

Select Board Meeting
Minutes of Monday, April 13, 2022
School Administration Building
2nd Floor School Committee Conference Room
30 Whittier Court, Andover, MA 01810

I. Call to Order

Chairman Huntress called the Select Board Meeting of April 13, 2022 to order at 7:06 PM.
Members present: Alex Vispoli, Annie Gilbert, and Melissa Danisch participated remotely.

Others in attendance: Town Manager Andrew Flanagan, Town Clerk Melissa Ripley, Town Counsel Tom Urbelis and Chris Cronin, Director of Public Works

II. Opening Ceremonies

A. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting began with a Moment of Silence followed by a Salute to the Flag.

III. Communications/Announcements/Liaison Reports

Chris Cronin provided an update on the watermain break on Dascomb Road that occurred on Tuesday, April 12th near the 93 overpass. About 700,000 gallons of water was lost and it took time to repair as they had to bring in the state engineers to check the condition of the Rte. 93 bridge for any damage. There were challenges to the repair but it was completed and paving was done today. A number of people from Mass DOT were involved as well.

Annie Gilbert attended the kickoff session of the Chandler Road Property public input session along with Alex Vispoli who agreed that it was a great session that was well attended. There were many good ideas on how we might envision the site. Thank you to everyone who participated. There is a portal on the Town website where you can pinpoint a spot on the property and include your ideas.

Alex Vispoli thanked Sustainability Coordinator, Joyce Losick Yang and her team for their work on the Climate Summit presented by the AHS students last Friday. Melissa Danisch who also attended the Climate Summit and participated in a workshop on Saturday agreed that it was a great event.

IV. Citizens Petitions and Presentations

Michael Meyers, 416 South Main Street, asked if citizen dialogue would be open for the next part of the meeting. The Chair responded that there would be a citizen dialogue.

V. Regular Business

A. Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting Scheduling

The Town Manager report that there was a petition to hold a Special Town Meeting and that it would be best to consolidate the Annual Town Meeting & Special Town Meeting to reduce the cost of holding two individual meetings. To streamline this request, the Town Manager recommends consolidating the two meetings into one beginning on

Tuesday, May 17th at 7:00 PM and continuing on Wednesday, May 18th, at 7:00 PM at the Richard J. Collins Field House. The Finance Committee will issue and mail one consolidated report. Once the schedule is set, the Board can sign the warrants.

Melissa Danisch asked if there is a cost to having an Annual and Special Town Meeting. The Town Manager responded that there will be an additional cost of \$40,00-\$50,000 and we will lose some money changing the meeting date from June to May.

Melissa Danisch also has concerns about the petition for a Special Town Meeting and is discouraged that we are having a Special Town Meeting now that is typically for issues that are quite pressing and don't typically happen without advance notice. In addition, some of the items for the Special Town Meeting are already on the agenda for the Annual Town Meeting. She understands that the meeting was called for transparency and accountability; but we need to hear why this Special Town Meeting is time sensitive.

Tom Urbelis talked about the cost the Town incurs for responding to Public Record requests, many of which are broad-based requests on different subjects requiring a vast amount of Town resources for the response(s). Many times, the request is for documents that do not exist and then the requestor appeals the response, putting more of a burden on the Town. Since last summer, public document requests have dramatically increased; however, it is our responsibility to respond.

Mr. Huntress clarified that in order to have a Special Town Meeting, 200 signatures have to be provided, which this request does have, and according to State Law, the Board has to hold the Special Town Meeting within 45 days; therefore, they are moving and coordinating the Annual and Special Town Meeting to May 17th and 18th and will not hold the Annual Town Meeting on June 11th. Several of the articles on the Special Town Meeting were also submitted by Mr. Meyers for the Annual Town Meeting.

The members of the Board are disappointed in this situation but agree that it is the best solution to consolidate the Annual and Special Town Meeting although it does compress the time frame for people to prepare for the Annual Town Meeting. Town Moderator Sheila Doherty appreciates the thought and process to accommodate this request. There are a number of other activities going on at AHS on those two nights that will create parking issues and the timing of this is very important.

Michael Meyers, South Main Street, responded to the comments from the Committee regarding the petition for a Special Town Meeting. The sense of urgency for the Special Town Meeting is due to the \$10.9M ARPA funds that in his words were 'pushed through'. He wants the Board to rescind their March 3, 2022 vote to approve the ARPA funds. He previously asked that the private articles be moved up to the front of the warrant, but there was no indication that was taken under consideration. Mr. Huntress said that has always been his intention and will be his recommendation to the Board. Mr. Meyers also talked about the public records documents requested to which Atty. Urbelis responded to.

Former Select Board Member, Mary Lyman, 50 School Street, said the Board is hearing a pattern of frustration on both sides of the aisle. The Board can help us to work together. She is offering an olive branch to work together to get something done for the taxpayers.

Holly Currier, Main Street spoke about the Special Town Meeting and her concern with the legal opinions over the past two-years. People should have an opportunity to express their concerns about how the town operates.

