

Select Board Meeting

Monday, January 11, 2021

Virtual Meeting Broadcast on Comcast Channel 22 Verizon Channel 45

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Annie Gilbert called the Select Board Meeting of Monday, January 11, 2021 to order at 7:00 P.M. Members in attendance: Dan Koh, Laura Gregory, Chris Huntress, Alex Vispoli.

Others in Attendance: Town Manager Andrew Flanagan, Deputy Town Manager Mike Lindstrom, Assistant Town Manager Patrick Lawlor, Town Clerk Austin Simko, and Town Counsel Tom Urbelis.

II. Opening Ceremonies

A. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance

Alex Vispoli introduced the following Cub Scouts from the Arrow of Light Scouts, Pack 79, Den 4, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Arrow of Light Scouts

Nathan Burkett	Claire Janas	Nolan Janas
Zachary Oliver	Moussa Mazraany	Vir Rajani

Leaders: Kyle Oliver and Michael Burkett

III. B. Communications/Announcements/Liaison Reports

The Town Manager reported that the Department Operating Budget requests have been submitted and are currently being reviewed. The goal is to release the FY-2022 budget on Friday, February 5, 2021, although there is still uncertainty around local and state aid. The warrant for the Annual Town Meeting will close on Friday, January 22, 2021. Andover is serving as a Regional Vaccination Center for Public Safety Personnel around the area.

Austin Simko updated the Board on the Annual Town Election scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, 2021. The legislature has taken action by extending some COVID measures but not others. There will be no in-person early voting, but there is universal excuse free mail-in voting. Ballots are available on the Town Website, and in the Customer Service Center at Town Offices. Ballots can also be mailed upon request.

Tom Urbelis reported that the Mass Supreme Judicial Court ruled that anyone with a Massachusetts Driver's License, who is stopped at a red light and has someone trying to sell them something, under Chapter 85 Section 17A, that type of panhandling is illegal. The Court demanded unanimously that it is unconstitutional and invalidated the statute in its entirety.

Laura Gregory shared that on Thursday this week, a program called "Mass Incarceration, a Time for Reform", is available in conjunction with the Burlington Library via Zoom. You can go to the website to sign up.

Dan Koh thanked all of the Town workers for the downtown lighting and decorations that look great.

Chris Huntress sent a video tape “Ballardvale in its Hey Day” highlighting the history of the area to Wes Murphy, so watch for it on Andover TV.

This year is Andover’s 375th year of being incorporated and Alex Vispoli hopes there is a plan in place to celebrate at some point this year. Also, he is glad to see that the railroad double-tracking was funded in the amount of \$70M by the legislature today. Alex also asked that the Town Manager let the Board know how the remaining discretionary money from Columbia Gas will be spent going forward.

Annie Gilbert reported on the events in Washington, DC last week that serves as a reminder that we cannot take for granted any of our institutions, local, state and federal. Thank you to all of our public servants in Andover and to everyone who brings different perspectives every day and keeps their eye on what’s important.

IV. Citizens Petitions and Presentations

To provide public comment during Citizens Petitions and Presentations visit:
www.andoverma.gov/JoinSelectBoardMeeting None

V. Public Hearings

A. National Grid Petition

Board to review and consider voting to approve a petition from National Grid to excavate the public highways and to run and maintain underground electric conduits, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary for the transition of electricity, said underground conduits to be located substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked Wellington Circle, Andover, MA.

Dave Boucher from National Grid reported on the details of the project. They plan on starting the work in February. Chris Wellington is the project lead. Art Martineau, DPW, said this project has unique features that include the start of the project and the use of directional drilling, The DPW fully supports this project.

Alex Vispoli moved to approve the petition of Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid to excavate the public highways and to run and maintain underground electric conduits, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary for the transmission of electricity, said underground conduits to be located substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked Wellington Circle, Andover, MA. The motion was seconded by Dan Koh. Roll call: A. Vispoli-Y, D. Koh-Y, C. Huntress-Y, L. Gregory-Y, A. Gilbert-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

Alex Vispoli asked National Grid about the issue on Pine Street where residences are experiencing a lot of outages. Dan Boucher said the crews have been out and resolved the issue.

VI. Regular Business

A. West Elementary & Shawsheen Preschool Building Project Update

Paula Colby-Clements, Chair of Building Committee provided an update on the building project.

Paula Colby-Clements began the update with a slide presentation showing the architects rendering of the West Elementary/Shawsheen Preschool Building Project (WESP). Paula reported on the process beginning with the submission of the project to MSBA in 2017 with the Town voting on the project at Town Meeting. The update includes the Schematic Design which began in September 2020, and information on the many focus groups held including: Educational Planning, Site Design, Site Circulation Options, Exterior and Interior Design, and Mechanical Design. The decision was also made to go forward with the Construction Manager at Risk decision which has been approved by MSBA. Bids will be going out soon.

