

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 8, 2021 AT 6:00PM
VIRTUAL MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Chairwoman Provencher called the meeting to order at 6:31pm. Chair Dianna Provencher, Vice-Chair Harry Brooks, Second Vice-Chair John Shocik, Selectman Rick Antanavica, Selectman Herb Duggan, Jr., Town Administrator David Genereux, Assistant Town Administrator Kristen Forsberg, and Assistant to the Town Administrator Bryan Milward were in attendance.

1. SCHEDULED ITEMS

a. 6:30pm – Special Municipal Employee Designation

- Treasurer of the Oxford Rochdale Sewer District
- Treasurer of the Hillcrest Sewer District
- Treasurer of the Hillcrest Water District
- Commissioner of the Leicester Water Supply District
- Commissioner of the Oxford Rochdale Sewer District

Thomas Mullen, attorney for Christopher Montiverdi and Jim Lampke, attorney for Bob and Debra Wilson, explained their clients request for the listed positions to be designated special municipal employees. A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Mr. Shocik to deny the requests to designate the positions as special municipal employees. Under discussion, Select Board members discussed the precedent of designating non-Town positions as Special Municipal employees, the relationship between the Town and the Districts, and alternatives to the Special Municipal Employee designations such as Intermunicipal Agreements. Mr. Shocik rescinded his second on the initial motion. A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Mr. Duggan to designate the following positions as Special Municipal Employee positions under the G.L c. 268A, section 1 of the Conflict of Interest Law: Treasurer of the Oxford-Rochdale Sewer District, Treasurer of the Hillcrest Sewer District, Treasurer of the Hillcrest Water District, and Commissioner of the Leicester Water Supply District, all until June 30th, 2022. Roll Call: 4:1:0 (Shocik opposed)

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No members of the public provided comment

3. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Health Agent COVID-19 Update

Health Agent Francis Dagle summarized recent COVID-19 developments including the Town's progress on setting up a vaccination clinic for senior housing and homebound residents. Town Administrator David Genereux and Select Board Chair Dianna Provencher thanked Francis Dagle for his assistance in helping residents find vaccine appointments.

b. Student Liaison Reports

Student Liaison Erin Arsenaault provided an update on school activities including sports, progress reports, and her recent completion of the Girl Scout Gold Award.

c. Town Administrator Report

Town Administrator David Genereux read highlights from his report including recent public records requests, the response to the news of Becker College's financial difficulties, and the progress on the Water/Sewer District study.

d. Select Board Reports

Select Board members discussed the recent news with Becker College, the progress on COVID-19 vaccinations, and the upcoming local elections.

Mr. Brooks left the meeting at 7:45pm.

4. RESIGNATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

a. Appointment – Paul Bennett – Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate

A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Mr. Duggan to appoint Paul Bennett as an alternate member for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Roll Call: 4:0:0

b. Appointment – Vaughn Hathaway – Open Space and Recreation Committee Alternate

A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Mr. Shocik to appoint Vaughn Hathaway as an alternate to the Open Space and Recreation Committee. Roll Call: 4:0:0

5. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Vote on Police, Fire and Highway Union Contracts

A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Mr. Duggan to approve the Police Union contract. Roll Call: 3:0:1 (Antanavica abstained)

A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Mr. Shocik to approve the Highway Union contract. Roll Call: 4:0:0

A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Mr. Shocik to approve the Firefighter Union contract. Roll Call: 4:0:0

b. Vote on FY21 2% COLA for Nonunion Employees

A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Mr. Antanavica to approve the 2% COLA for nonunion employees. Roll Call: 4:0:0

c. Vote on Town Administrator Contract Extension

A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Mr. Duggan to approve the Town Administrator's three-year contract extension. Roll Call: 4:0:0

d. FY 2022 Town Budget

Town Administrator David Genereux noted there is one proposed change to the FY2022 budget. This change would provide funding for full-time staffing of the police station lobby so it can be open to the public 24/7. Police Chief Ken Antanavica explained the personnel changes required to enact this policy and gave examples from recent incidents where residents could have benefitted from being able to enter and access the police station. Select Board members expressed their support for the proposal and the benefits it could provide to the public.

6. MINUTES

a. February 22, 2021

A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Mr. Shocik to approve the February 22, 2021 Select Board meeting minutes as written. Roll Call: 4:0:0

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Mr. Shocik at 8:20pm. Roll Call: 4:0:0