

Select Board Minutes

Monday, March 28, 2022 -6:30 PM

Meeting to be held as hybrid with both an in-person and with a remote participation option in accordance with Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022.

Present: Tristan J. Laliberte, Scott C. Wrenn, Lionel R. Berthiaume, Sara K. Rufli
Absent: Daniel S. Carpenter
Also Present: Town Manager Julie A. Jacobson, CFO/Asst. Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz

Chair Tristan Laliberte called the meeting to order at 6:34 P.M.

He announced that the meeting was being recorded and asked if anyone else was recording the meeting. No one so indicated.

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Laliberte announced that this Open Meeting of the Town of Auburn Select Board was being operated as a hybrid model under Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022. For the public to join the meeting remotely by telephone, 1-408-650-3123 and Access Code 235-235-861. Or, the public can join via computer at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/235-235-861>.

As a preliminary matter, Select Board Chair Tristan Laliberte announced that all members were present at the meeting.

He noted that the meeting was being recorded by Auburn Cable Television and that each vote taken in the meeting would be conducted by roll call vote.

Public Comments

There was no one wishing to speak under public comments.

The Board voted to move forward agenda item 6e) Vote to apply for and accept State grant funds for Fire S.A.F. E. in the amount of \$8,230.00 (Motion made by Mr. Wrenn; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Deputy Fire Chief Glenn Johnson was present regarding the item. He described the grant application and award of \$8,230.00 for public fire and life safety education initiatives in the Town of Auburn. Deputy Chief Johnson also informed the Board that there was no match for the grant award.

The Select Board voted to authorize and accept the State grant funds for Fire S.A.F.E. in the amount of \$8,230.00 (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Public Hearings/PresentationsPublic Hearing on Motor Vehicle Class II License and Auto Repair License-Classic Partners LLC, d/b/a High Octane Classics at 141-143 Washington Street, Auburn, MA. -6:30 PM

No one was participating at this point for the license hearing.

The Board voted to move forward agenda item 5a) Outdoor Entertainment License and Open Air License – Faith Baptist Church’s Easter Egg Hunt on April 9, 2022 (Motion made by Mr. Wrenn; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

A representative on behalf of the applicant was participating remotely and explained the application for the annual Easter Egg Hunt event to be held at Lemansky Field on Saturday April 9, 2022, with a rain date of Saturday April 16, 2022.

The Board reviewed comments from the Development Coordinating Group (DCG) on the application:

- The applicant shall obtain all necessary permits and inspections from Town Departments, Boards, or Commissions;
- The applicant shall work with the Building Department to obtain any permits needed for the proposed bounce houses and any other temporary structures;
- The applicant shall work with the Parks Department to identify locations where stakes can be used on the field. This will ensure that the irrigation system is not disrupted;
- The applicant shall ensure that there are adequate restroom facilities available on the day of the event and appropriate permits are obtained;
- The applicant shall work with the Police Department to ensure that there are police details on the day of the event to help direct traffic and for crowd control;
- The applicant shall obtain temporary signage from the Board of Health regarding allergies prior to the event. This signage shall be displayed on the day of the event;
- The applicant shall ensure that both trash and recycling receptacles are available for the event.

There were no questions from Board members or the abutters.

The Select Board voted to approve the Outdoor Entertainment License and Open Air License for Faith Baptist Church’s Easter Egg Hunt on April 9, 2022, provided that all applicable requirements of the state and town and any of its departments, boards and commissions have been fulfilled. Said license is subject to all the conditions stated upon it. Failure to comply with any and all the conditions shall invalidate the license and render it null and void, and with the conditions of the DCG to be placed on the license (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Mr. Wrenn) roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

The Board voted to waive the fee for the Open Air License as requested by the applicant (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Chair Laliberte then asked if anyone was participating remotely or in person on behalf of the Motor Vehicle Class II License and Auto Repair License-Classic Partners LLC, d/b/a High Octane Classics at 141-143 Washington Street, Auburn, MA. No one so indicated.

The Select Board voted to move forward agenda item 5b) May 3, 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant -Vote on Recommendations for Warrant Articles (Motion made by Mr. Wrenn; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

The Chair asked if there were any Board questions on the warrant articles.

The Town Manager advised the Board that one article had been omitted in error, and that was current Article 32 to see if the Town Meeting will vote to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a utility supply contract for a term of up to five years if market prices are favorable for a term that exceeds three years.

