

## Select Board Minutes

Tuesday, October 11, 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 107 of the Acts of 2022*

Present: Scott C. Wrenn, Sara K. Rufli and Steven Chambers

Absent: Daniel S. Carpenter

Also Present: Town Manager Julie A. Jacobson and CFO/Asst. Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz

Chair Scott Wrenn called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Mr. Wrenn announced that this Open Meeting of the Town of Auburn Select Board was being operated as a hybrid model under Chapter 107 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.

Mr. Wrenn noted that the meeting was being recorded by Auburn Cable Television. He asked if anyone else was recording the meeting. No one so indicated.

The Chair confirmed that all members that would be participating were present in person for the meeting.

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Public Comments

There was no one signed up to speak under this item.

### Public Hearings/Presentations

Vote to Continue the Public Meeting on Whitney Street Home Builders, LLC for a Local Initiative Project (LIP) for Housing Development at 16 Perry Place to the Select Board Meeting on October 24, 2022.

The Board voted to continue the public meeting on Whitney Street Home Builders, LLC for a Local Initiative Project (LIP) for the housing development at 16 Perry Place to the Select Board meeting on October 24, 2022 on request of the developer (Motion made by Mr. Chambers; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) voted in favor 3 to 0.

### Communications

Letter from Town Planner on Special Town Meeting Warrant Article 23 and Planning Board Recommendation.

The Board received the letter from the Town Planner Adam Menard on the public hearing held by the Planning Board in accordance with MGL Chapter 40A, Section 5 to review the proposed zoning amendment to change language in Section 3.2.2.3 of the Zoning Bylaw. Following the

hearing, the Planning Board voted 3 to 1 to recommend approval of the proposed zoning bylaw change as provided to the Town Meeting.

#### Select Board General Items

##### Auburn Chamber of Commerce - Seasonal Open Air License on Town Property, Town of Auburn Goddard Park, for "Scarecrow Your Business" Event.

The Board reviewed the application documents provided by the Auburn Chamber of Commerce for the Seasonal Open Air License on Town Property.

Ms. Kerri Cunningham, President of the Auburn Chamber of Commerce, was present and explained the genesis of the event during to the pandemic. She said that she had walked the site with the DPW to check the locations of underground utilities so as not to interfere with them during the placement of the scarecrows.

The following recommendations were submitted by the Development Coordinating Group (DCG):

- The applicant shall obtain all necessary permits and inspections from Town Departments, Boards, or Commissions;
- The applicant shall obtain any necessary approvals of State agencies;
- The applicant shall work with DPW to ensure scarecrow placement does not interfere with any underground utilities on site.

The Select Board then voted to approve the license, 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 Ms. Rufli; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) voted in favor 3 to 0.

The Select Board voted to waive the license fee as requested (Motion made by Ms. Rufli; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) voted in favor 3 to 0.

The Board voted to move forward agenda items 6b) Request approval to use \$10,000.00 in ARPA funds for the installation of water backflow valves in Auburn's Municipal Building as mandated by the Federal Government, and 6c) Request approval to use \$7,500.00 in ARPA funds for the repair of a section of rusted pipe for the Town Hall Sprinkler System (Motion made by Mr. Chambers; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) voted in favor 3 to 0.

The Town Manager discussed the proposal, raised by Mr. Chambers at the last meeting, to use ARPA funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the installation of water backflow valves in Auburn's Municipal Building as mandated by the Federal Government and \$7,500.00 for the repair of a section of rusted pipe for the Town Hall Sprinkler System instead of seeking Town Meeting approval to use general fund revenues for these expenditures. She explained the need for both of the projects.

CFO Ed Kazanovicz discussed the balance of ARPA funds. He said that the Board has allocated \$1,911,165.00, leaving \$3,099,905.82 unobligated ARPA funds.

Chair Scott Wrenn stated that he would prefer to spend ARPA funds on larger projects like the communications tower instead of smaller expenditures, such as the \$10,000.00 request in Article 8 and \$7,500.00 in Article 9 that would not have a significant impact on the tax levy.

Mr. Chambers made a motion to approve an allocation of \$10,000.00 in ARPA funds for the installation of water backflow valves in Auburn's Municipal Building as mandated by the Federal Government. There was no second; the motion failed.

Ms. Rufli expressed that she also would rather use ARPA funds for the bigger projects.

Mr. Chambers made a motion to approve an allocation of \$7,500.00 in ARPA funds for the repair of a section of rusted pipe for the Town Hall Sprinkler System. There was no second; the motion failed.

Potential Votes on October 18, 2022 Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles #s 2, 8, 9, and 11 – Select Board vote to recommend, not recommend or defer to the petitioner.