Alex Vispoli moved to set the Special Town Meeting for Tuesday, May 17th and to set the Annual Town Meeting to Tuesday, May 17th and Wednesday, May 18th if needed. Motion seconded by Melissa Danisch. Roll call: A. Vispoli-Y, A. Gilbert-Y, M. Danisch-Y, C. Huntress. Motion passes unanimously on a vote of 4-0.

B. Annual Town Meeting Articles

Board to consider voting to take a position on the following articles as explained by the Town Manager.

P4	Fiscal Year 2023 Budget. \$213,556,536 Alex Vispoli moved to recommend Town Meeting approval of Article P4, Fiscal Year 2023 Budget for a total of \$213,556,536. Motion seconded by Annie Gilbert. Roll call: M. Danisch-Y, A. Gilbert-Y, A. Vispoli-Y. C. Huntress-Y Motion passes unanimously on a vote of 4-0.
P5	Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Projects Fund for a total of \$2,756,500. Annie Gilbert moved to recommend Town Meeting approval of Article P5, Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Projects Fund for a total of \$2,756,500. Motion seconded by Alex Vispoli. Roll call: A. Gilbert-Y, M. Danisch-Y, A. Vispoli-Y, C. Huntress. Motion passes unanimously on a vote of 4-0.
P6 HOLD	Financial Housekeeping Articles (A Through G)
P16	Capital Projects from General Fund Borrowing \$5,350,000. The Town Manager reported that School 5 has been increased by \$100,000 due to the necessary increase for High Plain Elementary Playground Equipment. The School Department and PTO are participating in the cost as well. Alex Vispoli moved to recommend Town Meeting approval of Article P16, Capital Projects from General Fund Borrowing in the amount of \$5,350,000. Motion seconded by Annie Gilbert. Roll call: A. Vispoli-Y, A. Gilbert-Y, M. Danisch-Y, C. Huntress-Y. Motion passes unanimously on a vote of 4-0.

P17	Capital Projects from Free Cash in the amount of \$1,870,340. Annie Gilbert moved to recommend Town Meeting approval of Article P17, Capital Projects from Free Cash in the amount of \$1,870,340. Motion seconded by Melissa Danisch. Roll call: M. Danisch-Y, A. Gilbert-Y, A. Vispoli-Y, C. Huntress-Y. Motion passes unanimously on a vote of 4-0.
P28	Shawsheen River Interceptor Improvements as reported by Chris Cronin Director of Public Works. \$2.2M Alex Vispoli moved to recommend Town Meeting approval of Article P28, Shawsheen River Interceptor Improvements. Motion seconded by Annie Gilbert. Roll call: A. Vispoli-Y, A. Gilbert-Y M. Danisch-Y, C. Huntress-Y. Motion passes unanimously on a vote of 4-0.

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Appointments by the Town Manager

Annie Gilbert moved to approve the appointments by the Town Manager as listed in the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Alex Vispoli. Roll call: M. Danisch-Y, A. Gilbert-Y, A. Vispoli-Y, C. Huntress-Y. Motion passes unanimously on a vote of 4-0.

The Town Manager reported on the status of the hiring process for the new Director of Youth Services and the work of the Steering Committee. They expect that a request to hire will be sent out within the next few weeks.

Department	Name	Position	Rate/Term	Date of Hire
Community Services – Youth Services	Guilford Allen (Glenn Wilson)	Program Coordinator	\$34.49/hr	4/19/2022
Community Services – Youth Services	Devon Murphy (Anthony Lombardi)	Program Coordinator	\$34.49/hr	4/19/2022
Community Services – Youth Services	Dawy Lebron (Neal Callahan)	Program Coordinator	\$33.32. /hr	4/19/2022
Community Services – Youth Services	Nicholas Bain (Geoffrey Fulgione)	Program Coordinator	\$33.32/hr	5/2/2022
Community Services – Youth Services	Hannah Wilen (Charles Kim)	Program Coordinator	\$33.32/hr	5/31/2022
Community Services – Youth Services	Rebecca Gilbert	Part-Time Program Coordinator	\$33.32/hr	4/19/2022
Open Space Task Force	James Leahy	Member	Term Expires 6/30/2023	4/13/2022

VII. Executive Session

A. At 8:25 P.M. Alex Vispoli moved that the Board to vote to go into Executive Session for confidential communication with Town Counsel and pursuant to option 6 to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, and pursuant to option 2 to

conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, i.e., the Town Accountant, and to approve and not release Executive Session Minutes of April 4, 2022, and for the Chair to declare that an open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Town; and not to return to open session. The Chair so declared Motion seconded by Annie Gilbert Roll call: A. Vispoli-Y, A. Gilbert-Y, M. Danisch-Y, C. Huntress -Y. Motion passes unanimously on a vote of 4-0.

VIII. Adjourn

At 8:26 P.M. the Select Board adjourned from Open Session and move to Executive Session not to return to Open Session.

Respectfully submitted

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary

April 13.2022. Rev 6.27.22

If any member of the public wishing to attend this meeting seeks special accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact Kathryn Forina in the Town Manager's Office at 978-623-8215 or by email at kathryn.forina@andoverma.us

MEETINGS ARE TELEVISED ON
COMCAST CHANNEL 22 AND VERIZON CHANNEL 45