

**TOWN OF WINCHESTER  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
Monday, March 22, 2021  
Record**

**OPENING**

Chair Michael Bettencourt called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM via Zoom remote participation due to the State of Emergency COVID-19. Present were Select Board members Vice Chair Susan Verdicchio, Jacqueline A. Welch, Amy Shapiro, and Mariano Goluboff. Also present was Town Manager Lisa Wong. (Note - due to the remote participation all Select Board votes are roll call votes.)

\*Motion: That the Select Board adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters related to Eversource 345-kV/115kV; MGL Ch. 30 §21(a) 3 - To discuss strategy with respect to litigation; MGL Ch. 30 §21(a) 6 - To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the governmental body; MGL Chapter 30 §21(a) 2 - Negotiation strategy non-union personnel and collective bargaining strategy; MGL Ch. 30 §21(a) 7 - To comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements; Asa Fletcher Fund - MGL Ch. 30A §21(a) 1 - To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health rather than the professional competence of an individual.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED

\*Motion: That the Select Board adjourn from Executive Session to Public Session, to return to Executive Session at the end of the Public Session.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED

**NOTIFICATION OF MEETINGS AND HEARINGS**

1. Monday, April 5, 2021 - Regular Session
2. Monday, April 12, 2021 - Regular Session

**COMMENTS**

Select Board member Ms. Welch was recognized by Chair Bettencourt, the entire Select Board and Town Manager Wong for her many years of service and commitment to the Town of Winchester. Ms. Welch decided not to run for another term and tonight was her last meeting. She served on the Planning Board before being elected in 2018 to the Select Board.

**ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS**

\*Motion That the Select Board accept, with gratitude, in kind donation from the Palladino Family to the Recreation Department of 45 cubic feet of soil

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to be used to create a teachable garden for the new planting and horticulture program.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

- \*Motion That the Select Board accept, with gratitude, in kind donation from Winchester Together to the Recreation Department of eight \$25 gift cards to local businesses to be used as prizes in the Recreation ESports gaming program.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

- \*Motion That the Select Board accept, with gratitude, donation of \$3,000 from Jay Crawford to purchase a memorial bench and tree to be placed at Wildwood Cemetery.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

- \*Motion That the Select Board accept, with gratitude, a Cultural District Initiative Grant of \$7,500 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to the Town of Winchester for the Winchester Cultural District.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

## **TOWN MANAGER REPORT AND COMMENTS**

1. Town Manager's Updates: Ms. Wong reminded everyone that there will be a COVID testing clinic for Winchester residents and employees this Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:30 pm in the Town Hall.

## **MATTERS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

### **COMPTROLLER'S REPORT**

The Select Board acknowledged the receipt of the Comptroller's FY21 Financial Report as of January 31, 2021.

### **LICENSES**

### **HEARINGS**

### **BUSINESS**

1. **Comptroller's Contract Update** - Stacie Ward, Town Comptroller, informed the Board that her original 2013 contract has had many amendments over the years. She submitted a performance update and a new contract for the Select Board to authorize.

- \*Motion That the Select Board reappoint Stacie Ward as Comptroller according to the contract as presented and go ahead and authorize that contract.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

2. **MBTA Deadline Extension** - Angel Donahue-Rodriguez, MBTA Deputy Chief of Staff, updated the Board about the demolition work at the Winchester Center Train Station. They have completed Phase 1 - Mobilization (bringing equipment on site, installing temporary fencing etc.)

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and Phase 2 - Abatement. Due to unanticipated delay in the mobilization completion, Mr. Donahue-Rodriguez is officially requesting an extension to complete the project to May 31, 2021

\*Motion That the Select Board approve an extension to the license for demolishing the Town Center Train Station to May 31, 2021.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

**3. Swim Winchester** - Amanda Lewis, Swim Winchester, presented to the Board that Swim Winchester has completed an analysis of design and programming for the community aquatic center. Plus, they have been meeting with focus groups to talk about the project concept, design elements and to hear what residents need for programming.

