

SUDBURY SELECT BOARD
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2024

7:00 PM - ZOOM

(Meeting can be viewed at www.sudburytv.org)

Present: Chair Janie Dretler, Vice-Chair Lisa Kouchakdjian, Select Board Member Daniel Carty, Select Board Member Jennifer Roberts, Select Board Member Charles Russo, Town Manager Andrew Sheehan

The statutory requirements as to notice having been compiled with, the meeting was convened at 7:00 PM, via Zoom telecommunication mode.

Chair Dretler announced the recording of the meeting and other procedural aspects included in the meeting.

Call to Order

Select Board Roll Call: Kouchakdjian-present, Carty-present, Russo-present, Dretler-present

Opening remarks by Chair

- 2024 Census was mailed; residents are asked to complete the Census and return to the Town Clerk's Office; reminder to renew dog licenses
- Attended the "soft" opening of the Fairbank Community Center today, as did Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian and Town Manager Sheehan – opening was well-attended by community members
- Thanked staff and volunteers who contributed to the opening

Town Managers Report

- The Town's FY25 Budget was distributed to the Finance Committee and the Select Board for FY25
- Capital Night will be at the joint Select Board meeting February 12th at 7:00 PM; the Finance Committee (FinCom) and the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee (CIAC) will be present to review the FY25 Operating Budget and associated Town Meeting Warrant Articles
- FinCom will conduct a FY25 budget hearing February 26, 2024
- Reminder the Select Board meets in regular session February 27, 2024

Select Board Reports

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian:

- Congratulated Combined Facilities Director Sandra Duran for securing the \$250,000 MOD (MA Office on Disabilities) Grant which will improve the lives of Sudbury residents.
- She attended the "soft" opening of the Fairbank Community Center; it was gratifying to see community members enjoying the great space, as well as SPS Staff in their offices, and thanked all who made the new Community Center possible

Board Member Carty:

- Announced Select Board Office Hours scheduled for February 16, 2024 at 12Noon via Zoom

Board Member Russo:

- Acknowledged many tree branches have fallen due to recent storms; mentioned that on-line burning permitting is available

Public comments

Resident Kay Bell, 348 Old Lancaster Road, expressed her opinion about Citizen's Petition treated as others and wants the opportunity to address that citizen's position, and would rather the petition not be presented as a consent calendar item.

Consent Calendar

#1. Vote to sign/approve the Presidential Primary Warrant which must be posted no later than Tues, Feb. 27. The Primary is Tuesday, March 5, 2024

#2. Vote to approve acceptance of Emergency Performance Grant (EMPG) Grant funds in the amount of \$4,600 toward the purchase of a positive ventilation fan with misting system to be used for Firefighter rehabilitation operations, as requested by Fire Chief John Whalen

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to approve Consent Calendar items #1 and #2, as included on the 2/6/24 Select Board packet. Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

It was on motion 4-0; Kouchakdjian-aye, Carty-aye, Russo-aye, Dretler-aye.

VOTED: To approve Consent Calendar items #1 and #2, as included in the 2/6/24 Select Board packet

Vote to accept 2024 Annual Town Meeting articles submitted by 1/31/24 and to refer all articles to Town Counsel for review and comment as to form. Also vote on order of articles, and designate articles for the consent calendar. Also vote to refer any Zoning Bylaw amendments and street acceptance articles to the Planning Board.

Town Manager Sheehan noted the purpose of the agenda item was for the Board to consider the listing order of the 2024 Annual Town Meeting articles, with the Finance/Budget articles beginning the listing, real property articles and CPC articles following and ending with the Petition Article (Article 44) as mentioned by Ms. Bell.

Board Member Carty stated that he would be happy to present Article #11 – FY25 Stabilization Fund as he's done at previous Town Meetings. Board Members concurred.

Board Member Roberts joined the meeting at 7:23 PM., and cited her presence; Roberts-present.

Chair Dretler commented that Select Board articles are always presented at the beginning of the article listing.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to accept the 2024 Town Meeting articles submitted by January 31, 2024 and to refer all articles to Town Counsel for review and comment as to form; and to refer any zoning bylaw amendments and street acceptance articles to the Planning Board. Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To accept the 2024 Town Meeting articles submitted by January 31, 2024 and refer all articles to Town Counsel for review; also to refer any zoning bylaw amendments and street acceptance articles to the Planning Board.

Chair Dretler noted that at the next Select Board meeting members would discuss the order of articles and determine which articles would be included in the Consent Calendar.

Board Member Roberts inquired about the process involved with zoning articles #31 and #33. Town Manager Sheehan confirmed the Planning Board would be holding a public hearing regarding zoning articles to include Articles #31 and #33; and will submit a related report for Town Meeting before May 6, 2024. Board Member Roberts stated that the Planning Board could also attend Select Board informational hearing for considered zoning articles.

Chair Dretler indicated that two different names for Article #33 was confusing. Board Member Russo noted that the article title should define the propose/intent of the bylaw.

Board Member Roberts motioned to title Article #33 in the Warrant and the Bylaw, the “Firearms Safety Business Use” Bylaw. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

It was on motion 3-2; Kouchakdjian-no, Roberts-aye, Russo-aye, Carty-aye, Dretler-no

VOTED: To title Article #33 in the Warrant and the Bylaw, the “Firearms Safety Business Use” Bylaw.

Discussion and possible vote on Firearms Safety Business Use Bylaw public forum, including potential dates, time, venue, agenda, and related matters

Town Manager Sheehan provided a short list of available dates and locations for the Firearms Safety Business Use Bylaw public hearing.

