



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022**

Members Present: Shana M. Shufelt, Chair
Steven J. Ouellette, Vice Chair (Remote Participation)
Ann E. Boxler
Brian Valcourt
Richard Brewer

Also Present: James Hartnett, Town Administrator

Select Board Chair Shana Shufelt, called the remote meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

Acknowledgments & Recognitions – Ms. Shufelt emphasized the importance of the Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, May 3 at the new Middle High School.

1. Reorganization of the Board

Ms. Shufelt announced she was re-elected to the Board at the April 12, 2022 Election, the election had a record low turnout of 530 voters. The Board of Selectmen needs to be re-organized. **MOTION** by Ms. Boxler to re-appoint Ms. Shufelt as Chair and Mr. Ouellette as Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Valcourt. Mr. Brewer questioned the process, as it doesn't leave room for others who may be interested to come forward. After a brief discussion, Ms. Boxler and Mr. Valcourt withdrew their motion. Mr. Brewer and Ms. Shufelt expressed their interest in being Chair, which then went to vote, Mr. Brewer voted for Brewer and Ms Shufelt, Mr. Ouellette, Mr. Valcourt and Ms. Boxler voted for Shufelt. Mr. Brewer and Mr. Ouellette both expressed their interest in being Vice Chair, which then went to vote, Mr. Brewer, Mr. Valcourt and Ms. Boxler voted for Brewer and Mr. Ouellette and Ms. Shufelt voted for Ouellette **MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to appoint Ms. Shufelt as Chair and Mr. Brewer as Vice Chair, seconded by Ms. Boxler, the Board voted 5-0 in favor.

MOTION by Mr. Valcourt to appoint Ms. Boxler as Clerk, seconded by Mr. Brewer, the Board voted 5-0 in favor.

After the reorganization the Selectboard committee assignments were discussed, Ms. Shufelt suggested taking a look at the various commitments and re-evaluating to be sure no one is over extended.

2. Licenses/Permits

a. Request from the Holy Ghost Club, 79 Sodom Road for One Day Alcoholic Beverage Licenses:

May 15, 2022, from 12pm-4pm, Bike Show
May 22, 2022 from 12pm-4pm, Birthday Party
July 9, 2022 from 5pm-9pm, Annual Feast
July 10, 2022 from 11am-5pm, Annual Feast
August 13, 2022 from 1pm-6pm, Fundraiser

MOTION by Mr. Valcourt to approve the One Day Liquor Licenses on the mentioned dates for the Holy Ghost Club, with Police recommendations, seconded by Mr. Brewer, the Board voted 5-0 in favor.

3. Appointments and Resignations

a. Request to accept the resignation of Maxwell Turner as Commissioner of Trust Funds.

MOTION by Mr. Valcourt to accept the resignation of Maxwell Turner as Commissioner of Trust Funds with letter of thanks, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, the Board voted 5-0 in favor.

b. Request from John Rezendes to hire Henry Gillet and Michael Braga as production assistants for the Cable TV Department.

MOTION by Mr. Valcourt to hire Henry Gillet and Michael Braga as production assistants for the Cable TV Department, seconded by Mr. Brewer, the Board voted 5-0 in favor.

c. Request from Andrea Tremblay to be appointed to the Tax Incentive Committee.

MOTION by Mr. Valcourt to appoint Andrea Tremblay to the Tax Incentive Committee, seconded by Mr. Brewer, after a brief discussion Mr. Valcourt and Mr. Brewer withdrew their motion pending clarification of the committee appointments.

d. Request from Chris Leonard, to appoint William B. Shaw, Jr. as a part time as needed employee in the Marine Services Department. (Assistant Harbormaster and Deputy Shellfish Warden).

Chris Leonard highly recommends William Shaw, with 20 plus years' experience and familiarity with the Westport River make him the perfect candidate.

MOTION by Mr. Valcourt to appoint William B. Shaw, Jr. as a part time as needed employee in the Marine Service Department. (Assistant Harbormaster and Deputy Shellfish Warden) seconded by Mr. Brewer, the Board voted 5-0 in favor.

e. Request to appoint David Cole to the Climate Resiliency Committee.

Ms. Shufelt strongly recommends appointing David Cole to the Climate Resiliency Committee, however suggested the committee is becoming quite large, and the structure of the committee along with the sub-committees needs to be looked at.

MOTION by Mr. Valcourt to appoint David Cole to the Climate Resiliency Committee, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, the Board voted 5-0 in favor.

4. Discussion

a. Town Meeting Discussion (Budget, Warrant)

Ms. Shufelt stated in talking with the Finance Committee and their concern of the residents losing interest in the override by passing over Article 5, she stressed the importance of keeping the voters informed and would like to set a date for a public forum, presentation. Mr. Brewer added it's important to triage the override and articulate the needs of the town clearly. Mr. Valcourt agreed that having a forum with the participation of the School Department, Town and Finance Committee to present the full picture of the needs of the town would be beneficial. The logistics and platform of the meeting will be discussed with details to follow soon.

5. Action Items

a. Request from the Westport Economic Development Task Force to hold the Farmers Market at the Town Hall Annex, Saturdays 9-1 beginning June 11, 2022 through October 8, 2022. They are also requesting to hang a banner across Main Rd, announcing the Farmer's Market, June 5, 2022 through October 8, 2022.

Mr. Ouellette stated that this is the usual event, same as in past years. If there is another event interested in advertising across the road, they will take down the banner.

