



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Members Present: Shana Shufelt, Chair
Richard W. Brewer, Vice Chair
Steven J. Ouellette
Ann E. Boxler, Clerk
Manuel Soares

Also Present: James Hartnett, Town Administrator

6:01 p.m. Call To order & Pledge of Allegiance

Acknowledgments & Recognitions

Ms. Shufelt acknowledged the newly elected Board Members, Manuel Soares and incumbent Steve Ouellette, and Town Clerk Kristin Stinson. 1800 Voters turned out. Special thank you to Bernadette Oliver whose assistance was invaluable in running the election, and to all the Poll Workers. Ms. Shufelt also recognized Paul Jennings who is the Diman Representative for Westport who is going into his 21st year in that position.

1. Reorganization of the Board

Ms. Shufelt addressed the reorganization explaining that after every election the Board is reorganized and a new chair, vice chair and clerk are chosen, asking if anyone is interested in serving as chair, as she personally is not interested. Mr. Brewer expressed his interest.

MOTION by Mr. Ouellette to vote Mr. Brewer as Chair, seconded by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

Ms. Shufelt addressed the Vice Chair position, Mr. Ouellette expressed interest.

MOTION by Ms. Shufelt to vote Mr. Ouellette as Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Brewer. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

Ms. Shufelt addressed the Clerk Position stating that the tradition of the Board is that the newest member be the Clerk.

MOTION by Mr. Ouellette to vote Mr. Soares as Clerk, seconded by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

2. Appointments and Resignations

- a. Request from Council on Aging Director, Beverly Bisch to accept the resignation of Robin Azevedo as Supportive Day Program Aide after 17+ years.

Beverly Bisch addressed the Board noting that Robin Azevedo has served for many years and is phenomenal with the people, she is going to be missed.

MOTION by Mr. Ouellette to accept Robin Azevedo's Resignation, and to send a letter of appreciation, seconded by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

- b. Request from Council on Aging Director, Beverly Bisch to appoint Mark Borowy to the part time (19.75 hrs/wk) position of Supportive Day Program Aide.

Beverly Bisch addressed the Board stating that Mark Borowy has been a volunteer and a huge asset to the program, she noted she asked him to apply. Mr. Borowy then explained a little about himself.

MOTION by Mr. Ouellette to appoint Mark Borowy to the part time Supportive Day Program Aide, seconded by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

- c. Request from Lawrence Holsworth to be appointed to the Internet Advisory Committee. Ms. Shufelt spoke in favor of Mr. Holsworth being appointed to the Internet Advisory Committee.

MOTION by Ms. Shufelt to appoint Lawrence Holsworth the Internet Advrsory Committee, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

3. **Action Items**

- a. Request from the Planning Board to authorize for Appropriation of Funds for Expenditure of Surety for Completion of the Definitive Plan of Medeiros Farm (Maya Way)

Mr. Hartnett recommends approval at this time, this stems back about 15 years ago, it was constructed but never completed. This will allow the Highway Department to finish some work under the street contract. This process was done years ago with Berard Court and Stonehaven Way.

MOTION by Ms. Shufelt to authorize the Appropriation of Funds for Expenditure, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

- b. Request from Chris Leonard, Director of Marine Services to contract Bruce Ingham of the F/V Ocean Rancher for the 2023 quahog relay.

Rick Smith from the Shellfish Advisory addressed the Board, stating he was there to answer any questions, noting that this will be funded through the Shellfish Propagation Gift Fund, this project is fully supported by the Shellfish Advisory Board, it keeps the river viable and the volunteers are lined up. The FV Ocean Rancher has been contracted for the past several years. The contaminated quahogs are taken out of the Taunton River, and planted the Westport River for a determined amount of time, then the relay area is open, this cleans the quahogs and in turn cleans the river.

Mr. Soares asked how many years this has been happening, Mr. Smith answered he's been involved for 15 years, Mr. Soares answered it's more like 50 years that he's aware of.

MOTION by Mr. Ouellette to approve the contract with the FV Ocean Rancher, seconded by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

- c. Request from Town Clerk Elect, Kris Stinson to post the Assistant Town Clerk Position, in house and publically simultaneously.

Ms. Stinson addressed the Board stating that she is in desperate need of an assistant with the busy season upon us, however she is aware of the hiring process.

Mr. Hartnett added that Union members have seven days to apply, however this would speed up the process in case there are no in-house applicants.

MOTION by Ms. Shufelt to post the Assistant Position, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

- d. Request from the South Coast Artist Studio Tour to hang the banner promoting the tour, July 8, 2023 through August 20, 2023.

Passed over, applicant pulled the request.

- e. Request from the Council on Aging to accept the following donations:

\$100; Ralph Urban Donation for Best Use, \$10; Vic Reitano for Best Use, \$100; Sharon Martori for Best Use, \$100; Arthur Anctil for Best Use, \$100; Linda Correia in Memory of Kathy Archer, \$50; Samantha Ferreira in Memory of Kathy Archer, \$100; Mary Biasotti for Tech help, \$20 Mary Jo Amaral for Tech help, \$5; Louise Gerard for Tech Help, \$50 Karen Kirby for Tax Help, \$10; Nick Saulnier for Tax Help, \$20 Anonymous for Outreach, \$10; Gloria Veloza for Outreach, \$50; Janice Goulart for Outreach, \$5; Ora Caya for Outreach, \$50; Robin Santos for Outreach, \$100; Tony Vieira for Equipment Loan, \$20 Hospitality Totaling \$900.

