

## SUDBURY SELECT BOARD

TUESDAY MAY 14, 2024

7:00 PM

(Meeting can be viewed at [www.sudburytv.org](http://www.sudburytv.org))

ZOOM Meeting

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, Roberts-present, Dretler-present

### **Opening remarks by Chair**

- Announced DPW Open House on May 18, 2024
- Thanked all for a successful Town Meeting

### **Reports from Town Manager**

- Thanked Staff, Volunteers, Boards/Committees for conducting a successful Town Meeting

### **Reports from Select Board**

#### **Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian**

- Thanked Chair Dretler for doing a tremendous job as Chair of Select Board; she implemented many improvements

#### **Board Member Roberts**

- Thanked all involved with a successful Town Meeting, (with highs and lows)
- Extended her appreciation to Chair Dretler for her service as Chair of the Select Board

#### **Board Member Russo**

- Thanked all who contributed at Town Meeting
- Mentioned upcoming LSRHS Graduation

Board Member Carty

- Happy to see Board Members meeting in person tonight
- Announced the Transportation Committee was notified of award of the transportation grant in the amount of \$127,000; additional information to follow
- Announced the Transit Service Launch Event June 6, 2024 at the Sudbury Senior Center, 1:00 PM

Public Comment

Resident Len Simon, 40 Meadowbrook Circle, suggested that a written description regarding Town Meeting process/procedures, handling of amendments, etc. being distributed at future Town Meetings.

Consent Calendar

- 1. Vote whether to approve an increase in the abatement amount for both veterans and seniors in the Tax Work off program to \$2,000 annually, for a maximum of 133.3 hours of work, effective January 1, 2025.**
- 2. Vote to enter into the Town record and congratulate Adrian John and Nicholas Vona, both of Scout Troop 61, for having achieved the high honor of Eagle Scout.**
- 3. Vote Relative to the Atkinson Pool Funds appropriated under Article 6 of the 2023 Fall Special Town Meeting and the Atkinson Pool Renovation funded under Article 23 of the 2024 Annual Town Meeting, to approve the Town Manager award and execution of the design, construction and any other contractual actions as may arise connected with the overall project.**

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to approve Consent Calendar items 1, 2 and 3. Board Member Roberts seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To approve Consent Calendar items 1, 2 and 3

**Interview candidate for appointment to the Sudbury 250 Committee. Following interview, vote whether to appoint Jim Wiegel, 665 Boston Post Road, for a term expiring 9/30/26**

Present: Jim Wiegel, 665 Boston Post Road

Mr. Wiegel spoke of his involvement with numerous committees and related groups in Sudbury as a 40-year resident.

Board Members recognized Mr. Wiegel's contributions to the Town and thanked him for his willingness to serve on the Sudbury 250 Committee for a term expiring 9/30/26. Board Member Roberts seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To appoint Jim Wiegel, 665 Boston Post Road, to the Sudbury 250 Committee for a term expiring 9/30/26.

**Discuss Transportation Committee extension (committee and members), the CatchConnect pilot starting July 1, and feedback on next steps**

Board Member Carty mentioned several changes to the Transportation Committee and requested extension of membership terms for an additional year.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to extend the terms of the Transportation Committee to May 31, 2025. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To extend the membership terms of the Transportation Committee to May 31, 2025

Board Member Carty explained that the existing Uber service would be gradually replaced by the CatchConnect pilot transportation service starting July 1, 2024. He confirmed the pilot would provide transportation services to anywhere in and around Sudbury and would also provide service to the Mall in Marlboro. Member Carty noted that the first month of rides would be free and a \$2.00 fee would be in place after the first month.

Board Member Carty acknowledged that the CatchConnect service also runs in Hudson, Framingham, Natick, Wellesley and will now service Sudbury, Monday through Friday. He added that additional details will be presented at the CatchConnect launch session on June 6<sup>th</sup> at the Sudbury Senior Center.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian mentioned the possibility of incorporating parking with shuttles to the Lincoln train center and partnering with Wayland neighbors. Board Member Carty stated the committee had reached out to Wayland regarding such partnering and was unsure if officials in Wayland were ready to commit to such planning at this time.