Chair Dretler suggested a back-up location and public hearing date in consideration of stormy weather or increased participation. She mentioned several years ago the Quarry North Public Hearing had to be changed due to increased attendance.

Board Member Roberts recommended a hybrid meeting format be used for the public forum, as has been done with the last several forums. Members discussed the parking factor as well.

Members agreed with a hybrid-style public forum.

Members considered possible forum agenda and panel. Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian recommended that Town administration present the article at the Public Forum with panelists to include Town Manager Sheehan, Director of Planning and Community Development Adam Burney, Town Counsel Lee Smith, and Police Chief Scott Nix.

She indicated that Select Board members should not be part of the proposed panel; and someone should be handling the direction of questions and related logistics.

Board Member Russo stated he would follow what the majority of the Board would like to do, adding that Article #33 is a Select Board article. Chair Dretler indicated that she would prefer that Article #33 be withdrawn from the May Town Meeting in order for the Select Board to learn more about what the community wanted.

Board Member Carty opined that this is a Select Board article and should be presented by the Board. He stressed that the Forum would serve as an informational session.

Board Member Roberts concurred that Article #33 was a Select Board driven-article, and wanted the Forum to be reflective of a public information session. She acknowledged that many residents are seeking additional information regarding the article.

Board Member Russo agreed to present a draft Forum agenda well in advance of the Forum, on behalf of the Select Board, adding that he would be open to including any adjustments as being presented as a Select Board article. He suggested the Town Manager be the Forum moderator. Chair Dretler commented she would prefer a non-staff moderator. Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian agreed that non-staff moderator would be best.

Board Member Russo commented the Forum presentation could perhaps be best driven by an expert in the field, which might not be possible. He confirmed he would explore that search further, and would come back to the Board with a draft agenda and Forum presentation in three weeks. Board Member Russo stated he would share his findings with the Town Manager and would also reach out to the League of Women Voters who might have thoughts about a possible moderator.

Board Member Roberts stated that an objective moderator would be best, adding that she was the moderator for the Fairbank Center Forum, though that Forum was the result of the Town Manager's Fairbank Center Working group. She indicated that her preference would be a presentation by the Select Board and Staff sharing their knowledge about the topic. Board Member Roberts noted that KP Law Attorney Janelle Austin should also be included in the Forum panel.

Board Member Roberts suggested that the public be notified of the Forum at least three weeks before the scheduled date.

Follow up discussion on Sewataro financial statements, including estimate of cost for independent audit

Town Manager Sheehan explained the Town's audit firm had provided a related cost estimate regarding independent review of Sewataro financial statements, and the Town would be seeking additional cost estimates.

Vote to review and possibly approve the open session minutes of 1/9/24

Chair Dretler stated the open session minutes of 1/9/24 would be tabled for further Board review.

Adjourn

At 8:18 PM, Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (Civilian Dispatchers) if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares (exception 3); and to continue executive session to review,

approve and possibly release executive session meeting minutes pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) (Purpose 7), citing to the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g). Board Member Roberts seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (Civilian Dispatchers) if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares (exception 3); and to continue executive session to review, approve and possibly release executive session meeting minutes pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) (Purpose 7), citing to the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g).

The Select Board resumed in open session at 8:49 PM.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to approve the “Agreement Between International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 25 and Town of Sudbury, Massachusetts (Dispatchers Unit), dated this day, February 6, 2024; and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the same. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To approve the “Agreement Between International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 25 and Town of Sudbury, Massachusetts (Dispatchers Unit), dated this day, February 6, 2024; and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the same.

Town Manager Sheehan provided a summary of negotiations with the Town of Holbrook to join their regional dispatch organization which provides dispatch services for Holbrook, Sudbury and a number of other communities.

Town Manager Sheehan acknowledged that negotiations with the dispatch union began September 2023 in order to dissolve the union and implement certain incentives to retain the dispatchers in Sudbury until the transition to the Holbrook dispatch program which will be finalized sometime later this year. He thanked Sudbury dispatchers for their continued support during this time.

Chair Dretler thanked Town Manager Sheehan, Police Chief Scott Nix and Assistant Town Manager Maryanne Bilodeau for their efforts.

Adjourn

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to adjourn the Select Board meeting. Board Member Roberts seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To adjourn the Select Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8:52 PM.

SB meeting 2/6/24 - Documents & Exhibits

1. Vote to sign/approve the Presidential Primary Warrant which must be posted no later than Tues, Feb. 27. The Primary is Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

Attachments:

1.a 2024 Pres Primary Warrant

2. Vote to approve acceptance of Emergency Performance Grant (EMPG) Grant funds in the amount of \$4,600 toward the purchase of a positive ventilation fan with misting system to be used for Firefighter rehabilitation operations, as requested by Fire Chief John Whalen.

Attachments:

2.a Sudbury FFY2023EMPG Executed Contract - thru 063024 scan

3. Vote to accept 2024 Annual Town Meeting articles submitted by 1/31/24 and to refer all articles to Town Counsel for review and comment as to form. Also vote on order of articles, and designate articles for the consent calendar. Also vote to refer any Zoning Bylaw amendments and street acceptance articles to the Planning Board.

Attachments:

3.a 2024 ATM_Articles_working_copy

6. Vote to review and possibly approve the open session minutes of 1/9/24.

Attachments:

6.a SB_draft1_1.09.24_min for review