

SUDBURY SELECT BOARD

EXECUTIVE SESSION

TUESDAY JULY 13, 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING

Present: Chair Jennifer Roberts, Vice-Chair Charles Russo, Select Board Member Daniel E. Carty, Select Board Member William Schineller, Select Board Member Janie Dretler, Town Manager Henry L. Hayes, Jr., Police Chief Scott Nix, Recording Secretary Deb Takacs

At 6:06 p.m., Chair Roberts called the Executive Session meeting to order and asked for Roll Call: Russo-present and alone, Roberts-present and alone, Schineller-present and alone, Dretler-present and alone, Carty-present and alone, Hayes-present and alone, Nix-present and alone, Takacs-present and alone

**Open in regular session and immediately vote to enter Executive Session with the Chief of Police to discuss deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto (G.L. c. 30A, S21(a) (4)).**

Chair Roberts read in the words of the motion. Board Member Dretler moved in the words of the Chair. Vice-Chair Russo seconded the motion.

It was on motion 5-0; Roberts-aye, Carty-aye, Schineller-aye, Dretler-aye, Russo-aye

VOTED: To open in regular session and immediately vote to enter Executive Session with the Chief of Police to discuss deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto (G.L. c. 30A, S21(a) (4)).

Chair Roberts stated that the proposed security gating proposal would be discussed with Chief Nix at this executive session meeting. She confirmed that on June 29<sup>th</sup> she, Town Manager Hayes, and Chief Nix met to discuss security aspects at the Sudbury Police Station.

Chief Nix noted that the goal was to secure and advance safety/traffic aspect by limiting pedestrian and vehicle access on the east side by means of a gate. He stressed that people had not been abiding with current signage.

Chief Nix addressed one protester's activity. He also mentioned an individual who has been harassing police officers and was recently released from a mental institution. This event did not occur at the police station.

Board Member Carty mentioned that just earlier today he saw such a security gate at the Orleans Police Station and proceeded to list off a number of police stations in Massachusetts with similar gates. He referenced a Town website document titled "Regionalization of Dispatch," authored by LR Kimball, which included gate security measures and a card-swiping system. Chief Nix acknowledged that he was not Chief of the Sudbury Police Department at the release of that document in 2012.

Chief Nix agreed with recommendation made by the Sudbury Historic Districts Commission that such proposed fencing should represent a style in keeping with the Historic District.

Board Member Schineller reiterated that the purpose of the proposed fencing was to maintain the safety of citizens, and provide safety protection for employees of the Sudbury Police from those seeking to undermine the Police Department. Board Member Schineller commented that a security fence might not provide complete protection. Chief Nix stressed that security fencing would be more definitive in approach when compared to the existing signage.

Chair Roberts inquired about any less expensive alternative security measures. Chief Nix responded that the signage approach has not been effective.

Vice-Chair Russo stated that he was not sure that a proposed gate would solve the problem.

Board Member Dretler questioned if the proposed security fencing would become part of a more larger project. She noted that there were many surrounding towns that did not utilize security fencing. Board Member Dretler indicated that she wanted to consider other possible alternatives in regard to the traffic safety aspect. Chief Nix stated he was open to suggestions, and emphasized that the signage approach did not work.

Board Member Carty stated that fencing would serve as a deterrent. He asked about next steps.

Vice-Chair Russo asked Chief Nix if he felt any sense of disrespect in regard to this issue. Chief Nix responded that conducting a one-to-one conversation would have been preferable. Board Member Dretler stated that such public discussion was not an attempt to politicize the proposal, but Board meetings must reflect transparency and openness. She requested that the entire project with associated costs be submitted to the Board so members can understand the full process.

Board Member Schineller acknowledged the need for such fencing on the east side of the property, and understood that the cost estimate was within budget.

Chair Roberts stated that if a larger plan was anticipated with increased funding, the Board should be aware of that now.

Town Manager Hayes confirmed that he would provide the Board with any related updates, and emphasized that he was concerned about resident safety and staff safety. He stated that potential delays by first responders was unacceptable in consideration of possible consequences.

Board Member Dretler asked if the Board could conduct a site visit. Chief Nix responded in the affirmative.

Chair Roberts stated she would work with Town Manager Hayes to set up a site visit. She stressed that the goal would be to find common ground regarding this matter.

**Continue executive session to review, approve and possibly release executive session meeting minutes, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) “[t]o comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements” (“Purpose 7”), citing to the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g).**

Chair Roberts suggested that review, approval, and release of executive minutes be tabled to the next Executive Session meeting.

**Vote to close executive session and resume open session**

Chair Roberts read in the words of the motion. Board Member Dretler moved in the words of the Chair. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

It was on motion 5-0; Russo-aye, Carty-aye, Schineller-aye, Dretler-aye, Roberts-aye,

VOTED: To close executive session and resume in open session.

There being no further business, executive session adjourned at 7:03 p.m.