

Select Board Minutes  
Monday, May 9, 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, Daniel S. Carpenter, Sara K. Ruffi  
Also Present: Town Manager Julie A. Jacobson, CFO/Asst. Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz

Chair Tristan Laliberte called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

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 with in-person and remote participation options. 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>.

All supporting materials that have been provided to members of this body are available on the Town's website. The public is encouraged to follow along using the posted agenda.

Chair Tristan Laliberte confirmed that all members that were present were in-person at the meeting.

The Chair noted that the meeting was being recorded by Auburn Cable Television.

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Public Comments

Mr. Norman LaFlash announced that the National Letter Carriers Food Drive Day in Auburn would be on Saturday May 14, 2022 for the first time in three years due to the pandemic.

#### Public Hearings/Presentations

There were no public hearings or presentations

#### Communications

There were no items.

#### Select Board General Items

##### Discussion and Vote to Transmit Draft Wage Theft Bylaw to Town Administration for Review

The Select Board voted to transmit the draft Wage Theft Bylaw to Town Administration for review (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Wrenn) voted in favor 5 to 0.

Vote to Commit to Placing a Ballot Question to Repeal the Recreational Marijuana Ban voted in May 2017

The Select Board voted to commit to placing a ballot question to repeal the Recreational Marijuana Ban voted in May 2017 (Motion made by Mr. Wrenn; motion seconded by Ms. Ruffli) voted in favor 4 to 1. Mr. Berthiaume opposed.

Thank Lionel Berthiaume for Six Years of Service on the Board of Selectmen -

Board members and members of the Town Administration offered their comments recognizing and thanking Mr. Berthiaume for his 6 years of service to the Town of Auburn and its residents. Doreen Goodrich, former Chair of the Board, also congratulated and thanked Mr. Berthiaume for his contributions to the town as a member of the Select Board.

Mr. Berthiaume thanked all who spoke for their kind comments and expressions of appreciation.

Gift Acceptances in Accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 53A

The Select Board voted to approve with gratitude a gift to the Fire/Rescue Department from the Firefighters Association in the amount of \$20.00 for the Fire Department Gift Account (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 5 to 0.

Proclamations and Recognitions

There were no items.

Town Manager Items

Grant - Vote to authorize, accept and expend Stanton Foundation Grant Funds up to \$32,000.00 for a Police K9 Program.

The Select Board voted to authorize, accept and expend Stanton Foundation Grant Funds up to \$32,000.00 for a Police K9 Program (Motion made by Mr. Wrenn; motion seconded by Mr. Carpenter) voted in favor 5 to 0.

Request the Board to Vote to Approve the Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) with Auburn, Charlton, Oxford and Southbridge for the South Central Massachusetts Veterans Services District

Town Manager Jacobson discussed the intermunicipal agreement for the South Central Massachusetts Veterans Services District.

The Select Board voted to approve the Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) with Auburn, Charlton, Oxford and Southbridge for the South Central Massachusetts Veterans Services District (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 5 to 0.

Vote to Accept and Expend Winter Recovery Assistance Program (WRAP) Funding from MassDOT in the amount of \$323,649.73.

The Select Board voted to accept and expend Winter Recovery Assistance Program (WRAP) Funding from MassDOT in the amount of \$323,649.73 (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Mr. Carpenter) voted in favor 5 to 0.

Request Approval of \$81,065.00 in ARPA Funds for Biohazardous Waste Sterilization System

Deputy Fire Chief Glenn Johnson explained the request.

The Select Board voted to approve \$81,065.00 in ARPA Funds for the Biohazardous Waste Sterilization System (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Ms. Ruffli) voted in favor 5 to 0.

Tabled Items

There were no items.

Select Board Member Items

Discussion and Potential Vote to Appoint a New Town Manager Effective upon the Retirement of the Current Town Manager in early 2023. (Lionel Berthiaume)

Mr. Berthiaume opened the discussion and read a statement in support of appointing the Chief Financial Officer (CFO)/Assistant Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz to the position of Town Manager upon Ms. Jacobson's retirement. He spoke of his confidence in Mr. Kazanovicz to continue the excellent work of the current administration.

Mr. Berthiaume made a motion to appoint Ed Kazanovicz, Assistant Town Manager/CFO as Town Manager effective upon the retirement of the current Town Manager in early 2023 per Section 3.05 of the Town Charter. Mr. Carpenter seconded for discussion.