**4. Transfer Station Update** - Lee Koska from Weston & Sampson reviewed the changes to the current facility layout. They will go to Spring Town Meeting for the 3.5 million dollars in design & engineering costs. Due to the present demand and cost increases for construction supplies they are waiting till Fall Town Meeting to request construction costs.

\*Motion That the Select Board authorize Mark Twogood, Assistant Town Manager, to work with Bond Counsel to draft a motion for Town Meeting seeking authorization for the design and engineering costs for the Transfer Station Project.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

**5. Water & Sewer Update** - Matt Abrahams from The Abrahams Group, gave a review of their analysis of the recommend rates for the next five fiscal years for Winchester's Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund. He submitted three rate options for the Board to choose and they chose Option 3; a 3% rate increase in FY22 & 23, then a 5% rate increase in FY24, 25 & 26.

\*Motion That the Select Board approve Option 3 on the Water & Sewer rate increase as presented.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

**6. Finance Council OPEB Presentation** - Enzo Rascionato, Finance Committee, reviewed with the Board the Town's OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) and the Contributory Retirement funds and how these will impact the Town in the future. This will be an ongoing discussion between the Select Board and Finance Committee.

**7. WinCam Live Streaming Resolution** -David Gauthier, WinCam Executive Director, submitted a letter requesting the Select Board support legislation, "An Act Relative to A Streaming Entertainment Operator's Use of Public Rights of Way (HD 1440, SD 834)".

\*Motion That the Select Board vote this resolution in support of legislation for an assessment for live streaming services.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

**8. Appointment of Town Counsel** - Ms. Wong informed the Board tonight's reappointment of Anderson & Kreiger as Town Counsel is a yearly formality.

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\*Motion That the Select Board appoint Mina Makarious and Arthur Kreiger of Anderson & Kreiger Town Counsel for the period starting April 1<sup>st</sup> through the end of June 30, 2021.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

- 9. Outdoor Dining Applications** - Ms. Wong reviewed the applications and suggested that the curbside takeout spots be moved at least a block away to free up the parking spaces downtown. She will work with Town staff to choose the spots, which will be clearly marked as 15-minute parking spots.

\*Motion That the Select Board approve the outdoor dining applications for A Travola, Black Horse Tavern, China Sky, First House Pub, Lucia's Ristorante, Swanton Street Diner and The Spot as presented.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

\*Motion That the Select Board authorize the Town Manager to walk with Town staff to adjust curbside takeout, Town Hall lot and Mystic Valley Parkway spaces to increase consumer parking for the downtown.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

- 10. Town Day & WHS Promenade** - Town Day is scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of June 6<sup>th</sup>. The Winchester High School graduation, to be held at Manchester Field with the graduates processing from the High School to the field, is scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup> with the rain date June 5<sup>th</sup>. Staff worked together and believe that both events can happen on the same day if necessary. Ms. Wong informed the Board that they need to approve the street closures for the High School

\*Motion That the Select Board allow the closure of the streets outlined in the memo presented including Shore Road, Main Street and Mystic Valley Parkway for the purposes of the Winchester High School promenade and commencement for June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

- 11. Warrant Articles** - Chair Bettencourt did a brief review of the articles and there were no questions.

## **EQUITY AND ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE**

- 1. Select Board response to Anti-Asian American Violence** - The Select Board members addressed the continued violence and attack on Asian Americans especially what happened the week before in Atlanta, Georgia. There will be a vigil held tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. behind the library. Vice Chair Verdicchio then read the following resolution statement:

The Town of Winchester stands in solidarity with its Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in response to the recent attacks in Atlanta.

We want to raise awareness of the dangerous historic increase in incidents and assaults directed against AAPI communities since the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic, and to acknowledge the pain and fear that is so palpable right now.



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\*Motion            That the Select Board adjourn from Public Session, to return to Executive Session.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

\*Motion            That the Select Board adjourn from Executive Session, to return to Public Session.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

**ADJOURNMENT : 10:15 PM**

\*Motion:            That the Select Board adjourn for the evening.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wong, Town Manager