

TOWN OF ACTON SELECT BOARD MEETING

February 14, 2024

6:00pm

MINUTES – PENDING APPROVAL

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Winchell, Jr. called the meeting to order.

2. WARRANTS/BILLS

Signed.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Norwood made a motion to add “annual report update” to old business and approve as amended; seconded by McGurty. All in favor. Motion carried.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Norwood made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 31 and February 7 minutes; seconded by McGurty. All in favor. Motion carried.

5. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR WEEKLY UPDATE

n/a

6. DEPARTMENT HEAD / COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES

n/a

7. LIAISON UPDATES

McGurty: Municipal Management / Warrant & Finance, APAT, Cemetery

McGurty attended part of the Warrant and Finance Committee meeting this week.

With Municipal Management, McGurty has been focused on working with the Treasurer and Town Administrator on budget development work.

Walsh: Fire Department, Transfer Station, Lincoln School

n/a

Norwood: School Department, Conservation / Forest, Mary Grant

Norwood attended the School Committee and Budgetary meeting last week.

Winchell, Jr. stepped in and interviewed a member for the Mary Grant Committee, whose name will be put forward tonight.

Winchell: Roads & Road Committee, Recreation Committee

n/a

8. Executive Session 405 6 A.1. – Personnel

Norwood made a motion to go into Executive Session 405 6 A.1. – Personnel, at 6:11pm; seconded by McGurty. All in favor. Motion carried.

Norwood made a motion to come out of Executive Session 405 6 A.1. – Personnel, at 7:00pm; seconded by McGurty. All in favor. Motion carried.

9. OLD BUSINESS

A. 24-25 Budget Continuation

Roux advised of a few changes to the budget: we inadvertently left Goat Hill off the budget. Roux asked the Treasurer to add that. Changes were also made to change the line that the town is paying the website support to. McGurty confirmed that there is an agreed upon stipend for that role of \$10,000.

1) W/F Questions

There were questions addressed regarding zoning and the Warrant and Finance Committee was recommended to go to the Planning Board meeting.

Article 3, regarding the foreclosure, has incorrect references that are pending updates. Also, the balances for accounts will be updated by next week.

Article 5, rates will be sent to Warrant and Finance next week. Last week the Board approved the 3.25 percent hourly rate increase to all staff across the board to include the Road Commissioner.

The Article on the Stockpile will remain unchanged: the town has had surplus, however, due to unpredictability of Maine weather and per discussion with Langley and the Board, it would not be appropriate to make changes to this line item.

Additional questions were addressed.

2) Warrant Articles

Mark Roy reviewed the Warrant Articles and made some suggestions: raising the limit of expenditures to be approved by Warrant and Finance from \$500 to \$5,000. The Warrant and Finance Committee agree to increasing the expenditures limit to \$5,000; and changing the disposal of property policy (current policy is anything over \$500 requires a sealed bid). No changes recommended.

The Tax rate for delinquent taxes for the State is 8.5 percent this year. The Town rate was at 4 percent last year, which was not matched with the State, which was 8 percent last year. McGurty recommended adopting the rate established with the state each year.

Kelly Burgess, Treasurer, presented suggested consolidation of town articles for review.

Berlan announced, the Warrant and Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 20, and to prepare recommendations for the Select Board for Wednesday, February 21.

B. Annual Report Update

Norwood made a few edits to the Annual Report.

Norwood made a motion to approve the Annual Report as edited; seconded by McGurty. All in favor. Motion carried.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointments

Winchell, Jr. met with Ann Maceachern today regarding joining the Mary Grant Committee; Linda Leck, a former member of Mary Grant would like to be put back on the committee.

Winchell, Jr. made a motion to appoint Ann Maceachern and Linda Leck to the Mary Grant Committee effective through June 30, 2025; seconded by Norwood. All in favor. Motion carried. Appointments signed.

B. Resignation

McGurty read a resignation from the Deputy Clerk.

McGurty made a motion to accept the resignation; seconded by Norwood. All in favor. Motion carried.

C. Abatements

Roux reviewed 3 abatements received:

145-019: Lowering the valuation by \$280,000, due to the land value being adjusted to reflect development limitations.

152-029: the land value is being adjusted to reflect development limitations.

These were originally dated a few weeks back and were in their first round of abatements and the wording indicated the lots were unbuildable. Roux and Sevigny were not comfortable with the wording and the assessment of properties per that determination. Discussion took place with the Assessor; the properties were re-evaluated and the determination moving forward is that the properties reflect limitations in their development.

229-020: Old Acton Airfield has been lowered by \$195,000 in valuation. The land was adjusted to reflect the remaining gravel pit area.

Winchell, Jr. made a motion to accept the abatements for map/lot 145-019, 152-029, 229-020; seconded by McGurty. All in favor. Motion carried. Abatements signed.

D. Old Fire Station Equipment Bid

Roux advised zero bids were received. The building will be demolished with everything in it.

E. Grayson Legacy Request

McGurty read an email from Crysal Andrews in request to use the Town Hall for a free community event. Andrews requests the fee for use of the town hall be waived for the upcoming and future events within the town.

Norwood suggested if this were to be approved, that the group provide proof of their 50©3 status and to see a list of events they plan to host. Winchell, Jr. confirmed this isn't a town event and we charge for birthday parties and other community use events and doesn't suggest waiving the fee. McGurty states we shouldn't make exceptions, as it would cause questions and concerns for others that use the hall.

F. Old Fire Station Demolition Selection

McGurty confirmed bids were opened three weeks ago. Normand Enterprises, LLC, was the low bidder at \$12,050; second lowest was Gardiner Concrete, at \$17,500. McGurty made follow-up calls to address some questions. Normand has not completed a project of this size previously, and per McGurty's conversation with Normand, he was approximating 7-10 days to complete the project. The other bidders came through with a time expectation of approximately 1 ½ days. Winchell, Jr. spoke with Gardiner Concrete, which is located up north near Bangor, they travel across the state of Maine. They would come in with a 100-yard trailer and expect work to be done in 1 ½ days.

McGurty made a motion to award the contract to Gardiner Concrete in the amount of \$17,500, to raise the old fire station; seconded by Norwood. All in favor. Motion carried.

F. Arnold Murray Franchise Fees – tabled.

Roux advised that we inadvertently left Arnold Murrays correspondence off the agenda. Winchell, Jr. indicated that the Board would investigate the fees and see what they are there for.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

n/a

12. PENDING

A. Rec. Cancellation Policy

McGurty made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Norwood. All in favor. Motion carried.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

On Website

14. MEMBERS PRESENT: David Winchell, Jr., Tom McGurty, Daniel Norwood, Jennifer Roux

15. ATTENDANCE: Joyce Bakshi, Lee Robator, Leslie Berlan, Dennis Long, Charlie Hydek, Robin Ham