Chair Dretler suggested reaching out to the Cold Brook Crossing, Coolidge and Avalon communities to further consider such transportation plans/shuttles.

Board Member Russo inquired about CatchConnect van capacity. Board Member Carty confirmed the capacity was similar to the Senior Center van, which accommodates some 14 riders. Board Member Russo was also in favor of providing parking in Sudbury with shuttles to local train stations.

Board Member Roberts inquired about medical rides. Board Member Carty confirmed that the GoSudbury service would still provide such service, with the hope of transferring those rides to CatchConnect services.

**Discussion/recap of Annual Town Meeting 2024**

Present: Moderator Cate Blake

Town Manager Sheehan provided a summary of 2024 Town Meeting, and he mentioned the Consent Calendar helped with 27 articles and suggested that more items could be added next year. He opined about a one-night Town Meeting in effort to increase participation.

Ms. Blake indicated that she was in favor of efficiencies and getting more residents to attend.

Board Member Russo indicated the continued use of the Town Meeting Consent Calendar had benefit, if used in a responsible manner. He suggested consideration of a bylaw modification in order to start Town Meeting at least an hour earlier.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian suggested that a community-oriented weekend Town Meeting be considered, with possible morning activities for the whole family. Board Member Roberts commented that such weekend Town Meetings might interfere with sports and religious activities.

Board Member Russo agreed with Mr. Simon's recommendation regarding further explanation of process and procedure at Town Meeting. He expressed disappointment regarding exaggerated comments made at Town Meeting in relation to Article 16.

Board Member Roberts stated that she received comments about residents being confused regarding the process at Town Meeting regarding Article 16.

Board Member Carty recommended a visual on the main screen be provided at Town Meeting going forward to provide an example and voting with the clicker. He stated that he was pleased with the success of the Town Meeting Consent Calendar.

Board Member Carty stated that the manner in which Article 16 amendments were handled was confusing for all, and was surprised that related debate/comment was not allowed.

**Vote to Release Tall Pines easement legal opinion, additional discussion as needed**

Chair Dretler read in the words of the motion. Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To Release Tall Pines easement legal opinion

Town Manager Sheehan confirmed that Town Counsel reviewed aspects of the mentioned easement. He confirmed that the Select Board cannot modify or extinguish easements without a Town Meeting vote. Town Manager Sheehan commented that the easement at Tall Pines could be included in the next Town Meeting Warrant.

Related discussion took place.

**Vote to review and possibly approve Open Session minutes of 4/2/24**

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to approve the Select Board Open Session minutes of 4/2/24, as edited. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To approve Open Session minutes of 4/2/24, as edited.

At approximately 8:20 PM, Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to close Open Session; enter into Executive Session to conduct strategy in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel and/or to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, namely the Town Manager, pursuant to General Laws chapter 30A,

§21(a)(exception 2); to continue Executive Session pursuant to Exemption 3 (G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3)) - To discuss and possibly vote on strategy with respect to litigation (National Opioid settlement matter). Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To close Open Session, enter into Executive Session to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel and/or to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, namely the Town Manager, pursuant to General Laws chapter 30A, §21(a)(exception 2); to continue Executive Session pursuant to Exemption 3 (G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3)) - To discuss and possibly vote on strategy with respect to litigation (National Opioid settlement matter).

At approximately 9:14 PM, Select Board Open Session resumed.

**Vote to elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair and reappoint Town Manager Andrew Sheehan as Clerk to the Select Board. This will take effect at the close of tonight's meeting.**

Board Member Russo motioned to elect Jennifer Roberts as Select Board Chair. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To elect Jennifer Roberts as Select Board Chair

Board Member Russo motioned to elect Dan Carty as Select Board Vice-Chair. Board Member Roberts seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To elect Dan Carty as Select Board Vice-Chair

Board Member Russo motioned to reappoint Town Manager Andrew Sheehan as Clerk to the Select Board. Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To reappoint Town Manager Andrew Sheehan as Clerk to the Select Board

**Adjourn**

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to adjourn the Select Board Meeting. Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To adjourn the Select Board Open Session Meeting

There being no further business, the Select Board Meeting adjourned at 9:18 PM.