

## Select Board Meeting

March 23, 2021

Tuesday, March 23, 2021  
Virtual Meeting – 143TV and Zoom.

**Select Board:** Diane Kennedy, Chair  
Keri Thompson  
Paul Schubert  
Jack Creighton  
Corey Evans

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

**Chairperson Kennedy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll Call Vote; Jack Creighton-Present, Corey Evans-Present, Diane Kennedy-Present, Paul Schubert-Present, Keri Thompson-Present.**

**Chairman Kennedy asked for a motion to go into Executive Session Exemption #3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. The Board will discuss ongoing Collective Bargaining. Exemption #6 to consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real estate, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body. The Board will discuss Treats Pond easements. Motion moved by Select Member Schubert, seconded by Select Member Thompson. Roll Call Vote; Jack Creighton-Aye, Corey Evans-Aye, Diane Kennedy-Aye, Paul Schubert-Aye, Keri Thompson-Aye.**

The Board went into executive session at 6:07 p.m.

The Board came out of executive session at 7:10 p.m.

Chairperson Kennedy called the meeting back to order and read the Zoom protocol.

**FY21 Budget Update**-Finance Director Don Piatt reviewed the Town's FY21 budget through 2/28/2021. General Fund Revenues are at 76% of the budget with overall expenditures at 63% of the budget, Sewer Revenues are at 83% which is driven by a 13% increase in usage fee and doubling of connection fees. Sewer Operating Expenses are at 57% of the budget. The Water Revenues are at 82% of the budget, which is due to increase in usage charges, General Expenses are at 51% of the budget. Mr. Piatt stated property tax collections remain strong, general operating expenses are in-line with the budget. The next round of COVID relief funds is being disbursed. The Town will be receiving financial assistance for use in both FY21 and FY22. The Board had a brief discussion.

**Collective Bargaining Contract Ratifications**-Superior Officers Association-Mr. Senior reviewed the contract with the Board. It is a one-year contract with a 2% increase. All contracts will be done for one year due to the uncertainty with the State funds. **Motion by Select Member Schubert to approve and ratify the Superior Officers contract for one-year as presented, seconded by Select Member Thompson. Roll Call Vote; Jack Creighton-Aye, Corey Evans-Aye, Diane Kennedy-Aye, Paul Schubert-Aye, Keri Thompson-Aye.**

**Memorial Policy**-Select Member Thompson reviewed a draft policy she started to draft based on what other towns have. Most towns have money donated for benches and trees with plaques. She discussed possible criteria and standards for donations. She will forward the draft policy to the Board for comments and edits.

**Annual Town Meeting-Review and Vote on Articles**-Mr. Senior stated there are nine planning articles that will be discussed at a Planning Board public hearing tomorrow night. Those articles will go on to the Advisory Committee and then back to the Select Board.

**Article #6-Unpaid Bills from Previous Years**-Mr. Senior reviewed the bills with the Board. **Motion by Select Member Thompson to place Article #6-Unpaid Bills from Previous Years on the Warrant for ATM, seconded by Select Member Schubert. Roll Call Vote; Jack Creighton-Aye, Corey Evans-Aye, Diane Kennedy-Aye, Paul Schubert-Aye, Keri Thompson-Aye.**

**Article #7-Supplemental Appropriation for Fiscal 2021**-Mr. Senior reviewed the one appropriation for Cohasset 143TV. Select Member Evans asked Mr. Senior to work on finding another way to fund the money. Mr. Senior said they could potentially create an enterprise fund. He will look into. **Motion by Select Member Schubert to place Article #7-Supplemental Appropriation for Fiscal 2021 on the Warrant for ATM, seconded by Select Member Creighton. Roll Call Vote; Jack Creighton-Aye, Diane Kennedy-Aye, Paul Schubert-Aye, Keri Thompson-Aye.** Corey Evans abstained from the vote.

**Article #8-Stabilization and other Special Funds**-Mr. Senior reviewed the article. **Motion by Select Member Thompson to place Article #8-Stabilization and other Special Funds on the Warrant for ATM, seconded by Select Member Schubert. Roll Call Vote; Jack Creighton-Aye, Corey Evans-Aye, Diane Kennedy-Aye, Paul Schubert-Aye, Keri Thompson-Aye.**

**Article #11-Allocation of Funds for One Time Cost**-Mr. Senior reviewed the proposed projects. The Board had a brief discussion about the Tennis Court Survey and Consultant Services. **Motion by Select Member Thompson to place Article #11-Allocation of Funds for One Time Cost on the Warrant for ATM, seconded by Select Member Schubert. Roll Call Vote; Corey Evans-Aye, Diane Kennedy-Aye, Paul Schubert-Aye, Keri Thompson-Aye.** Jack Creighton abstained from the vote.

**Alternative Energy Committee-Update**- Chairperson Kennedy stated the Chairperson of AEC was unable to attend tonight's meeting. She will schedule an update on a future agenda. Mr. Senior stated Cohasset's proposed Community Aggregation Plan is with the DPU. The Plans have been presented and they are waiting to hear back.

**Town Manager Update**-Mr. Senior stated the Town received a Cyber Security Grant for all staff and boards and committees throughout the Town and Schools. CIO Ron Menard is handing the program.

**Select Board Comments**-Select Member Evans stated he and Select Member Thompson are on the Economic Task Force and they will be reaching out to community members to start working on ideas for the downtown area. Select Member Schubert stated because of COVID and the number of buses there are for drop-off and pickup at the schools the area has become increasingly congested. He suggested everyone avoid the area, if possible, during those hours. Easter and Passover are coming up and he suggested everyone continue to meet with small groups to avoid another wave of COVID. Select Member Thompson reminded everyone to support local small businesses. Also, all facilities stickers are available online or in person at the DPW and nomination papers are available for the upcoming Town Election. Chairperson Kennedy added that if someone does not want to run for an elected seat there are plenty of appointed positions that will be filled after ATM and Elections. Anyone interested should reach out to any board/committee member to discuss.

**Approval of Minutes**-Motion by Select Member Schubert to approve the minutes of 2/9/2021 and 3/16/2021, seconded by Select Member Evans. Roll Call Vote; Jack Creighton-Nay, Corey Evans-Aye, Diane Kennedy-Aye, Paul Schubert-Aye, Keri Thompson-Aye.

**Topics not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours**-Chairperson Kennedy stated earlier tonight the Board held an executive session to discuss real estate issues regarding the Town providing drainage improvements for Atlantic Avenue. We have authorized the Town Manager, the DPW Director, and Town Counsel to negotiate with private property owners a right of way for a pipeline and pathway across private land to convey flood waters safely away from Atlantic Avenue in a new more direct direction than previously discussed with the property owners. We are planning to have a public agenda item on these issues in an upcoming meeting.

**Motion by Select Member Creighton to adjourn, seconded by Select Member Evans. Roll Call Vote; Jack Creighton-Aye, Corey Evans-Aye, Diane Kennedy-Aye, Paul Schubert-Aye, Keri Thompson-Aye.**

The Board adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Kennedy, Chair

**Documents**

FY21 Budget Update

Superior Officers Contract

Draft ATM Warrant

Minutes