

Board of Selectmen Agenda  
Selectmen's Meeting Room  
Auburn Town Hall, 104 Central Street  
Auburn, MA. 01501  
July 12, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.

Present: Tristan J. Laliberte, Scott C. Wrenn, Daniel S. Carpenter (remote), Lionel R. Berthiaume (remote) and Sara K. Rufli  
Also Present: Town Manager Julie A. Jacobson

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 P.M. by Chairman Tristan Laliberte.

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, Mr. Laliberte 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.

Chair Tristan Laliberte stated that there were some technical difficulties for Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Berthiaume to be able to participate remotely and he advised that the Board would first take up items that did not require a vote while those issues were being resolved.

Public Comments

There was no one wishing to speak under Public Comments.

The Board voted to move forward agenda item 6a) Plastic Bag Reduction Bylaw-Implementation Plan (Motion made by Mr. Wrenn; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 3 to 0.

Plastic Bag Reduction Bylaw- Implementation Plan

Darlene Coyle presented the implementation plan for the plastic bag reduction bylaw.

Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Berthiaume were then participating remotely.

Board members discussed outreach to businesses and residents to make sure that they are aware of the timeline so that they have time to plan for the change. There was also discussion about enforcement actions to be executed down the road so businesses have time to adjust to the terms of the single-use plastic bag reduction bylaw.

The Board voted to move to agenda item 3a) Town Clerk Presentation on Draft Map from Secretary of the Commonwealth on Re-Precincting as a Result of 2020 U.S. Census (Motion made by Mr. Wrenn; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 5 to 0.

Town Clerk Debra Gremo presented and discussed the draft map from the Secretary of the Commonwealth on re-precincting as a result of the 2020 U.S. Census that will be effective January 1, 2022. She described some of the changes in precincts. The Town Clerk said that the final map would be received in August or September.

The Board voted to move forward agenda item 6f) Process to Change Name from Board of Selectmen to Select Board (Motion made by Mr. Wrenn; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 5 to 0.

The Town Manager Julie Jacobson discussed her research into the matter, which showed that a Charter change would be needed which is a very lengthy legislative process. Also there would need to be a Charter Commission established to make a report to the Board of Selectmen and go to Town Meeting and/or a Town wide vote. She said that Auburn's Charter says "Board of Selectmen" very specifically throughout the document.

She suggested that the term "Select Board" could be used informally.

The Chair recognized former board member Doreen Goodrich who was participating remotely and she spoke not to support re-opening the Charter to make this change. She supports this Charter form of government and she asked the Board not to pursue re-opening the Charter to change what she considers a non-operational change.

Mr. Carpenter said that he would like to think about it some more because other towns have made this change.

Town Manager Jacobson said that the method to make the change depended on how the municipality's Charter was formed.

Mr. Wrenn thanked Doreen Goodrich for her comments and he said that he didn't support a Charter change.

Mr. Laliberte said that he somewhat agreed with Mr. Carpenter. Ms. Jacobson said that she could double check the process with Town Counsel.

Mr. Berthiaume suggested to get some samples from other towns to compare. Ms. Jacobson said that she could check on that, but she would also have to check on how their charters were formed.

Mr. Berthiaume said that he would be willing to hear more information if it's available.

Mr. Wrenn repeated that he didn't want to go through the process just for this change of name.

Mr. Carpenter said that this could be a Board project, but it was not time-sensitive.

The Chair agreed to keep the item on the agenda pending more information from the Town Manager.

The Board voted to move to agenda items 6b), 6c) and 6d) – motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Mr. Wrenn and voted by roll call: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 5 to 0.

Shared Service Grant Application for Covid-19 Case Investigation and Contact Tracing-

DDIS Darlene Coyle explained the grant application and addressed questions from Board members concerning the grant that would support COVID activities required by the Board of Health. The award would be \$100,000.00. She said that the grant was for 2 years.

The Board of Selectmen voted to apply for, accept and expend a grant in the amount up to \$100,000.00 from Massachusetts Department of Public Health to support COVID activities required by the Board of Health (Motion made by Mr. Wrenn; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) - roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 5 to 0.

DEP Grant Application for Municipal Recycling Programs

Darlene Coyle described the grant application to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to support recycling education and activities.

The Board voted to apply for, accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$15,400.00 from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Motion made by Mr. Wrenn; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) - roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 5 to 0.

Public Health Excellence Shared Service Grant Application for local Public Health Support Services

Director Darlene Coyle explained the grant application to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to support two positions, Community Health Coordinator and Regional Health Inspector. Shared towns in this grant are Auburn, Brimfield, Dudley, Oxford, Southbridge, Wales and Webster (host). The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission is coordinating this shared service grant.

The Board of Selectmen voted to accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$300,000.00 for each of three years from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (Motion made by Mr. Wrenn; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) - roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 5 to 0.

Discussion and Potential Vote on Process to Interview Candidates for the vacant Library Board of Trustees seat.

The Board of Selectmen discussed the process to interview candidates for the vacant Library Board of Trustees seat. The Board of Selectmen voted to hold a joint interview process with the Library Trustees at the next meeting (Motion made by Mr. Wrenn; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) - roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 5 to 0.

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

There were no items.

Proclamations and Recognitions

There were no items.

Vote to Accept and Expend a \$5,000.00 Grant from the Arthur M. and Martha R. Pappas Foundation to Support the 2021 Summer in the Park Concert Series including the Music Worcester and Brubeck Brothers Concerts.

Town Manager Julie Jacobson described the grant for the 2021 Summer in the Park Concert Series.

The Board of Selectmen voted to accept and expend a \$5,000.00 grant from the Arthur M. and Martha R. Pappas Foundation to support the 2021 Summer in the Park Concert Series including the Music Worcester and Brubeck Brothers concerts, with a letter of gratitude signed by the Chair (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) - roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 5 to 0.

Update on RFP for Land for a Potential Public Safety Facility.

Town Manager Julie Jacobson gave an update on the RFP for land for a potential site. She talked about the potential for a Plan B discussed by the Public Safety Facilities Committee. She said that no decisions have yet been made because of the current unknowns. There was much discussion and questions from Board members on various options.

Discussion and Potential Vote on Remote Participation Policy through April 1, 2022.

The Town Manager reviewed the draft policy. There was consensus to hold the item until the next meeting so all members would have time to study it.

Update on Auburn Housing Authority Town Appointed Tenant Seat.

Town Manager Jacobson advised that the Housing Authority had sent letters to all the tenants seeking interested applicants, with responses due on July 17<sup>th</sup>. So far there is one applicant. She said that this item will be on the August 9, 2021 agenda.

Tabled Items

There were no items.

Board of Selectmen Member Items

Discussion of September Volunteer Appreciation Event

Mr. Carpenter presented the item. The Board discussed having another member work with Mr. Carpenter as the sub-committee to coordinate the event and the Board also discussed the potential dates.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 P.M. (Motion made by Mr. Wrenn; motion seconded by Mr. Carpenter) roll call vote: roll call vote: Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 5 to 0.

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

The following documents were part of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of July 12, 2021 and are retained in the Executive Office of the Town Manager:

- July 12, 2021 Agenda
- Draft Map from Secretary of the Commonwealth on Re-Precincting as a Result of 2020 U.S. Census
- Plastic Bag Implementation Plan provided by Darlene Coyle, Director of the Department of Development and Inspectional Services
- Draft Policy for Board of Selectmen Consideration on Remote Participation at all Board, Committee and Commission Meetings until April 1, 2022