

# TOWN OF ACTON SELECT BOARD MEETING

March 13, 2024

6:00pm

## 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

\*\*\*Not on video

## 2. WARRANTS/BILLS

\*\*\*Not on video

## 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

## 4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Norwood made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21 and February 28 meetings; seconded by Walsh. All in favor. Motion carried.

## 5. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR WEEKLY UPDATE

Regarding the Flood Plain Ordinance, the date was addressed with the state: The date in the ordinance, July 17, is when the state expects to have the maps ready. Municipalities can change or accept the date as they choose. The Board agrees to leave the ordinance as written. The Warrant and Finance agree to leave the ordinance as written.

Reminder that Saturday, March 16, the town is hosting a bean supper from 4-6pm.

Phil Caruso sent a presentation for review, requesting an audience with the Select Board. McGurty invited Caruso up to the podium and advised the last page of the presentation summarized the points, that it appears, Caruso wants to make. Caruso indicated the presentation is for others to view primarily and would like the opportunity to review the presentation in full. McGurty advised the presentation is too long. Caruso indicated that he would like to address specific items that have not been addressed over the last year and would like 15 minutes to present. Winchell, Jr. agreed to 15 minutes at next week's Select Board meeting.

Roux advised that the meeting is not live streaming on the website. Roux is in communication with Mike Corey to resolve the issue. The meeting is still being recorded and will be posted online.

## 6. DEPARTMENT HEAD / COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES

Leslie Berlan, Warrant and Finance Chair:

Warrant and Finance voted on the final two articles; Mooring was voted 6:0 opt not to pass; and the Foreclosure was voted 6:0 to pass. The Committee requested that even though budget season is ending, the Committee would like to continue to receive month-end summary reports to continue to prep for the next year. Berlan also referenced a summary for the school and requested McGurty to provide one for the town. McGurty advised that he prepped that report for personal use but will not be creating a new one as the Town has reports specifically formatted for budgeting and review.

## 7. LIAISON UPDATES

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

McGurty advised efforts are currently focused on filing positions at the Town office.

Walsh: Fire Department, Transfer Station, Lincoln School

n/a

Norwood: School Department, Conservation / Forest, Mary Grant

Norwood attended the Forest and Conservation Committee meeting last night and expressed appreciation for the direction the committee is going.

Winchell: Roads & Road Committee, Recreation Committee

n/a

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

A. 24-25 Warrant Recommendation

One article to review: Article 50: Franchise Fees discontinued with Breezeline. Warrant and Finance approved 6:0.

**Norwood made a motion to recommend adoption of Article 50 as written; seconded by Walsh. All in favor. Motion carried.**

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

A. 24-25 Warrant

Roux advised discussion has come up regarding tax levy law limits. Roux contacted Marc Roy to find out through O'Donnell's what that limit is for the town. It is the recommendation to put the Article on the Warrant. By this time tomorrow, we will know if we need the Article or not. Several neighboring towns have included this Article this year in their warrants. The Select Board continued discussion regarding the Tax Levy Law.

**McGurty made a motion to approve and forward to the Warrant and Finance Committee, Article 51, as drafted; seconded by Norwood. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Roux advised a meeting could be called for Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Berlan will review her calendar to confirm a meeting date. Roux continued the accountant and assessor calculate the rate. The town initially withdrew the request for the calculation: it is appropriate to calculate due to the amount of increase proposed by the school. Additional discussion between the Select Board and Berlan occurred.

B. F.O.I. Request

Roux received a request for the TD Wealth financial statements for Feb 2024 from Caruso and clarification for the request for information from Partners Bank, which have both been addressed.

Roux received notice that the Livestream issue appears to be on the town's end and the video will be recorded and posted online.

## **10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Phil Caruso addressed the timeline for his presentation.

Joyce Bakshi: questioned updates on the open positions in the Town Office. Winchell, Jr. advised interviews are in progress. Bakshi also commented on administrative changes at the school.

Ray Lopez: regarding a proposed Article, for social services, all the Articles address funding for the town and school, aside from this one article: \$20,000 seems excessive.

Gary Rideout: advised he has experience with non-profit work and most have rural development programs and grants. He would like to help with researching grant opportunities for which he believes the town may be eligible for.

Nancy Ruma: addressed the presentation Caruso would like to share and believes that some residents may learn something from the presentation, whether watching in person or online.

Norwood made a reminder of the community cleanup on April 27. More information to come.

## **11. PENDING**

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

## **12. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

On Website

## **13. MEMBERS PRESENT: David Winchell, Jr., Tom McGurty, Ed Walsh, Daniel Norwood, Jennifer Roux**

**14. ATTENDANCE:** Phil Caruso, Joyce Bakshi, Ray Lopez, Nancy Ruma, Leslie Berlin, Gary Rideout, Jon Denekamp, Joe Ruma