)

Passed over.

f. Vote Inclusion of warrant articles

Passed over.

g. Close the Special Town Meeting warrant

Passed over.

h. Donation Acceptance – Police Department

Mr. Genereux discussed the donation for \$1000 dollars from Hot Dog Annie's.

Mr. Provencher made the motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Menard. Motion passes 3-0-0.

i. Declaration of Surplus Property:

- Dorm Refrigerators
- 2005 Chevrolet Ambulance
- 2014 Ford Explorer (Fire Department)
- Contents of South Main Street garage building

Items to be listed via Auctions International

Mr. Genereux stated there was a meeting with Auctions International and would like the board to consider including the listed items. He stated an extra vehicle might be donated to the school for the vocational program as opposed to selling it as auction.

Ms. Provencher made the motion to approve the declaration of surplus properties. Seconded by Mr. Menard. Motion passes 3-0-0.

j. License Renewals
Auto Body

Ms. Provencher made the motion to approve the renewals. Seconded by Mr. Menard. Motion passes 3-0-0.

Motor Vehicle Repair

Ms. Provencher made the motion to approve the renewals. Seconded by Mr. Menard. Motion passes 3-0-0.

Class II

Ms. Provencher made the motion to approve the renewals. Seconded by Mr. Menard. Motion passes 3-0-0.

Liquor

Ms. Provencher made the motion to approve the renewals. Seconded by Mr. Menard. Motion passes 3-0-0.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(6) if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body – 963 Main Street

The Board will NOT reconvene in open session after the executive session.

Mr. Antanavica stated they would not have executive sessions. Mr. Genereux stated there are no updates.

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Provencher at 6:48. Seconded by Mr. Menard.

ADJOURN