Vice Chair Scott Wrenn read his statement in support of appointing Ed Kazanovicz and his confidence in him to do the job.

Chair Tristan Laliberte read his comments about Ed's qualifications and his thoughts about the appointment being voted now.

Town Manager Julie Jacobson spoke of her confidence in the Asst. Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz and his expertise for the position. She said that he would be an asset to the community.

CFO/Asst. Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz spoke about his background and experience and he highlighted some of the accomplishments during his time in Auburn that make him qualified to be the next Town Manager.

The following speakers offered their comments in support of appointing CFO/Asst. Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz as the Town Manager:

- School Committee Member Jessica Harrington
- School Committee Chair George Scobie

- Former Select Board Chair Doreen Goodrich read an email from Joseph Martin 3 Old Common Road supporting Ed. She then made her statement endorsing his appointment.
- Anne Cavanaugh, Finance Committee Chair
- Steve Chambers, Planning Board member
- Todd Kirrane, resident of 121 Hampton Street, and member of Planning Board
- Kevin Hussey, former Chair of the Finance Committee
- Fire Chief Stephen Coleman
- Joanna Paquin, DPW Director
- Darlene Coyle, Director of Development & Inspectional Services Department
- Beth Chamberland, School Superintendent
- Tom Turco, resident of 118 Bryn Mawr Avenue and member of the last Town Manager Screening Panel
- Michael Marin, Vice Chair of Zoning Board of Appeals and resident, 25 Bancroft St.
- Jean Collins, Library Director
- William Coyle, former DPW Director
- Josh Fuller of Fuller Automotive

Mary DeCoursey, Chair of the Library Trustees, stated that she opposed action tonight and expressed that she thought there should be public input in the process.

Dan Largesse questioned the appointment now when there would be several months until the current Town Manager's retirement.

Select Board member Dan Carpenter said that he supports Ed Kazanovicz, but he felt that the Board should wait until after the town election. He said that he was not expecting a nationwide search. Mr. Carpenter spoke about the residency requirement and that the Board should listen to how the voters feel about that. He said that there will be a new member after the election and he feels that the new Board member should have input in the selection of the next Town Manager.

Ms. Sara Rufli said that she was prepared to vote tonight if the Board wished to do so. Mr. Carpenter then withdrew his second of the motion.

Mr. Wrenn seconded and the Select Board voted on the motion as follows:

- 1) The Select Board voted to appoint Ed Kazanovicz, Assistant Town Manager/CFO, as Town Manager upon the retirement of the Town Manager per Section 3.05 of the Town Charter (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Mr. Wrenn) roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, No; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes - passed 4 to 1.
- 2) Mr. Berthiaume made a motion to waive the residency requirement for Ed Kazanovicz per Section 3.05 of the Town Charter. Mr. Wrenn seconded the motion and the Board voted by roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, No; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes - passed 4 to 1.

- 3) Mr. Berthiaume made a motion to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into negotiations for a successor agreement with Ed Kazanovicz. Ms. Rufli seconded the motion and the Board voted by roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes - passed 5 to 0.

Mr. Kazanovicz thanked the Board for their votes and he thanked all individuals who spoke tonight and expressed confidence in his ability to fill the position of Town Manager.

Chair Tristan Laliberte asked if there any corrections or omissions to the minutes of March 14, 2022 and March 28, 2022. There being none, the Chair accepted the minutes of March 14, 2022 and March 28, 2022 as read.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 P.M. (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Mr. Carpenter) voted in favor 5 to 0.

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

The following documents were part of the Select Board's Meeting of May 9, 2022 and are retained in the Executive Office of the Town Manager:

- May 9, 2022 Agenda
- Draft Wage Theft Bylaw
- Letter from Town Counsel Robert J. Hennigan, Jr. dated May 5, 2022 regarding Rescission of the Town of Auburn Marijuana Bylaw
- Gift Acceptance to the Fire/Rescue Department \$20.00 from the Firefighter's Association for the Fire Department Gift Account
- Letter of Support from Town Manager Julie Jacobson for the Auburn Police Department's application to The Stanton Foundation for a grant for a Police K9 Program
- South Central Massachusetts Veterans Services District Intermunicipal Agreement with Charlton, Oxford and Southbridge
- Letter to the Select Board dated May 9, 2022 from the Town Manager requesting an ARPA funds allocation of \$81,065.00 for a biohazardous waste sterilization system