Article 2 - Amends Article 3 of the May 3, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, (Operating Budget for FY2023). Town Manager Jacobson described a change to Article 2 after the discussion at the Finance Committee meeting: Increase Line Item #014211-511103 Wages Full-time from \$637,015.00 to \$673,015.00 for an additional Fleet Mechanic. She said that it was very important to get the work done on the Fire/Rescue vehicles and that there would be an amendment on the town meeting floor to amend Article 2 for the additional Fleet Mechanic to be in the DPW instead of the Fire Department to keep the vehicle work under one department. This Fleet Mechanic would be dedicated to the Fire/Rescue vehicles.

Ms. Jacobson added that there would be an additional amendment to Article 15, reducing the request by about \$45,000.00 to authorize funds towards equipment for the DPW Fleet Maintenance Unit from the Ambulance Reserve for Appropriations Account.

Mr. Chambers made a motion to recommend approval of Article 2. Ms. Rufli seconded the motion and the Board voted in favor 3 to 0.

Article 8 - Appropriates \$10,000.00 from General Fund Revenues for the installation of water backflow valves in Auburn's Municipal building as mandated by the Federal Government.

Mr. Chambers made a motion to defer to the petitioner on Article 8; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli – voted 1 to 2. No action.

Mr. Chambers then made a motion to reconsider the vote on Article 8; Ms. Rufli seconded the motion and the Board voted in favor 3 to 0.

Mr. Chambers made a motion to defer to the petitioner on Article 8; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli and voted in favor 3 to 0.

Article 9 - Appropriates \$7,500.00 from General Fund Revenues for the repair of a section of rusted pipe for the Town Hall Sprinkler System.

The Select Board voted to defer to the petitioner on Article 9 (Motion made by Mr. Chambers; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) voted in favor 3 to 0.

There was discussion to meet before the town meeting if Mr. Carpenter could be present for possible reconsideration of Articles 8 and 9.

Article 11 - Appropriates \$500,000.00, of which \$200,000.00 will come from Overlay Surplus and \$300,000.00 will come from Free Cash, to the Town Stabilization Fund.

The Select Board voted to recommend approval of Article 11 (Motion made by Mr. Chambers; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) voted in favor 3 to 0.

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

There were no items.

Proclamations and Recognitions

There were no items.

Town Manager Items

Announce Installation of New Charging Station

Economic Development Coordinator and Energy Manager Brooke Hultgren was present and announced the installation of the new charging station at the Town Hall. She explained the project to install a dual port charging station for electric vehicles for town vehicles and that might be open to the public as well; details to be worked out with respect to payments.

Municipal Aggregation Rates November 2022 – November 2023

Town Manager Julie Jacobson announced that the Town has signed a twelve-month contract with a new supplier, NextEra Energy Services, which will provide residents and businesses enrolled in the Town's Community Choice Power Supply Program (Municipal Aggregation) with price stability in an elevated and volatile market. Starting in November 2022 meter reads, the new rate will be \$0.23822 per kWh whereas National Grid's rate will be \$0.33891 per kWh for the winter residential basic service price. She explained the process for residents/businesses to Opt In to the program.

Tabled Items

There were no items.

Select Board Member Items

There were no items.

Chair Scott Wrenn asked if there were any questions or concerns about the minutes of September 12, 2022. There being none, Chair Wrenn accepted the minutes of September 12, 2022.

At 7:05 P.M. the Select Board voted to adjourn the meeting (Motion made by Mr. Chambers; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) voted in favor 3 to 0.

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

The following documents were part of the Select Board's meeting of October 11, 2022 and are retained in the Executive Officer of Town Manager:

- October 11, 2022 Agenda
- Letter from Town Planner dated October 3, 2022 on Special Town Meeting Warrant Article 23 and the Planning Board's Recommendation
- Application Documents - Auburn Chamber of Commerce - Seasonal Open Air License on Town Property, Town of Auburn Goddard Park, for "Scarecrow Your Business" Event; Recommendations of the Development Coordinating Group (DCG) dated October 5, 2022
- October 18, 2022 Special Town Meeting Warrant
- Letter from Town Manager dated October 11, 2022 on the Requests to Use ARPA Funds for 2 Projects: 1) \$10,000.00 for the installation of water backflow preventers (backflow valves) in two municipal-owned buildings; Town Hall and 21 Pheasant Court (AYFS) and 2) \$7,500.00 in ARPA Funds for the repair of the Town Hall Sprinkler System
- Letter from Town Manager dated October 11, 2022 with information on the new twelve-month contract with a new supplier, NextEra Energy Services, for the Town's Municipal Aggregation Program
- Minutes of September 12, 2022