

# Select Board Minutes

March 15, 2022

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Virtual Meeting – 143TV and Zoom

**Select Board Present:** Keri Thompson, Chair  
Corey Evans  
Diane Kennedy  
Jean Healey Dippold  
Jack Creighton

**Others Participating:** Christopher Senior, Town Manager

**Chairperson Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked for a Roll Call Vote. All present.**

Chairperson Thompson asked for a moment of silence for Officer Mark Jenkins who passed away.

Pledge-Recited.

**Chairperson Thompson asked for a motion to go into Executive Session Exemption #5-To investigate charges of criminal conduct or to consider the filing of criminal complaints. The Cohasset Police will provide a briefing on an active investigation, and the Select Board will take any appropriate action. Motion moved by Select Member Kennedy, seconded by Select Member Dippold. Roll Call Vote; All aye.**

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:33 p.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session and back into Public Session at 7:05 p.m.

Select Member Kennedy advised the Board she will be joining public session later this evening.

**Approval of Minutes-Motion by Select Member Evans to approve the minutes of 2/1/2022 and 2/8/2022, seconded by Select Member Dippold. Roll Call Vote; Jack Creighton-Nay, Corey Evans-Aye, Jean Healey Dippold-Aye, Keri Thompson-Aye.**

**Town Tree Policy-Director of DPW Brian Joyce gave an overview of the proposed policy which has been in the works for a long time. He thanked the Open Space & Recreation Committee, which voted unanimously to adopt at their last meeting, for their work. Motion by Select Board Member Creighton to adopt the Town of Cohasset Public Tree Policy, seconded by Select Member Dippold. Roll Call Vote; Jack Creighton-Aye, Corey Evans-Aye, Jean Healey Dippold-Aye, Keri Thompson-Aye.**

**ARPA Funds-Update & Recommendations-Mr. Senior advised the Board he will present a formal plan to the Board with Finance Director Don Piatt. They will be looking to use ARPA funds to help fund the new communications position and a couple of other projects.**

**AEC Quarterly Update-Member Steve Wenner gave the Board an update on the Electrical Aggregation Launch Schedule including the opt-out period. The Board had a brief discussion. Chairperson of AEC Tanya Bodell gave an update on the existing initiatives, recommended initiatives for 2022 and the next steps.**

**Joint Meeting with Advisory Committee-Citizens Petition-Election Ballot for Surplus Funds**-The Advisory Committee called their meeting to order. Proponent Leland Jenkins reviewed his proposed article that would require the Select Board to place all Special and Annual Town Meeting articles pertaining to transfers from surplus revenue known as Free Cash and all borrowing articles within the levy limit excess of \$1,000,000 per item be put on an election ballot. The Select Board and Advisory Committee had the opportunity to ask questions about the proposed article and had a brief discussion.

Select Member Kennedy joined the meeting.

**Annual Town Meeting Warrant-Review and Vote Articles to the Warrant**

**Article #6-Stabilization and other Special Funds**-Motion by Select Member Kennedy to put Article #6 Stabilization and other Special Funds on the warrant for Annual Town Meeting, seconded by Select Member Evans. Roll Call Vote; All aye.

**Article #8-Departmental Revolving Funds-Annual Spending Limits**-Motion by Select Member Evans to put Article #8 Departmental Revolving Funds-Annual Spending Limits on the warrant for Annual Town Meeting, seconded by Select Member Creighton. Roll Call Vote; All aye.

**Article #9-Creation of Revolving Fund for After-hours Building Inspections**-Motion by Select Member Kennedy to put Article #9-Creation of Revolving Fund for After-hours Building Inspections on the warrant for Annual Town Meeting, seconded by Select Member Evans. Roll Call Vote; All aye.

**Article #14-Increase Borrowing Authority under Old Colony Loan Program**-Mr. Senior advised the Board this article is not necessary and will be removed from the draft warrant.

**Article #15-Town Hall Building Committee request for \$200,000 to hire a CM at Risk for Town Hall Project**-Motion by Select Member Evans to put Article #15-Town Hall Building Committee request for \$200,000 to hire a CM at Risk for Town Hall on the warrant for Annual Town Meeting, seconded by Select Member Kennedy. Roll Call Vote; All aye.

**Article #16- Transfer of Land to Affordable Housing Trust** –Chairperson of AHT Steve Gaumer, members Ted Carr and Cindy Mathieson were present and reviewed the proposed article. The Board had a brief discussion. Motion by Select Member Kennedy to put Article #16-Transfer of Land to AHT on the warrant for Annual Town Meeting, seconded by Select Member Creighton. Roll Call Vote; All aye.

**Article #19-Bonding and Betterment Authorization to Sewer Cook Estates**-Mr. Senior advised the Board this article is not necessary and will be removed from the draft warrant.

**Article #20-Expansion of Sewer District to Include Cook Estate**-Health Director Pam Fahey was present along with Attorney Greg Corbo. Ms. Fahey advised the Board that the septic system at the Cook Estate is in failure. There are no alternative locations on the property to relocate leaching fields due to poor soil quality. The only permanent solution for wastewater treatment is to connect to public sewer. The Board had a discussion along with Sewer Commissioner Paul Kierce. Motion by Select Member Evans to put Article #20-Expansion of Sewer District to Include Cook Estate on the warrant for Annual Town Meeting, seconded by Select Member Creighton. Roll Call Vote; All aye. Attorney Corbo advised the Board that there is no need for a betterment. The Cook Estate will hire a contractor and pay for it and then turn it over to the town.

**Town Manager Update**-Mr. Senior stated he will be introducing some new employees at an upcoming meeting. There was a new hire in the Treasurer/Collectors office, a new town accountant, and a new assistant town planner. There have been some recent retirements. Linda Litchfield in the Treasurer/Collectors office is retiring in April. She has been an intricate part of the town and will be missed. Boyd Livingston at the DPW will also be retiring in April and will be hard to replace. Select Member Creighton asked when the Fire Chief will be announced. Mr. Senior responded the goal is next week.

**Select Board Comments**-Select Member Dippold stated a tragic loss hit the community hard with the passing of Officer Jenkins. The community rallied for the police and his family. Condolences to everyone. She asked if the Board would put on a future agenda a discussion about Norfolk County Advisory and the topic of the CTO. She would like feedback from the Board before the next meeting. She would also like the Board to discuss the film policy after ATM. Lastly, she would like the Board to discuss the heavy traffic issue on Sohier Street and parking in the village and get suggestions from the Chief. Select Member Creighton echoed comments about the death of Officer Mark Jenkins and reminded everyone that the wake is at 4 p.m. tomorrow and funeral is on Thursday. Select Member Evans offered condolences to Officer Jenkin’s family and members of the CPD. Select Member Kennedy added that the outpouring of support from the community speaks loudly. It is a heart wrenching loss for everyone. She would also like to discuss event policies at an upcoming meeting. She reminded everyone there are open seats in the upcoming town election and hopes people will consider running.

**Motion by Select Member Creighton to adjourn, seconded by Select Member Kennedy. Roll Call Vote; All aye.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Keri Thompson, Chair

**Documents**

Minutes

Tree Policy

AEC Quarterly Update

Draft Warrant