

Town of Cohasset
Select Board Meeting
41 Highland Avenue-Auditorium
Cohasset, MA 02025

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

Others Participating: Christopher Senior, Town Manager

Chair Creighton called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. Roll Call Vote; All present.

Pledge-Recited.

Public Comments-None.

Sidewalk Committee Interviews-Applicants Bob Mulhall-500 N. Main Street, Abigail Alves-52 Stockbridge Street, Cynthia Yeomans-2822 Skyview Way, Paul Laugelle-87 Cushing Road and Frank Cicchetti-82 Pleasant Street gave an overview of their background and spoke of why they are interested in being considered for the Sidewalk Committee.

Introduction of New Employees-Mr. Senior introduced Dalton Smith the new Firefighter/Paramedic for the Cohasset Fire Department and Margaret Curley as the new Safe Harbor Coordinator.

One-day Liquor License-Library Director Meaghan James was present on behalf of the Cohasset Library Trust requesting a one-day liquor license for Library Mini Golf-Private Evening Event on 3/2/2023. **Motion by Select Member Grady to approve the one-day license for the Cohasset Library Trust on 3/2/2023 from 8-11:30 pm, seconded by Select Member Evans. Roll Call Vote: All aye.**

Cemetery Plot Re-purchase-Woodside Cemetery-Mr. Senior advised the Board they received a request from Edward Purdy for the Town to buy back one plot. The DPW has confirmed the deed and that the plot is available. **Motion by Select Member Evans to approve the repurchase of one plot at Woodside for a total of \$500, seconded by Select Member Kennedy. Roll Call Vote: All Aye.**

Public Hearing-Vote to Continue-Old Salt House-Mr. Senior advised the Board the applicants attorney has requested a continuance. **Motion by Select Board Member Kennedy to continue the hearing for Old Salt House until 4/4/2023, seconded by Select Member Dippold. Roll Call Vote, All aye.**

National Grid Public Hearing-Socrates Perez-100 E. Ashland Street, Brockton was present on behalf of National Grid and reviewed the proposed plan. **Motion by Select Member Dippold to approve the proposed request to construct a line of underground electric conduits as presented at 124 Elm Street, subject to them or owner doing full replacement of sidewalk, seconded by Select Member Grady. Roll Call Vote, All aye.**

Eagle Scout Project-Applicant Rex Schiffman gave an overview of his proposed project to rebuild the stairs at Milliken/Bancroft Field. **Motion by Select Member Grady to approve the proposed Eagle Scout Project**

by Rex Schiffman for rebuilding stairs at Milliken/Bancroft Field as presented, seconded by Select Member Dippold. Roll Call Vote, All aye.

Town Hall Building Committee-Phil Lehr, Gerht Lubitz and Mark Cameron were present on behalf of the Town Hall Building Committee (THBC). Gerht Lubitz reviewed the timeline from 2019 until now. He reviewed the planned project cost of \$17,808,678 for the renovation of the Historic building and the rebuilding of the newer addition. When they add in soft costs and contingencies the Total Project Budget is \$22,085,824. When they take out \$1.2 million appropriation and \$200,000 appropriation and potential projected grant of \$6.9 million from CPC the new assumed total is \$13,785,824. They reviewed the renovation/rebuild cost (\$13,785,824) compared to renovation only cost (\$10,380,313). The THBC is recommending the Town move forward with the renovation/rebuild as presented. The Board had a lengthy discussion.

Annual Town Meeting-Article #7-Capital Improvement Budget-Michelle Leary reviewed total Capital Requests for FY24 of \$5,300,023. She reviewed School, Facilities, DPW, Police, Fire, and IT Capital needs. **Article #8-Department Revolving Funds-Annual Spending Limits-Motion by Select Member Evans to recommend Article #8-Department Revolving Funds-Annual Spending Limits to ATM, seconded by Select Member Kennedy. Roll Call Vote, All aye.**

Article #10-MA General Law Chapter 91 Liability-Motion by Select Member Evans to recommend Article #10-MA General Law Chapter 91 Liability to ATM, seconded by Select Member Kennedy. Roll Call Vote, All aye.

Article #11-Additional Real Estate Exemptions-Annual Renewal-Motion by Select Member Evans to recommend Article #11-Additional Real Estate Exemptions-Annual Renewal to ATM, seconded by Select Member Kennedy. Roll Call Vote, All aye.

Article #13-South Shore Vocational Technical School Committee-Amend Regional Agreement-SSVT Superintendent Tom Hickey gave an overview of the proposed article. The bulk of the proposed changes are minor, addressing typos, word choices, grammar, and punctuation. The primary reason to propose amending the regional agreement is to admit the Town of Marshfield as of July 1, 2024.

Article #20-Veterans Valor Act-Select Member Dippold reviewed the proposed article. **Motion by Select Member Dippold to put Article #20-Veterans Valor Act on the Warrant for ATM, seconded by Select Member Grady. Roll Call Vote, All aye.**

Cohasset Financial Planning Committee-Presentation by Finance Director-Jennifer Mullen. Ms. Mullen reviewed the Financial Policies, Funding Mechanisms, Capital Facility Plan Funding, Managing Debt, Benchmarking and Operational Budget Demands. The Board had a lengthy discussion.

Long Term Projects-Fields & Recreation-Michelle Leary advised the Board they completed the field study. The proposal would be \$2,500,000 to expand the existing Milliken Complex including renovating 5 tennis courts (\$550,000), building 5 pickle ball courts (\$400,000), reconstructing retaining wall (\$400,000), reconstructing lighting for courts (\$475,000), drainage and stormwater management (\$40,000). They also included 35% for construction contingency costs. After some discussion, the Select Board requested that Michelle Leary come back with a phased down estimate for Phase 1 and bring it back to the Board.

Town Manager Update-Mr. Senior advised the Board he is looking to use some of the County ARPA funds. They are looking to spend \$272,438 for upgraded Middle/High School Math curriculum and district wide Arts/Music Curriculum. This is a request in the school budget for a one-time expense. The other request

is for \$1.3 million which would include \$200,000 for the Beechwood Water project for a bigger pipe. They are requesting \$1.138 million for Sewer System Upgrades.

Motion by Select Member Dippold to approve the use of \$272,438 in ARPA funds to spend on upgraded Middle/High School Math Curriculum and district wide Arts & Music Curriculum, seconded by Select Member Kennedy. Roll Call Vote, All aye. Mr. Senior asked the Board to consider using \$45,000 for the CSCR building roof and \$125,000 for Trailers for temporary space for the Police Department. He advised the Board that they recently hired a new person for Payroll. Kim Roy has done a great job recruiting and hiring. They are now looking for a new Town Planner. Lauren Lind has agreed to help in the interim.

Select Board Comments-Select Member Evans thanked everyone that applied for the Sidewalk Committee. Select Member Kennedy asked for a moment of silence for Chief Naval Special Warfare Operator Michael T. Ernst who passed away recently during a training exercise. The Board had a moment of silence. Select Member Dippold thanked Jennifer Mullen for all of her work on long term financing. They are making progress. She has been a great addition with new ideas. Select Member Grady thanked Michelle Leary for her hard work on the fields and courts. He advised the Board that the Road and Sidewalk Committee will be starting regular meetings. Chair Creighton stated the Select Board is making great progress and making solutions. Zoning Bylaw Committee has been hosting public forums on the proposed zoning changes.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Creighton, Chair