Mr. Brewer questioned if these donations are to the Council on Aging or the Friends, Ms. Bisch clarified that these funds are for the Council on Aging.

MOTION by Ms. Shufelt to accept the donations, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

- f. Request from the Economic Development Task force to hold their Summer Market from June 3, 2023 – October 7, 2023, on the south parking lot at the Town Hall Annex, and their Winter Market on November 18 & 25, 2023 and December 2, 9 and 16, 2023 in the Annex Gym, also to hang the banner for the events.

Maury May, Vice Chair of Economic Development addressed the Board in regards to the Farmers Markets and read a letter from Ben & Hanna Walbach noting their enthusiasm for the Farmers Market and they intend on enhancing the live entertainment by adding Music Groups to the itinerary.

MOTION by Mr. Ouellette to approve the Farmer's Markets and the Banner, seconded by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

- g. Warrant Articles Recommendations

Ms. Shufelt recommended reviewing the Warrant Articles and placing a hold on any in question, then suggesting the Board vote affirmative with what the Finance Committee has recommended, then addressing the holds. In review, the Internet Advisory Board recommends passing over Article 24 and a hold was placed on Article 27. After further discussion it was decided to remove the hold on Article 27.

MOTION by Ms. Shufelt to approve Warrant Articles 2 – 23, 25 – 28 and 33, to Passover Articles 1 and 24, and no recommendation on Articles 29 – 32, as recommended by the Finance Committee, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

4. Town Administrator Report

Town Hall Annex

The warrant for Town Meeting has been finalized and was posted on April 13, 2023. The warrant with motions and the Finance Committee recommendations can be found on the Town's website. Recommended department appropriations are listed under Article 5 of the warrant. Town meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2023 at the new Middle/High School.

Town Clerk

Bernadette Oliver retired in January of this year, but at the Town's request agreed to work part time until the election. Would like to thank Bernadette for her years of service and for helping us out over the last three months. Congratulations to Kristin Stinson who was elected Town Clerk and will be sworn in this week.

Diman Ballot Vote

At the Town Election held on April 11, 2023, voters approved the debt exclusion for the Diman Regional High School construction project. This is positive news for the Town's future operating budgets, to absorb these costs within the budget would have had serious impacts on all Town departments.

Town Hall Annex

The septic system at the Annex required pumping at the end of March, aging fixtures in the basement restrooms are being repaired or replaced to minimize future problems.

5. Approve Minutes

a. April 3, 2023

MOTION by Ms. Boxler to approve the April 3, 2023 Minutes, seconded by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted 4-0 in favor, with Mr, Soares abstaining.

b. April 12, 2023

MOTION by Ms. Boxler to approve the April 12, 2023 Minutes, seconded by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

6. Report on Bill Warrant

Ms. Boxler noted the Warrant was in order and signed.

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

Mr. Soares sits on the Economic Development Committee and also the Infrastructure Committee, however has nothing to report at this time

Ms. Shufelt mentioned that the list of committees that Mr. Valcourt sits on be added to the May 15th Agenda.

Mr. Ouellette included Mr. Soares his report, they both serve on the mentioned committees, Route 6 is moving right along, The Cable Advisory Board held an open forum which no one attended, at this point the committee needs to get Jim Hartnett involved. Mr. Ouellette also mentioned bringing the Long Term Building Committee in for a future meeting, lots of questions came up along the campaign trail. He also brought up the fact that campaign signs need to be taken down.

Ms. Shufelt noted the Climate Resiliency Committee continues to meet, there is a demand to serve on this committee, however as the committee grows there is an issue with getting a quorum for meetings. She also addressed the Election Night Coverage by Irene Buck, she and Betty Slade spoke, it was a great night, very informative. The May 2nd Town Meeting needs to be posted, and the 6:30PM Meeting of the Board also needs to be posted.

Mr. Brewer – nothing to report

Ms. Boxler – Affordable Housing met with CPC, all is good.

8. Comments and Statements - none
9. Boards/Committees/Commissions Vacancy List
10. Topics not reasonably anticipated forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting.

Approval of Clerk Appointment

Mr. Hartnett explained this is not actually an action item, however needs to be signed and sent to the State, a motion is needed to certify the appointment.

MOTION by Mr. Ouellette to certify the appointment of Kristin Stinson as Town Clerk, seconded by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

11. **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. Discuss strategy with the respect to Collective Bargaining – General Teamsters Local No. 251
- b. Approve April 3, 2023 Minutes


MOTION by Mr. Ouellette at 7:00pm. to enter into Executive Session for the reasons declared by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor by roll call vote, Boxler aye, Brewer aye, Ouellette aye, Soares aye, and Shufelt aye.

Adjournment

MOTION by Mr. Ouellette at 7:28pm to adjourn the open meeting, seconded by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.



Paula Brown
Administrative Ssistant

Approved: 

Manuel Soares, Clerk
Select Board Member

FILE ATTACHMENTS:

- 2ab COA Requests
- 2c Holsworth – IAC
- 3a Planning Board Request
- 3b Marine Services Bushel Relay
- 3c Assistant Town Clerk Request
- 3d Southcoast Artist
- 3e COA Donations

3f Economic Development Summer.Winter Markets
3g 2023 ATM Warrant with Budget
5a 04032023 Minutes
5b 04122023 Minutes