MOTION by Mr. Valcourt for the Westport Economic Development Task Force to hold the Farmers Market at the Town Hall Annex, Saturdays 9-1 beginning June 11, 2022 through October 8, 2022, and hang a banner across Main Rd, announcing the Farmer's Market, June 5, 2022 through October 8, 2022, seconded by Mr. Brewer, the Board voted 5-0 in favor.

b. Request to approve/sign the Agreement for Professional Services with Weston & Sampson Engineers for the Westport Harbor Hydrogeologic Study.

Mr. Hartnett explained that this is a necessary study addressing the public/private water issues.

MOTION by Mr. Brewer to approve the Agreement for Professional Services with Weston & Sampson Engineers for the Westport Harbor Hydrogeologic Study, seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

c. Request from Chris Leonard to approve the contract with Bruce Ingham, owner of F/V Ocean Rancher for the 2022 quahog relay.

Chris Leonard noted this has been the same process for the past 10 years, where quahogs are dredged out of the contaminated waters of the Taunton River and planted in the Westport River where they sit in the relay for one year.

MOTION by Mr. Valcourt to approve the contract with Bruce Ingham, owner of F/V Ocean Rancher for the 2022 quahog relay, seconded by Mr. Brewer. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

d. Request to approve contract for AFSCME Council 93 Local 1701

Mr. Hartnett suggested to pass over this item, as some of the wording is still being discussed.

6. Town Administrator Report

Route 6 Infrastructure

The Route 6 Sewer and Water design continues to move forward. Final design has started for Phase 1A (Fall River to Route 88) and preliminary design for the remainder of Route 6 is nearing completion. This work has proceeded under the direction of the Planning Board and the Select Board and funded with grants, ARPA funding and State Earmarks.

We are at the point now where the project may benefit from an oversight committee. I would recommend keeping the core committee to 5-7 members.

Possible appointees: Planning Board Member
Finance Committee Member
Select Board Member
Business to Business Member
Neighborhood Member
2 At-large Members

Other potential committee members could include a representative from the Board of Health, the Economic Development Task Force or the Affordable Housing Trust.

Committee Support Staff could include the Town Administrator, Board of Health Director and Highway Surveyor.

Hix Bridge Road Traffic Study

Following up on a residents concern, Chief Pelletier conducted a traffic enforcement study in the area of 400 Hix Bridge Road. The study captured the speed of 29,939 vehicles over a 10 day period. The results showed only 3% enforceable violations. Based on the low percentage of enforceable violations his recommendation is to conduct random radar patrols in the area and place the speed advisory trailer in the area during the summer months.

Food Pantry

Dana Stewart has done a great job working toward the Food Pantry's Non Profit Status, \$100,000 in designated funds will be transferred from the Town to the Food Pantry.

7. Approve Minutes

a. April 11, 2022

MOTION by Mr. Brewer to approve the April 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

8. Report on Bill Warrant

Mr. Brewer stated the warrant was in order, with only two voided checks

9. Selectmen Liaison Committee Reports & Suggestions for Future Agenda Discussion / Action

10. Comments and Statements

Mr. Ouellette suggested bringing the Beach Committee in for the next meeting to update the Board on the status of lifeguards, opening, etc.

Ms. Shufelt mentioned Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony and Parade.

11. Boards/Committees/Commissions Vacancy List

Mr. Brewer recently attended SRTA, they meet once a month, they are having staffing issues, no longer offering Fall River to New Bedford Service, concentrating on inter city transportation, he will be attending the Open House at Bristol Aggie, and The Audit Committee will need to be reformed, with Michelle Orlando no longer being a member of the School Committee.

Mr. Valcourt – nothing to report

Ms. Boxler – 3 meetings this week

Mr. Ouellette – nothing to report, inquired with Mr. Brewer about a bus stop shelter at 666 State Road, Mr. Brewer will bring to SRTA attention.

Ms. Shufelt – School Building just addressing minor change orders. Climate Resiliency is a very busy committee, lots of sub-committees.

12. Topics not reasonably anticipated forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting.

13. Executive Session – pursuant to the provisions of MGL c 30A section 21(a), Chair declares an open meeting will have a detrimental effect to:

a. To discuss strategy relating to litigation known as Diane F. Cramphin vs. Town of Westport – Adamsville Landing Case.

b. Approve Minutes: April 11, 2022

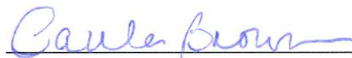
MOTION by Mr. Valcourt to enter executive session at 7:14p.m. to discuss the listed agenda items, and not to reconvene in public session except to adjourn the meeting. Second by Mr. Brewer. The Board voted 5-0 in favor, by roll call vote: Brewer, aye; Ouellette, aye; Shufelt, aye; Valcourt, aye; Boxler, aye.

Adjournment

The Board returned to open session and the Chair called for adjournment.

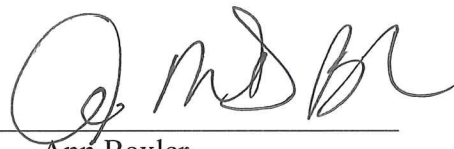
MOTION by Mr. Valcourt to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Paula M. Brown
Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____



Ann Boxler
Clerk, Select Board Member

FILES:

- 2a Holy Ghost Club
- 3a Turner, Commissioner of Trust Funds, Resignation
- 3b Cable Camera Operators
- 3c Trembley, Tax Incentive Committee
- 3d Shaw, Marine Services
- 3e David Cole, Climate Resiliency Committee
- 4a ATM Warrant
- 5a Economic Development Task Force
- 5b Westin Sampson Contract
- 5c Quahog Relay Contract
- 6-2 Hixbridge Road Speed Study
- 6-2 Chief Keith Pelletier
- 7a BOS Regular Meeting Mintue 04112022