Paula also reported on the MEP Systems and Sustainability that include site regulations for NZE and carbon, building life cycle cost assessment, mechanical options, electrical and plumbing systems. Based on the calculations provided, the new building will be much more energy efficient.

Project Timeline: Bidding on the Construction Manager at Risk, sending the full construction package to the cost estimator, and anticipate having all the estimates by the end of February. The hope is that by the end of June, we would have the funding agreement and know what the reimbursement from MSBA will be at that time. By May of 2022, they anticipate beginning construction and to open the new schools in 2025.

The Board thanked Paula for the update.

B. Update on Andover DIVERSE

Board to receive update on Andover DIVERSE (DEI) from Jemma Lambert, Director of Community Services.

Jemma Lambert reported that the community survey went live about 3 weeks ago and will stay live on the Town's website for another 2 weeks. They have had over 1,300 responses to date. Many people are signing up to participate in focus groups.

The Commission on DEI: They have advertised for applicants for the Commission receiving 35 applications for five available slots, with interviews to be scheduled.

Without exception, the applications that have come in are remarkable.

The Programming Committee: They launched a 2nd work group which consisting of seven members who have convened several times and are doing terrific work. The Diverse Working Group will steer us through the rest of the survey process and we will receive the final report from the consultant.

Annie Gilbert asked about the working group receiving the results of the survey and report, will they then weigh in on next steps or will that be the responsibility of the Commission yet to be named. Jemma said it depends on the timing and will leave the decision up to the Town Manager.

Laura Gregory thanked Jemma, the Town Manager, and the Steering Committee for the work that has been done and will be done going forward. The survey is available on the Town Website, and you can also register for the focus groups at the site. Chris Huntress said to let the Select Board know if there is anything they can do to help.

VII. Consent Agenda

A. Appointments by the Town Manager

Alex Vispoli moved to approve the appointments by the Town Manager as presented. Motion seconded by Laura Gregory. Roll call: L. Gregory-Y, D. Koh-Y, C. Huntress-Y, A. Gilbert-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

Jim McSurdy, who has been with the Town for 40 years, recently retired. The Town Manager said Brian Pena, who was selected to succeed Jim McSurdy, most recently served as the Water Superintendent for the City of Lawrence, sits on the MWRA Board of Directors and represents the Merrimack Valley on many boards Brian will be a great addition on building on the foundation of the Water Treatment Plan.

The Town Yard Selection Committee, as part of the RFP process to dispose of the Lewis Street Property, solicited members for the Town Yard Selection Committee. They worked to assemble a very diverse group with a wealth of experience that will complement each other. The Committee will consist of: 2 members from the Historic Mill District, 3 At-Large Members, 1 Associate Member, Planning Director, and a representative from the Town Manager, Joyce Losick-Yang.

Department	Name	Position	Rate/Term	Date of Hire
Department of Public Works	Brian Pena <i>(James McSurdy)</i>	Water Treatment Plant Superintendent	\$116,000.00/year	2/1/2021
Town Yard Selection Committee	Thomas Childs	Member	Term Expires 6/30/2023	1/11/2021
Town Yard Selection Committee	Jeremy Cyrier	Member	Term Expires 6/30/2023	1/11/2021
Town Yard Selection Committee	George Fantini	Member	Term Expires 6/30/2023	1/11/2021
Town Yard Selection Committee	Suzanne Korshun	Member	Term Expires 6/30/2023	1/11/2021
Town Yard Selection Committee	Joyce Losick-Yang	Member	Term Expires 6/30/2023	1/11/2021

Town Yard Selection Committee	Paul Materazzo	Member	Term Expires 6/30/2023	1/11/2021
Town Yard Selection Committee	Lais Washington	Member	Term Expires 6/30/2023	1/11/2021
Town Yard Selection Committee	Andrew Maylor	Associate Member	Term Expires 6/30/2023	1/11/2021

VIII. Adjourn

At 8:11 P.M. Dan Koh moved to adjourn the Select Board Meeting of Monday, January 11, 2021. Motion seconded by Alex Vispoli. Roll call: C. Huntress-Y, L. Gregory-Y, D. Koh-Y, A. Vispoli-Y, A. Gilbert-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Select Board will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to watch the meeting may do so in the following manner: Andover TV COMCAST CHANNEL 22 AND VERIZON CHANNEL 45. Members of the public who wish to provide public comment during Citizens Petitions and Presentations may do so by visiting www.andoverma.gov/JoinSelectBoardMeeting. To ask a question on particular agenda items during the regular meeting can do so by calling 311 from their landline or cell phone within the geographical boundaries of Andover or by calling 978-623-8311 from anywhere or by emailing manager@andoverma.gov. Residents are encouraged to email their questions ahead of the meeting, however, staff will be available to present the Board with questions received during the meeting. Please include your name and address with your question.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.