CFO Ed Kazanovicz discussed Articles 13, 14, 15 and 30 on the annual town meeting warrant and he said that the appropriations for those articles were unknown at this time. He said that Article 30, for the replacement of the DPW Highway roof, may be removed.

The Select Board voted to recommend approval of the all the articles as presented (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Chair Laliberte then asked if anyone was participating remotely or in person on behalf of the Motor Vehicle Class II License and Auto Repair License-Classic Partners LLC, d/b/a High Octane Classics at 141-143 Washington Street, Auburn, MA. No one so indicated.

Continued Public Hearing on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds to Solicit Input from Residents and Businesses on the Use of the Town’s ARPA Allocation

Town Manager Julie Jacobson presented additional information on ARPA funds under the final rule. She explained the potential to classify the entire Town of Auburn allocation as “Revenue Loss”. She said that the administration would still have to come back to the Board with recommendations.

The Select Board voted to classify all ARPA funds as “Revenue Loss” (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

The Board voted to close the hearing on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds to Solicit Input from Residents and Businesses on the Use of the Town’s ARPA Allocation (Motion made by Mr. Wrenn; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Communications

There were no items.

Select Board General Items

Discussion and Vote to Establish the Process for the Town of Auburn Flag Committee to follow to choose a New Flag Design and the process for committee appointments
and

Discussion on the process to establish a committee to recognize individuals who have contributed to the Town of Auburn

The Select Board voted to take agenda items 5c) and 5d) together and to establish the process for the Town of Auburn Flag Committee to follow to choose a new flag design and the process for committee appointments, with one Select Board member, one Historical Society member, one town resident member with a background in graphic arts, and two at-large residents of Auburn and also to establish a committee to recognize individuals who have contributed to the Town of Auburn, with one member designated by the Library Board of Trustees, one member designated by the Select Board and one at-large resident of Auburn selected by the Select Board (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Mr. Wrenn) roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Town Manager Items

Report on Wage Theft and Tax Fraud Ordinances/Bylaws and Options

The Select Board voted to table this item until the next meeting (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

“Auburn Night at the WooSox” Wednesday June 15th. Game starts at 6:45 P.M.

The Town Manager described the event at Polar Park.

Vote to accept a \$2,500.00 grant from Bank Hometown to fund the Independence Day Event concert

The Select Board voted to approve a gift acceptance to the Town with gratitude and a letter of thanks signed by the Chair from Bank Hometown in the amount of \$2,500.00 for the Independence Day concert (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Tabled Items

There were no items.

Select Board Member Items

There were no items.

Chair Tristan Laliberte asked if there were any questions or comments on the minutes of January 10, 2022. There being none, the Chair accepted the minutes of January 10, 2022.

The Chair asked again if anyone was participating either remotely or in person on behalf of the Motor Vehicle Class II License and Auto Repair License-Classic Partners LLC, d/b/a High Octane Classics at 141-143 Washington Street, Auburn, MA. No one so indicated.

At 7:25 P.M. the Board voted to adjourn the meeting (Motion made by Mr. Wrenn; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Submitted: Sharon A. Kwiatkowski
Adm. Assistant to Town Manager

The following documents were part of the Select Board’s Meeting of March 28, 2022 and are retained in the Executive Office of the Town Manager:

- March 28, 2022 Agenda
- Application Documents - Motor Vehicle Class II License and Auto Repair License-Classic Partners LLC, d/b/a High Octane Classics at 141-143 Washington Street, Auburn, MA.; Recommendations from Development Coordinating Group (DCG) dated March 10, 2022
- Application Documents - Outdoor Entertainment License and Open Air License Faith Baptist Church’s Easter Egg Hunt on April 9, 2022; Recommendations from Development Coordinating Group dated March 9, 2022
- May 3, 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant
- Process for the Town of Auburn Flag Committee to follow to choose a New Flag Design and the Process for Committee Appointments
- Process to Establish a Committee to Recognize Individuals who have Contributed to the Town of Auburn
- Information on “Auburn Night at the WooSox” Wednesday June 15th
- Gift Acceptance – Bank Hometown to the Town \$2,500.00 to Fund the Independence Day Concert
- Letter from Auburn Fire/Rescue Department – S.A.F.E. (Student Awareness of Fire Education) Grant Award