

Select Board Minutes

February 7, 2023

Town of Cohasset

Select Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

91 Sohier Street-Willcutt Commons

Select Board Members Present: Jack Creighton, Chair
Jean Healey Dippold
Corey D. Evans
Paul Grady
Diane Kennedy

Others Participating: Christopher Senior, Town Manager

Chair Creighton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll Call Vote; All present.

Pledge-Recited.

Chair Creighton asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for Exemption #3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation of the public body and the chair so declares. The Board will discuss the Navigation Bylaw. Motion moved by Select Member Grady, seconded by Select Member Dippold. Roll Call Vote, All aye.

The Board went into executive session at 6:00 p.m.

The Board came back into public session at 7:00 p.m.

Introduction of New Employees-Mr. Senior introduced Finance Director Jennifer Mullen, Treasurer/Collector Linda Cole and Assistant Town Accountant Diane Phillips and gave an overview of their experience.

Police Sergeant Pinning & Awards-Chief Quigley introduced new Sergeants Patrick Reardon and Harrison Schmidt and presented them with their pins. He presented Sergeant Hunt, Natural Resource Officer Joshua Kimball, Officer Defreitas & Officer Brown with Lifesaving Medals, Sergeant Christy Tarantino with the Preservation of Life Medal, Officer Gregory Lowrance and Natural Resource Officer Joshua Kimball with Excellence Awards and Lieutenant Lopes, Sergeant Schmidt, Sergeant Reardon, Officer Lowrance and Office Brown with Meritorious Service Awards.

Public Hearing Notice -Atlantica Operating LLC, d/b/a Olde Salt House-44 Border Street-New on Premises & Common Victualler. Chair Creighton read aloud the public hearing notice. Attorney James Lampke swore in proposed manager Paul Sylvia. Mr. Sylvia gave an overview of his experience. The Board asked what hours they would be operating. Mr. Sylvia was unsure of the hours. Attorney Ryan Gazda joined the meeting and advised the Board the hours are the same as the previous license which are Monday-Saturday from 8 a.m. – 1 a.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. – 1 a.m. After a brief discussion about the hours the Board asked the applicant to submit an updated application and include the proposed hours. Motion by Select Member Dippold to continue the hearing until February 28, 2023, seconded by Select Member Grady. Roll Call Vote, All aye.

Public Hearing Notice-Split Rock Social, Inc. d/b/a Split Rock Social-12 Parkingway-New on Premises Seasonal Wine & Malt License-Applicants Ryan Hilton, Erin Gaebe and Manager Wesley Baltzer were present. Mr. Hilton gave a history of their application. They applied and were awarded a Seasonal Wine & Malt License last year however, they ran into supply issues with their container bar. The container is now scheduled to be delivered over the next couple of weeks. Nothing in the plans have changed. The Board had a brief discussion. Motion by Select Member Evans to approve Split Rock Social, Inc. d/b/a Split Rock Social at 12 Parkingway, Cohasset, seconded by Select Member Dippold. Roll Call Vote, All aye. Motion by Select Member Evans to approved the common victualler and entertainment for Split Rock Social, seconded by Select Member Grady. Roll Call Vote, All aye.

Extension of Hours-Red Lion Inn-Select Member Dippold recused herself from the discussion and left the room. Manager Tony Dochev was present and are requesting 6 dates that the hours of the Barn be extended from 10 p.m. to midnight and the hours of the Cave be extended from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. Chair Creighton asked why the hours need to be extended. Mr. Dochev stated they have weddings scheduled and they are asking for an extension. Select Member Kennedy stated when the Board approved the applicants license and the applicant asked to have flexibility for special events and the Board asked the applicant to put in requests as they come in. The Board discussed the neighbors in the area. Motion by Select Member Kennedy to approve the extension of hours for the Red Lion Inn as presented. The motion failed, no on seconded it.

FY24 Budget-Finance Director Jennifer Mullen reviewed the Town's AAA credit rating and strong finances, operating budget revenues, state aid and other available funds, sources of revenue, budget increases and budget appropriations. She advised the Board the FY24 Budget incorporates the Boards Budget Message, an updated Capital 10 Year Plan and Long-Term Financing. The Board had a brief discussion.

Open Space & Recreation-Lisey Good and Barbara Wrenn gave an overview of their background. They are proposing installing a perennial pollinator meadow measuring 22 x 14 feet featuring low maintenance, drought-resistance flowering plants native to New England at the Northeast Corner of Wheelwright Park. **Motion by Select Member Grady to approve the installation of the Plant Pollinator Meadow in Wheelwright Park and 3 birdhouses as presented, seconded by Select Member Kennedy. Roll Call Vote, All aye.**

Location of Cove Road & Elm Street Intersection-Director of DPW Brian Joyce reviewed the two options for the Board to consider. They are looking for guidance from the Board. The Board had a brief discussion and heard public comments from Connie Afshar 141 S. Main Street, Ralph Dormitzer 111 Atlantic Avenue, Robert Silvia 65 Forest Avenue and Tom Callahan 35 Hillside Drive. **Motion by Select Member Dippold to leave the Elm Street Island as is, seconded by Select Member Grady. Roll Call Vote; Jack Creighton-Aye, Jean Healey Dippold-Aye, Paul Grady-Aye, Corey Evans-Nay, Diane Kennedy-Nay.**

Long Term Finance Committee-Discussion -Select Member Dippold advised the Board they have had multiple meetings and started digging into details and projections. She discussed the need for Multiple Generational Projects, other Capital needs in (and out) of 10-Year Capital Plan, the Operating needs in Town and School budgets and working on five-year budget projections, continuing to identify capital needs. She discussed ways to pay including debt exclusion research, funding of Capital and Operating needs and other sources of revenue. She discussed next steps. They should have an update at the end of February.

Norfolk County Retirement-Retiree Cost of Living Adjustment-Mr. Senior advised the Board the Governor signed Chapter 269 of the Acts of 2022 into law. This act provides local retirement systems with a local option to increase the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for eligible retirees in fiscal year 2023 from 3%-5%, retroactive to July 1, 2022. Motion by Select Member Dippold to accept the Additional 2% Retiree Cost of Living Adjustment as recommended, seconded by Select Member Grady. Roll Call Vote, All aye.

Annual Town Meeting-Draft Warrant Review- Mr. Senior reviewed the potential articles on the current draft warrant for Annual Town Meeting. There are currently twenty-nine articles.

Town Manager Update- Mr. Senior thanked everyone that worked over the weekend with the cold weather. Facilities team did a great job with heart failure at the Police Station, a couple of frozen pipes at school and a couple of windows at the library.

Select Board Comments-Select Member Dippold stated Planning Director Lauren Lind is leaving Cohasset and she thanked her for her service and wished her well. Select Member Grady and Chair Creighton wished Lauren Lind the best of luck.

Motion by Select Member Grady to adjourn, seconded by Select Member Kennedy. Roll Call Vote, All aye.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Creighton, Chair